



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

The EUAA Situational Updates provide key information on immediate measures which are being implemented to accommodate the arrival of displaced people from Ukraine due to the deteriorating security situation following the illegal invasion by Russia.

Based on official resources, Situational Update No 12 covers relevant developments as reported by national authorities, international organisations and civil society organisations for the period 10-16 March 2022. Links to the official sources are provided. For developments covering the previous periods, please consult Situational Updates [No 9](#) (24 February to 3 March 2022) and [No 10](#) (4-10 March 2022).

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.

Key Findings

Developments at the European and international levels

Following the [Council Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2022/382 of 4 March 2022](#) establishing 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 the Temporary Protection Directive ([Directive 2001/55/EC](#)), the European Commission published [Information for people fleeing the war in Ukraine](#) on 10 March 2022 to ensure consistency in the provision of information and the implementation of the TPD among Member States.

On 17 March 2022, the [Parliament's President](#) provided a facility in Brussels to the Ukrainian civil society hub to coordinate civil society action (such as organising demonstrations and press conferences). The organisation will also provide psychological and administrative support (to seek employment and register at municipal offices) to refugees from Ukraine who arrive in Belgium.



The [European Network on Statelessness](#) shared a briefing on [Stateless people and people at risk of statelessness forcibly displaced from Ukraine](#) with specific recommendations to the EU, European countries, international agencies, NGOs and others involved in the refugee response.

UNHCR started issuing periodic [Situation Flash Updates](#) covering the operational needs and responses in Ukraine and border countries. As of 16 March 2022, three updates have been made available. The [IOM](#) warned of the increased risk of trafficking of persons fleeing Ukraine and is collaborating with border agencies and government partners to implement prevention mechanisms. Similarly, the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, the UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict [expressed serious concerns](#) about the potential of human trafficking, in particular of women and children fleeing the conflict in Ukraine.

In response to the traumatic situations experienced by the Ukrainian population due to the hostilities, the Council of Europe [Pompidou Group](#),¹ together with leading European psycho-trauma experts, developed recommendations in eight languages² on how people can better interact and communicate with persons who have experienced a crisis or difficult life event in an effort to support people with trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder. The Pompidou Group partners are encouraged to disseminate the guidelines to actors engaged in helping people who experienced traumatic situations, especially government staff, civil society workers and volunteers actively helping Ukrainian people in conflict areas, at the borders and in emergency facilities.



EU Member States activate temporary protection while Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland implement similar schemes

The Temporary Protection Directive applies in all EU Member States, except Denmark and non-Schengen states (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland). The countries which are not bound by the directive may apply similar national provisions. Following the Council decision of 4 March 2022, EU Member States³ have been enacting legislative measures to enable the activation of temporary protection at the national level and ensure immediate support to Ukrainian civilians.

This week [Lithuania](#), [Poland](#), [Austria](#) and [Bulgaria](#) officially adopted the relevant provisions to provide rapid protection to displaced persons from Ukraine, while [Slovakia](#) and [Spain](#) expanded the categories of persons eligible for temporary protection. Malta activated temporary protection on the basis of an internal memorandum addressed to competent IPA personnel by the Chief Executive Officer of the International Protection Agency on the 8

¹ The Pompidou Group is the Council of Europe's drug and addictions policy cooperation platform which supports the global community.

² English, French, German, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Slovakian and Ukrainian.

³ See Situational Updates No 9 and No 10 for information on the countries which have already started implementing temporary protection, namely, [BE](#), [HR](#), [CY](#), [CZ](#), [DE](#), [EE](#), [EL](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [HU](#), [IE](#), [LV](#), [LU](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SK](#), [SI](#), [SE](#).



March.⁴ The legislative procedures are still ongoing in the [Netherlands](#) and Italy,⁵ where registration is already available awaiting the approval of the decree.

While not bound by the EU temporary protection framework, Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland have introduced similar provisions. On 16 March 2022, [Denmark](#) adopted a special law for displaced persons from Ukraine which grants them direct access to a residence permit, education, health services and the labour market. On 11 March 2022, the [Norwegian government](#) introduced a scheme to offer collective temporary protection for 1 year to people displaced from Ukraine.

The Swiss [Federal Council](#) enabled the ‘S’ protection status which entails residence rights and rights to accommodation, support, medical care, family reunification and education for children. After a maximum of 3 months, status ‘S’ holders can be employed. The [SEM](#) granted the first ‘S’ status on 12 March 2022 in Boudry. Due to a large number of applications, Ukrainian nationals residing in private accommodation are encouraged to apply in the following days, given the 90-day timeframe for their stay.

[Iceland](#) activated [Article 44 of the Aliens Act No 80/2016](#), in line with the EU Council's decision. In this regard, a foreign national who is a member of a group which flees a specified region and arrives in Iceland or is in Iceland when the provisions of the article are applied may be granted international protection on the basis of a group assessment (collective protection).



Registration procedures

New registration centres (e.g. [Belgium](#), [Czechia](#), [Lithuania](#), [Slovakia](#)), service desks ([Portugal](#)) and online systems (e.g. [Estonia](#), [Slovakia](#)) were established to address the specific needs of displaced people from Ukraine, and procedural aspects were defined.

- Greece has created four one-stop-shops to issue temporary protection cards in the colours of the Ukrainian flag. The card gives them access to social assistance, health care and the labour market. A social security and tax number are issued with temporary protection card. The pre-registration platform for booking appointments opens on 28 March 2022.
- The registration of refugees from Ukraine who want to get a personal PESEL number and stay in [Poland](#) was began on 16 March 2022.



Figure 1 Sample of temporary protection card (information shared by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum in Greece)

⁴ This information was provided to the EUAA Information and Analysis Sector on 11 March 2022 for public dissemination.

⁵ [The Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers \(DPCM\)](#), will regulate in detail temporary protection and other extraordinary reception measures, following the EU Council Decision.



- [Spain](#) has opened registration centres for temporary protection in Madrid, Barcelona and Alicante. The Spanish government put in place a mechanism that will facilitate access to residency, work permits and application for temporary protection for Ukrainians. The Order establishes that temporary protection may be requested from specific police stations throughout the territory and at authorised reception centres upon presenting identification and providing relevant data. Interpreters will be available for this procedure and applicants will be issued a certification for their request for protection, which will also contain an assigned NIE number (foreign identification number). The request will be processed by the Asylum and Refugee Office within a maximum period of 24 hours.
- The Immigration and Border Service (SEF [Portugal](#)) launched a new trilingual platform [SEF for Ukraine](#) for applications for temporary protection. Due to their special needs, minors cannot apply on the platform but need to go to one of the dedicated service desks to be attended.
- In [Lithuania](#), the fourth registration centre for refugees from Ukraine was opened in Klaipėda. The Migration Department will carry out registration procedures for Ukrainians at the Klaipėda Registration Centre every day, including weekends and public holidays, from 8 am to 10 pm. About 40 staff of the Migration Department will work in two shifts. To address increased operational needs, the [Ministry of the Interior](#) invited civil servants to support these services.
- In Malta, requests for temporary protection need to be submitted to the [International Protection Agency \(IPA\)](#).
- Fedasil ([Belgium](#)) moved the registration centre for Ukrainians to Heysel. The new centre will replace the Jules Bordet site in Brussels, which has been operational since 4 March 2022. Accordingly, the newly-arrived Ukrainians should register at the Palais 8 in Heysel, open all week between 8.30 and 17.30. Therein, the Immigration Office registers Ukrainian refugees. Fedasil is responsible to find accommodation for refugees without housing in Belgium. 40 Fedasil employees are on sight daily. The Red Cross takes care of the reception of refugees (catering, medical aid and ticketing). The Bordet site remains an emergency centre for regular asylum applicants, while the emergency shelter in Molenebeek continues to receive Ukrainians.
- In [France](#), the registration for temporary protection is provided on site at the first reception facility in Paris (Porte de la Chapelle) through the deployment of the OFII and prefecture services in the form of a single desk. An [instruction](#) on the application of the temporary protection for Ukrainian nationals was published on 11 March 2022.
- In [Luxembourg](#), applications for temporary protection must be submitted to the Immigration Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. The processing of applications started on 10 March 2022. The form is available on the [website of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs](#).



- The Finnish Immigration Service [published instructions](#) on how to apply for temporary protection at the police or a border authority.



Crisis management mechanisms/emergency support

To address the increased and sudden arrival of displaced persons, several EU+ countries have activated crisis management mechanisms (see [Situational Updates No 9](#) and [No 10](#)). In the period under review, the new mechanisms focus on managing reception/accommodation needs and the provision of relevant services.

- In [Slovakia](#), the Government Council for NGOs met with civil society organisations and discussed improving cooperation between the state, local governments and civil society organisations in resolving the crisis situation at the border. The Council adopted a resolution on the promotion of cooperation between the relevant actors.
- In [Czechia](#), the Strategic Internal Coordination Group was set up to coordinate the accommodation of Ukrainians. The group will include representatives of the Ministries of the Interior, Finance, Health, Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. The first task of the group will be to identify ways to financially support families who host Ukrainians in their households.
- The Ministry of the Interior and Ministry of Territorial Cohesion ([France](#)) jointly established a monitoring committee for the reception of Ukrainians. This new monitoring committee will bring together all local associations which seek to work with the state in providing assistance. It will also provide local authorities with useful information on the arrival of displaced persons, enable coordination and identification of the needs at the local level in order to manage the influx of displaced persons.
- In [Lithuania](#), the Ministry of Social Security and Labour is working in cooperation with NGOs to help Ukrainians.
- The PBGB ([Estonia](#)) introduced an emergency plan for reception which enables the managing authority to involve all the necessary people and resources from other agencies to manage the situation. The head of the emergency response is the Director General of the PBGB who will coordinate activities of all services, including the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior, the Social Insurance Board and the Rescue Board. Regional management takes place through regional joint staff run by the PBGB prefects.
- Upon request by the [SEM](#), the Swiss Armed Forces is supporting the reception of refugees from Ukraine.

Reception and accommodation



Establishing 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. [Austria](#), [Belgium](#), [Croatia](#), [Czechia](#), [Finland](#), [Denmark](#), [Estonia](#), [Greece](#), [Italy](#), [Latvia](#), [Lithuania](#), [Netherlands](#), [Norway](#), [Poland](#), [Romania](#), [Slovakia](#), [Slovenia](#) and [Sweden](#) have already announced such efforts (see [Situational Updates No 9](#) and [No 10](#)). Additional initiatives were implemented in the period under review.

- [Slovakia](#) has taken steps to streamline processes at border crossings. The priority is to concentrate assistance to incoming refugees from Ukraine in multifunctional large-capacity centres, where they will have support for their needs and services in one place. The first reinforced centre starts operating in Michalovce. In addition to registrations for temporary protection, various types of assistance are available, such as medical and psychological care, information provision, transport to accommodations, meals and possibly temporary emergency accommodation. In addition, sanitary facilities, heated rest areas, dining tents and information kiosks will be made available.
- [Bulgaria](#) introduced a scheme to finance accommodation places through the National Tourist Register.
- In [Ireland](#), requests for accommodation are referred to the International Protection Accommodation Service.
- In [Estonia](#), the Rakvere reception centre was relocated to a new address so that reception and various operations can be under one building. The basic needs of people are mapped at the reception point. If a person has no relatives in Estonia and is unable to find a place to live independently, the Social Insurance Board will refer him/her to accommodations organised by the state.
- The [Swedish Migration Agency](#) has already started procuring housing places and signing supplementary agreements on existing housing. However, it will take time before the agency's housing capacity can increase. For this reason, the measures already taken do not correspond to the need that has arisen. On 8 March 2022, the Swedish Migration Agency submitted a request to municipalities through the county administrative boards asking that certain counties provide their evacuation sites as temporary housing.



➤ Information provision and counselling

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 Updates No 9](#) and [No 10](#)). As of 10 March 2022, additional initiatives have been implemented.



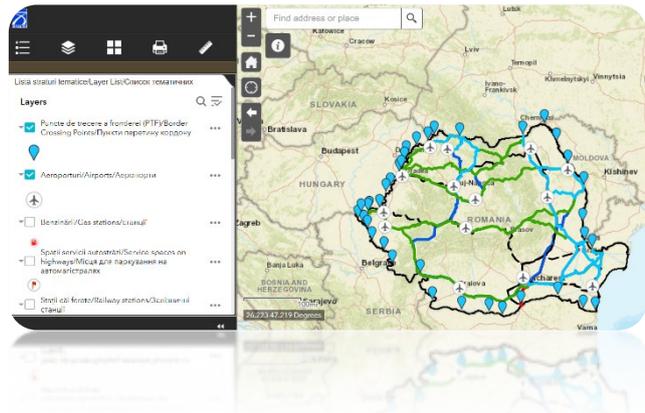
- In an effort to address fake news, the [SEM](#) used social media (Twitter) to clarify that there is no quota for 'S' status, and protection in Switzerland will be granted to those in need.
- The National Communication Centre in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with [Danish authorities](#), launched a web platform to share official news, information and FAQs for persons arriving from Ukraine.
- The [Greek Ministry of Migration and Asylum](#) shared a Q&As section on displaced persons from Ukraine. The Q&A section covers information on documents, accommodation and relevant procedures.
- The International Protection Agency ([Malta](#)) published information on the activation of the Temporary Protection Directive (2001/55/EC) for Ukrainian nationals. In a Q&A format, information is provided on eligibility for temporary protection, the rights this status entails for holders, the duration of the status and the institution (IPA) that accepts requests for temporary protection.
- The Ministry of Justice in [Bulgaria](#) took urgent measures to increase the facilitation and extension of the provision of free legal support to persons coming from Ukraine to Bulgaria. In this context, counselling on the provision of protection in Bulgaria, including assistance in filling in documents, is provided by lawyers registered in the National Register of Legal Aid in all 14 regional counselling centres.
- Additional information was made available in [Bulgaria](#), [Estonia](#), [Ireland](#), [Spain](#) and [Switzerland](#).

Initiatives on different types of information exchange were also launched.

- Joint teams from Immigration and Border Service SEF and the Portuguese public employment service IEFP went to Poland and Romania to assist and inform Ukrainians wishing to go to [Portugal](#).



-  The Ministry of Transport in [Romania](#) launched an app on transit routes for displaced Ukrainians. The application includes an interactive map which shows transit corridors to neighbouring states of Romania, Hungary, Serbia and Bulgaria. The application covers roads (16 corridors) and rail (7 corridors), divided by country of destination; border crossing points; international airports; gas stations, car parks and service areas for each corridor; railway stations (approximately 250); and connections with airports close to customs points (13 corridors). The purpose of the application is to provide accurate information and to facilitate the transit of Ukrainian refugees. The map can be accessed also through a QR code.
-  In [Estonia](#), the Social Insurance Board launched an e-course on psychological first aid for helpers working in crisis situations. The course is offered free of charge and is modelled on the WHO Guidelines for Psychological First Aid.



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 asylum procedures 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](#), [Spain](#) and [Switzerland](#).



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](#). The Supreme Administrative Court in Czechia ruled that Ukraine can no longer be considered a safe country of origin.⁶

The impact of temporary protection on asylum procedure

In Finland, if temporary protection has been granted and the beneficiary has also applied for asylum, [the Finnish Immigration Service will suspend the processing of the asylum application for](#) the period during which the residence permit is valid under temporary protection.

⁶ Czech Republic, Supreme Administrative Court [Nejvyšší správní soud], [Applicant v Czech Ministry of the Interior \(Ministerstvo vnitra\)](#), 10 Azs 537/2021- 31, 10 March 2022. Link redirects to the English summary in the EUAA Case Law Database.



Similarly, [Malta](#) noted that temporary protection cannot be held concurrently with an application for international protection. If a person applies for international protection, his/her application will be assessed accordingly and a decision will be taken by the International Protection Agency (IPA).



Children

EU+ countries have focussed their efforts on ensuring that children can access education by simplifying relevant procedures, waving childcare fees, providing them with a smooth integration into the school curriculum and language learning, and facilitating the employment of Ukrainian citizens as teachers or assistant teachers. Relevant initiatives were reported in [Cyprus](#), [Ireland](#), [Poland](#), [Portugal, where](#) it was [reported](#) that about 100 children have registered to schools.

- In order to ensure a safe environment, care and necessary assistance for children, a special child reception mechanism was developed in [Lithuania](#).
- In [Estonia](#), a mechanism to assess the need for assistance is available through local governments in order to support children and families.
- In [Portugal](#), the government has set up an electronic platform to register cases of unaccompanied minors from Ukraine. The platform is hosted on the official website of the government of [Portugal for Ukraine](#).
- In [Italy](#), the Head of the Civil Protection Department has signed an ordinance appointing a commissioner to coordinate the measures and procedures to assist unaccompanied minors from Ukraine. [UNHCR and UNICEF](#) published joint recommendations for the protection of children fleeing the war in Ukraine, in order to effectively and positively guide the protection and reception of children and adolescents in Italy. The recommendations are addressed to organisations which are actively engaged, competent authorities, public services as well as the media.



Combatting trafficking

The Ministry of the Interior in Slovakia in early March 2022 warned about the risk of trafficking in human beings and published information leaflets in Slovak and Ukrainian (see [Situational Update No 9](#)). Similarly, the [Bulgarian government](#) shared information on the risk of trafficking for vulnerable people fleeing the conflict zone in Ukraine. The information included instructions on how to address such situations and the services which are available for victims.

The Ministry of Justice in [Iceland](#) published information on indicators of human trafficking in three languages: Icelandic, English and Polish. The guidelines are intended to help those who may need to identify potential victims of human trafficking and can benefit those who working in industries where there is a high probability of human trafficking. The guidelines also



provide information for victims of human trafficking on available resources, including a list of NGOs and institutions that can provide aid and counselling.



The trends in numbers

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

- NDGAP ([Hungary](#)) shares daily information on the number of persons applying for temporary protection.
- [Italy](#) publishes data on the number of arrivals from Ukraine. As of 15 March 2022, 44,008 refugees fleeing the conflict in Ukraine have arrived in Italy. The majority are women (22,331) and minors (17,858), while 3,819 men have arrived.
- In Greece, a total of 10,165 persons displaced from Ukraine have entered the country since 23 February 2022. (*Information shared by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum*)
- As of 15 March 2022, the [SEM](#) (Switzerland) informed that 5,211 refugees from Ukraine have registered in Switzerland, out of which 2,121 are accommodated privately.
- [Spain](#) shared an overview of applications for temporary protection. The National Police and the Asylum and Refuge Office have processed 559 applications for temporary protection which have all been granted. A total of 469 persons were attended to date (13 March 2022), out of which 42% are minors and 58% are adults, mostly women (208 women compared to 56 men). 57% of those attended indicated that they know someone in Spain. 35% of the 469 persons attended have some special needs, e.g. medical treatment or specific attention required due to their advanced age.
- Romania shares updates on the number of asylum applications lodged by Ukrainian nationals. As of 12 March 2022, 3,688 persons arriving from Ukraine had applied for asylum, with 63% occupation rate in GII accommodation centres, according to the Ministry of the Interior's [press release](#).
- According to the SMA (Sweden), 5,290 Ukrainian citizens have applied for protection from 24 February to 10 March. Applicants under the Temporary Protection Directive: 2,678.
- UNHCR shares [regular updates](#) on Refugees fleeing Ukraine (since 24 February 2022).