

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

Contents

I. II	ntroduction	10.	France	23.	Norway
II. N	National measures	11.	Germany	24.	Portugal
in response to arrivals from UA		12.	Greece	25.	Poland
		13.	Hungary	26.	Romania
1.	Austria	14.	Iceland	27.	Serbia
2.	Belgium	15.	Ireland	28.	Slovakia
3.	Bulgaria	16.	Italy	29.	Slovenia
4.	Croatia	17.	Latvia	30.	Spain
5.	Cyprus	18.	Lithuania	31.	Sweden
6.	Czechia	19.	Luxembourg	32.	Switzerland
7.	Denmark	20.	Malta	33.	Turkey
8.	Estonia	21.	Moldova	34.	United Kingdom
9.	Finland	22.	The Netherlands		

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I. Introduction

In response to requests for information, ECRE has compiled a non-exhaustive document of measures taken by European countries to address the arrival of people fleeing the war in Ukraine (UA). The document provides country-by-country information regarding two main areas of policy and legal developments in response to arrivals from UA: the first part identifies measures adopted on entry/stay requirements, reception-related arrangements, as well as asylum procedures; the second part provides information on national measures implementing the Council implementing decision of the Temporary Protection Directive, or establishing other special statuses for persons fleeing Ukraine.

The document was created on the basis of open-source information and unofficial translation tools. Some of the information is based on official statements announcing UA-specific policy changes and information regarding the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive, or other special statuses. ECRE has reached out to the ELENA lawyers, the AIDA network and ECRE Members to understand the level of practical implementation of the announced measures and will continue updating the document as needed. In case of doubt, ECRE encourages contact with ELENA network and ECRE members, as well as ECRE's Legal Support and Litigation Team (you can find all contact-related information here).

All efforts have been made to ensure that the information is up-to-date (as of 25 March) and accurate but the situation remains volatile and the developments are rapidly changing. Consequently, this is not intended to be an exhaustive or definitive compilation of all developments. More detailed guidance concerning some of the countries included in this information sheet has been prepared by Pilnet, DLA Piper and other lawfirms and is available here.

The Temporary Protection Directive and the Council implementing decision

On 3 March 2022, the European Commission invoked the <u>Temporary Protection Directive</u> (TPD) and on 4 March 2022 the <u>Council implementing decision</u> was adopted. All EU Member States apart from Denmark took part in the adoption of the Decision, therefore Denmark is not bound by the TPD, although it has introduced a similar special protection status (see below).

The TPD applies to UA nationals displaced from 24 February 2022, third-country nationals (TCN) and stateless persons who were beneficiaries of international or equivalent protection in Ukraine until 24 February 2022 and both groups' families.

Third-country nationals and stateless persons who can prove they were legally residing in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 on the basis of a permanent residence permit and are unable to return to their country of origin in safe and durable conditions are eligible for this protection, or an adequate national protection, which is decided by the relevant Member State.

Other groups such as third-country nationals and stateless persons who can prove they were legally residing in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 and who are unable to return to their country of origin in safe and durable conditions may be eligible for temporary protection to the discretion of Member States. Family members as mentioned in the decision include spouses or unmarried partners, minor unmarried children (of individual concerned or their spouse) and close relatives who were living and dependent on the relevant individual. More information about the directive and how it works in practice can be found here.



The Commission Communication on operational guidelines regarding the implementation of the Temporary protection Directive

On 17 March 2022, the Commission published the Communication on the relevant operational guidelines. The guidelines aim to support Member States (MS) in their national implementation of the TPD and focus on the following issues: scope of and eligibility for protection, right to move freely, registration and databases, residence permits, unaccompanied minors, trafficking, access to asylum, repatriation assistance and information provision.

On the **scope of and eligibility for protection**, the Commission encourages Member States to use their discretion and include wider categories of persons in their implementing legislation, in particular those who found themselves outside UA, or fled UA, shortly before 24 February 2022. It further notes that, where Member States choose to provide another form of adequate protection under Article 2 (2) of the Council Decision, such protection must be in line with the guarantees of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the spirit of the TPD; human dignity must be ensured at all times. Regarding the assessment of evidence, where documents have expired, MS are encouraged to consider them as evidence establishing identity and residence status; in case of doubts or non-submission of documents, MS are encouraged to rapidly contact UA authorities or channel the person into the asylum procedure.

Regarding the return in safe and durable conditions of TCN, the Commission considers it to be a *sui generis* concept that should be read in the light of Article 2 (c) of the TPD and should include situations of obvious risk for the safety of the person. TCN should be able to enjoy in their country active rights that secure their basic needs and a possibility for reintegration. The situation of the country/region of origin should be assessed in combination with *prima facie* evidence by the TCN on their ability to return, including by considering the existence of meaningful links with the country of origin (e.g., following a long-term residence in UA). Due consideration must be given to vulnerable individuals and children.

On family rights, the Commission encourages MS to extend the application of temporary protection or adequate protection under national law to family members of persons who resided in UA before 24 February 2022 on the basis of a permanent residence permit under Article 2 (2) of the Council Decision. It is further emphasised that the situation of children will require swift and effective responses based on the best interests of the child principle; the Commission encourages MS to provide child-specific protection measures and to extend access to education for minors who fall under Article 2 (2) of the Council Decision. Specific and extensive guidance is also provided for unaccompanied minors and orphan children; strong child protection systems must be put in place in both the MS of first entry and the destination MS.

The guidelines offer additional specific recommendations on **residence permits and the right to move freely**, including on the use of the Blueprint network, the facilitated issuance of necessary visas, measures to address insufficient travel documentation, as well as easier procedures for opening bank accounts and accessing relevant services. For TCN that fall under the **repatriation assistance** provision, the Commission recommends the issuance of national permits of limited duration in order for such persons to access basic services.

The European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) publishes regular updates on the responses by EU+ Member States to the needs of displaced people from UA. The latest situational update was published on 24 March 2022 and covers the period 18-24 March; it can be found here.



II. National measures in response to arrivals from UA

1. Austria

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum procedures

For UA national, entry with a biometric passport and no visa requirement remains possible. Persons without a biometric passport are issued a visa in a facilitated procedure and can also enter the country. More information can be found here.

According to <u>a statement</u> by the Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, UA nationals fleeing the war are allowed to travel for free on long-term trains using the country's national railway service (ÖBB).

b. Temporary protection and other special statuses

Austria has implemented the TPD, its implementation law can be found here. The scope covers (1) UA nationals present in Austria before 24 February 2022, (2) Third-country nationals or stateless persons with an international protection status or comparable national protection status granted before 24 February 2022, in accordance with Ukrainian law, (3) Their family members. UA nationals who held (on 24 February 2022) a valid residence title in Austria which was not renewed or was withdrawn due to failure to meet the issuance conditions and who cannot return to Ukraine will be given a temporary right of residence after expiry of the current residence title. UA nationals who were lawfully resident in Austria on 24 February 2022 shall also be entitled to temporary right of residence after the expiry of their visa-free or visa-required stay.

2. Belgium

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions, asylum procedures

Visa-free travel to Belgium remains possible. A <u>dedicated page</u> has been created to assist those fleeing Ukraine in understanding procedures regarding entry and stay.

A <u>helpline</u> has been launched to provide psychological support for people arriving in Belgium from Ukraine. The processing of asylum cases of UA nationals is suspended.

b. Temporary protection and other special statuses

Belgium has not yet adopted a specific national measure implementing the TPD but temporary protection status in line with the Council decision is available to (1) UA nationals and their families with a primary residence in Ukraine before the 24th of February 2022, (2) TCN and stateless persons who benefitted from international protection in Ukraine and their families with primary residence in Ukraine before the 24th of February 2022. The grant of this status results in the issuance of a limited stay permit (Card A) with a validity of one year. More information can be found here.



3. Bulgaria

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum procedures

UA citizens can enter Bulgaria visa-free for 90 days with a biometric passport. Covid-19 vaccination, testing or recovery certificates are mandatory to avoid a 10-day quarantine or until a negative PCR or rapid antigen test result. Regularly updated information in UA and English can be found here and government official information can be found here.

b. Temporary protection and other special statuses

The TPD has been implemented and is available for UA citizens residing in Ukraine before 24 February 2022, third country nationals and stateless people who had international protection or another equivalent national protection prior to 24 February, members of their families and those with foreign citizenship or statelessness who entered Bulgaria from Ukraine if they explicitly state their desire for temporary protection status before 31 March 2022. Registration offices for temporary protection are updated daily here.

4. Croatia

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum procedures

People displaced from Ukraine do not currently need a passport to enter Croatia. Accommodation on arrival will now be given in Gospić reception centre for a short period of time, up to 48 hours and then transfers to permanent accommodation will be offered. More information in this regard is available here.

On 23 March, the government <u>adopted a decision</u> on financing the costs of housing for displaces persons from Ukraine in individual accommodation; owners of housing units who provided accommodation to displaced persons from Ukraine will be reimbursed on the basis of lease agreements with the Ministry of Interior.

b. Temporary protection and other special statuses

A national decision implementing the TPD <u>has been adopted</u> by Croatia. The temporary protection status will be granted to UA nationals and third-country nationals who were legally residing in Ukraine on 24 February 2022 who are unable to return to their country of origin in safe and durable conditions. It furthermore applies to those who fled Ukraine recently before 24 February 2022 due to the security situation and cannot return now.

5. Cyprus

a. Temporary protection and other special statuses

Cyprus has implemented the TPD and the scope covers (1) Ukrainian nationals, refugees in Ukraine, and their family members living in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 and (2) Stateless persons and non-Ukrainians living in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 with a permanent residence permit, who are unable to return safely to their country of origin. The application form to obtain this protection can be submitted online on het webpage of the Asylum Service.



6. Czechia

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception and asylum procedures

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

Czechia has lifted coronavirus-related measures for UA nationals crossing the border; no tests or certificates are required. According to reports, women, children and elderly have had no problem crossing the border, even without documents, but there have been instances of incidents where men attempted to cross. Public transport is free in most cities on provision of a UA passport or ID card.

The special visa will include health insurance for those who cannot pay privately and a right to obtain a work permit. Emergency accommodation arrangements will be made for holders of the special visa. Information in UA and CZ can be found here (regularly updated). All UA nationals have been released from detention. There will be no detention/expulsion of UA nationals who are in Czechia without a permit. Asylum remains a possibility, however, the special visa regime is specifically designated for UA nationals and therefore faster.

Three judgments have recently been made by the Regional Court of Brno in favour of UA international protection applicants who claimed asylum prior to 24 February 2022. These judgments are not public yet, and many cases of previously rejected UA asylum seekers are also pending before the courts.

b. Temporary protection and other special statuses

Czechia <u>has enacted</u> Act No. 65/2022 Coll. (Lex Ukraine) implementing the TPD. It has extended the scope to cover the citizens of Ukraine who entered the territory of the Czech Republic legally without a visa or on the basis of a short-stay visa and on 24 February 2022 still resided in the territory of the Czech Republic on the basis of this short-stay visa or without a visa, in addition to (1) the citizens of Ukraine who resided in Ukraine before February 24, 2022 and subsequently left Ukraine, and (2), stateless persons and foreigners who have been granted some form of international protection in Ukraine and who resided in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 and subsequently left it. Family members of the persons falling under all three categories are also covered.

Temporary protection may also be granted due to family reunification with the holder of temporary protection, or exceptionally in other cases.

More practical information on how to apply and on other administrative issues can be found here.

7. Denmark

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum

There have been no concrete measures in respect of entry and stay requirements. UA citizens with a biometric passport can enter Denmark and stay for 90 days without a visa. In the absence of a biometric passport, an application for a visa is required. The Danish Immigration



Service has created <u>a dedicated Q&A page for Ukrainian citizens</u> covering entry, stay and asylum-related developments.

The Refugee Appeals Board <u>has suspended decisions</u> in asylum cases of UA citizens. The decision will be reviewed in the next Coordination Committee on 28 April 2022.

b. Temporary protection and other special statuses

On 16 March 2022 the Danish Parliament agreed on a Special Act on displaced persons from Ukraine that essentially resembles the TPD, which Denmark opted out from. The Special Act will apply to Ukrainian citizens and refugees recognised in Ukraine (i.e. a narrow interpretation of the TPD).

It will also be possible for close family members of the two groups to be reunited with a person, who has been granted residence under the Special Act in Denmark. Family members are defined as nuclear family members, i.e. spouse, partner and minor unmarried children, as well as other close relatives, who prior to the flight shared a household with and were financially dependent on the main person.

A residence permit under the Special Act is valid for two years (until 2024) with the possibility of extension for an additional year (until 2025). Persons, who are granted residence permit under the Special Act, have the same rights as persons, who are granted refugee status in Denmark, e.g. right to housing, health case, access to the labour market, access education for children and social welfare assistance.

8. Estonia

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum

Entry: According to new measures, biometric passports are no longer required for UA nationals fleeing the country; people can arrive without any requirement for visa. Coronavirus-related requirements do not apply for UA nationals arriving at the border.

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

Accommodation is provided for UA nationals and beneficiaries of international protection in Ukraine, displaced as of 24 February 2022. Initial reception centres are currently in Tallinn, Tartu, Pärnu, and Rakvere and healthcare, meals, work permits and education will be provided. Additional information can be found here.

b. Temporary protection and other special statuses

Estonia has implemented the TPD and UA nationals, beneficiaries of international protection in Ukraine and both groups families are eligible to apply.

The protection does not apply to those who resided or stayed in Estonia prior to 24 February 2022, but they will be subject to decisions allowing for their temporary stay even if visas have expired. More information on how to apply for temporary protection is available here.

9. Finland



a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum

Visa-free travel remains possible. <u>A dedicated page</u> on the website of the Finnish Immigration Service includes information on residence permits following the UA developments.

Decision-making on applications by UA nationals <u>are suspended</u> insofar as that would entail removal from Finland (negative decisions are not being issued). However, the Finnish Immigration Service continues to issue decisions on applications for international protection and residence permits to applicants meeting the relevant conditions. <u>A dedicated page</u> on the website of the Finnish Immigration Service includes information for asylum applicants following the UA developments.

<u>According to the Finnish Immigration Service</u>, the reception system is not expected to face challenges and contingency plans have been made.

b. Temporary protection and other special statuses

Finland has <u>implemented</u> the Temporary Protection Directive and chosen to extend its scope to UA citizens and their family members who fled Ukraine shortly before 24 February, other UA citizens and their family members who are already staying in Finland or have arrived and to non-EU nationals legally residing (other than permanently residing) in Ukraine who cannot return to their country of origin.

10. France

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum

Entry: Visa-free entry with a biometric passport remains possible. UA nationals without a biometric passport <u>may submit</u> a request for a visa at the consular posts of the countries bordering Ukraine.

Stay: UA nationals that are already in France <u>can address</u> a request for extension of stay at the Prefecture in the Department of arrival. A list of Prefectures can be found <u>here</u>.

UA nationals with a residence permit in France which is due to expire should go to the Préfecture for an individual assessment. Third-country nationals whose asylum application was under examination in Ukraine on 24 February should introduce an asylum claim in France.

A <u>day shelter</u> has opened in Paris to refer to emergency accommodation in the region. UA nationals <u>can travel</u> for free on French trains.

b. Temporary protection and other special statuses

A ministerial order was <u>issued</u> specifying the people eligible for temporary protection. Third-country nationals holding a valid permanent residence permit can only benefit from temporary protection if they are unable to return in safe and durable conditions to their country of origin. This assessment has to be carried out by the prefecture after an individual interview. France extends the scope of the directive to the family members of all eligible beneficiaries, including third country nationals with residence permits (if they have proved they cannot return to their country of origin).

Those eligible for temporary protection will be issued a provisional residence permit for 6 months, giving them immediate access to healthcare, work (subject to holding a work permit), support in accessing housing and the payment of the asylum seeker's allowance.



11. Germany

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum

The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees has published <u>UA-specific guidance</u> in German, Russian and Ukrainian on entry and stay requirements. Detailed information in German can also be found <u>here</u>. The Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI) has issued additional specific guidance, available in <u>English</u> and <u>Ukrainian</u>; civil society organisations have also released detailed <u>guidance</u> in English and Ukrainian.

Ukrainian citizens with a biometric passport can enter and move freely in the Schengen area without a visa. This also includes onward travel from Poland to Germany. UA nationals without a biometric passport may exceptionally apply for a visa for Germany at the diplomatic missions in Ukraine's neighbouring countries. Regarding COVID-related restrictions, since 27 February 2022, Ukraine is no longer classified as a high-risk area. Therefore, under the Ordinance on Coronavirus Entry Regulations, only proof of a negative test result is required prior to entry. People entering from Ukraine are no longer required to register or quarantine upon entry.

Regarding stay, <u>an ordinance</u> temporarily exempts persons displaced from Ukraine and staying in Germany from the requirement to hold a residence permit; the ordinance will remain in effect until at least 23 May 2022.

The national railway services <u>have announced</u> that UA nationals can travel with a Ukrainian passport or identity card on all long-distance trains from Poland to Germany free of charge. The long-distance trains have their starting points in Warsaw, Gdansk, Przemysl (border to Ukraine)/Krakow, Vienna/Wroclaw. Preparations are being made to ensure additional transport capacity as needed.

The Berlin Immigration Office <u>issued a general ruling</u> stipulating that, for the citizens of Ukraine in Berlin whose visa-free stay expires on February 25th, 2022, the visa-free short stay is automatically extended until May 31st, 2022. The ruling applies solely to Ukrainian citizens in possession of a valid passport or a passport replacement document, who are actually staying in Berlin at the time the visa-free short stay expires and who will be also staying here until they leave Germany.

The BMI advises against UA nationals applying for asylum as the EU invoked temporary protection available provides a quicker protection process. Although, the right to apply for asylum continues to apply at a later date. Additional local and national information can be found here.

b. Temporary protection and other special statuses

Germany has chosen to apply the TPD to third-country nationals and stateless persons who can prove they had permanent legal residency in Ukraine and cannot return to their country of origin. Furthermore, Germany has extended temporary protection to third-country nationals who can prove they were lawfully present in Ukraine for a non-temporary purpose but had not yet obtained permanent residency or international protection. This includes students and individuals with stays in Ukraine for reasons other than visiting or short-term employment, provided they cannot return to their country of origin. The protection also extends to those fitting the above categories who were already in Germany closely before the 24 February 2022. Stateless persons are not included in the last category and will thereby be informed of alternative options under residence law as well as their right to file an application for international protection. There have been reports that some UA nationals who received a registration certificate in Poland were refused to benefit from the TPD in Germany.



12. Greece

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum

Visa-free entry with biometric passports and visa-based entry without a biometric passport is possible at all entry points. UA nationals that are not in possession of travel documents <u>may only enter Greece</u> through the Promachonas border station on the Greek-Bulgarian border. Passenger locator forms are no longer required for UA citizens to enter Greece.

Where necessary, short-term accommodation will be provided at the Sindiki reception facility until all travel documents have been issued. For UA nationals in need of long-term accommodation, a request must be made via email to ukraine@migration.gov.gr. Upon granting of the aforementioned temporary protection, beneficiaries will have access to the material reception conditions of asylum seekers and will have the right to work and to medical care. Applications for accommodation can be submitted online here.

b. Temporary protection and other special statuses

The Ministry of Migration and Asylum <u>has announced</u> that temporary protection up to one year will be offered to UA nationals residing in Ukraine before 24 February 2022, third country nationals or stateless persons legally residing (as refugees or with an equivalent national status) in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 and to family members of the above groups.

13. Hungary

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum

Generally, all UA citizens can enter the territory without a passport or identity documents however there have been recent instances of third-country nationals being refused entry at the Romanian-Hungarian border. Updated information and developments can be accessed here.

b. Temporary protection and other special statuses

Temporary protection under the EU Council Directive is still available to UA citizens and beneficiaries of international protection residing in Ukraine displaced on or after 24 February as well as family members of the above groups. More information about this can be accessed here.

14. Iceland

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum

UA nationals are entitled to travel to Iceland visa-free. The Directorate of Immigration <u>removed</u> Ukraine from the list of safe countries.

A residence permit under a collective protection measure (see below) will grant individuals rights such as housing, maintenance, social services, health care services and access to the labour market. Under the current regime, those who receive a residence permit on humanitarian grounds only receive conditional access to the Icelandic labour market; however, an amendment is now being prepared aiming to ensure that all persons who receive a residence permit on humanitarian grounds will receive a work permit along with the residence permit, automatically and without intermediaries.



b. Temporary protection and other special statuses

Iceland <u>triggered</u> Article 44 of the Foreign Nationals Act which provides collective protection to a group of foreign nationals fleeing a specific region of mass exodus. The residence permit is issued for one year at a time, with the possibility to renew or extend it up to three years from the time of first issuance. <u>A Q&A section</u> has been created for persons fleeing Ukraine.

15. Ireland

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum

According to the Ministry of Justice, people who are considering leaving Ukraine and travelling to Ireland may do so without a visa and will be entitled to temporary protection under the TPD. Social welfare supports for holders of a temporary protection status have been announced here.

The Minister for Education has <u>announced</u> that UA teachers will be prioritised in registration to account for the children needing education in Ukrainian. Regularly updated information in English and UA is available <u>here</u> and <u>here</u>.

b. Temporary protection and other special statuses

Ireland <u>provides</u> temporary protection status in line with the TPD. The scope covers a) UA nationals residing in Ukraine before 24 February 2022, b) TCNs or stateless persons who would have benefited from international protection (for example: Refugee status) or an equivalent national protection status in Ukraine and were residing there before 24 February 2022, c) family members of the above groups, where the family already existed in Ukraine at the time of events leading to the mass influx prior to 24 February. It has also chosen to apply temporary protection also applies to people who were residing in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 with a permanent Ukrainian residence permit, who cannot safely return to their country of origin.

16. Italy

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum

Visa-free entry <u>remains possible</u> for UA nationals and they will be entitled to temporary protection in line with the TPD. It is expected that a Decree will be enacted outlining the implementation of temporary protection. COVID-related restrictions <u>continue to apply</u> until 31 March 2022: entry must be accompanied by a COVID certificate and a passenger locator form.

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

Italy has suspended Ukraine from the safe country of origin list until 31 December 2022.

b. Temporary protection and other special statuses



The Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers regarding the implementation of the TPD was signed and adopted on 28 March 2022. The decree confirms that temporary protection applies to UA citizens and third-country nationals and stateless people who held international protection or an equivalent national protection in Ukraine, and fled before 24 February 2022. It also applies to third-country national or stateless people who held permanent residence permits in Ukraine and are unable to return to their country of origin. The protection/permit can be requested at every "Questura" and will allow the beneficiary to access the national health system, the labour market and education. Those who already have applied for international protection in Italy and have pending cases can apply however those who have already been recognised with international protection cannot access the temporary protection. Following the decree, the civil protection service published an <u>ordinance</u> on 29 March 2022 setting out reception and humanitarian support issues. The ordinance confirmed that TPD beneficiaries over 18 years of age who find their own accommodation will be granted a monthly allowance of 300 euros each month for a maximum of 3 months from their arrival, and for each minor in a family the family will receive an additional 150 euros.

17. Latvia

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum

Entry: Visa-free entry remains possible with a biometric passport. At border crossing points, checks will confirm the existence of biometric passports or the need for visas, in the absence of the latter. If a person arrives without travel documents the identity of the person will be confirmed in cooperation with the competent Ukrainian authorities. More detailed information in English, Ukrainian and Russian can be found here.

The lack of valid travel documents will not be an obstacle to entering Latvia for UA nationals; similarly, the lack of medical COVID-related documents, such as tests or vaccination certificates, will not impede entry for UA nationals.

Stay: Latvia plans to issue long-term visas for UA nationals. More detailed information in English, Ukrainian and Russian can be found here. Accommodation, food and medical care will be offered to all UA nationals arriving in Ukraine. In the event of urgent medical assistance upon arrival, UA nationals are urged to inform border officials or call 113. The expected long-term visas for UA nationals will offer the right to work. More detailed information in English and Ukrainian can be found here.

b. Temporary protection and other special statuses

In Latvia, the temporary protection status is available for UA citizens and their spouses, as well as children resident in UA on or before February 24.

18. Lithuania

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum

Visa-free entry is possible for UA nationals with biometric passports. UA nationals who have nowhere to stay in Lithuania must register with the Alytus Migration Department immediately upon arrival. UA nationals who have a place to stay in Lithuania must register too but they can do so in any Migration Department across the country (you can find information on addresses in different cities in <u>Ukrainian</u>, <u>Russian</u> and <u>English</u>).

According to the state news agency, UA nationals who benefit from the visa waiver or have a valid Schengen visa, as well as those who have been issued a national visa or a temporary



residence permit on humanitarian grounds will have the right to work in Lithuania and will be relieved from the obligation to obtain a work permit. In addition, temporary protection holders will be exempt from language requirements in certain jobs (such as teaching) to facilitate access to the labour market.

At the registration centre, <u>there are arrangements</u> for detailed information provision on the possibilities for stay in Lithuania; provision of temporary accommodation (with municipalities or private individuals), food rations and basic medical care. Registration for accommodation can also be done online <u>here</u>.

There is a suspension of returns to UA. Individuals arriving from Ukraine are advised to not apply for asylum but to obtain temporary protection instead.

b. Temporary protection and other statuses

After registration, UA nationals may apply for and obtain a temporary residence permit in Lithuania (for 1 year) or a national visa (for 1 year). National visas will not be issued to citizens of Ukraine who are not holders of valid foreign passports, but applications for temporary residence permits for humanitarian reasons will be accepted from such foreigners. Ukrainian citizens holding biometric passports and whose national visas or temporary residence permits expire in the Republic of Lithuania can immediately start enjoying the 90-day visa-free regime upon the expiry of these documents.

Detailed information can also be found here.

19. Luxembourg

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum

Displaced people arriving from Ukraine to Luxembourg are asked to contact the Directorate of Immigration (at immigration.desk@mae.etat.lu) to make their presence known and begin a temporary protection or regularisation application.

An emergency reception centre is available 24/7 to provide accommodation and food to people on initial arrival. More information can be found here.

b. Temporary protection or other special statuses

Temporary protection applies to third-country nationals and stateless persons who can prove they were legally residing in Ukraine before 24 February on the basis of a valid residence permit and are unable to return to their country of origin. It also applies to those who have left Ukraine since 24 February 2022 or shortly before due to the conflict. More information on applying for protection can be found here.

20. Malta

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum

UA nationals can travel without a visa to Malta and pre-approval to travel requirement has been lifted for those wishing to seek asylum.

COVID-related entry restrictions: All passengers fleeing from Ukraine will be accepted subject to quarantine. The Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs is offering to cover the accommodation costs of UA nationals and their dependents in hotels recognised as quarantine locations. For more information, see here.



b. Temporary protection and other special statuses

The TPD will apply to UA nationals, third-country nationals and stateless persons who can prove that they had permanent legal residency in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 and are unable to return to their country of origin in safe and durable conditions. The onus to establish eligibility for this protection falls to the third-country national or stateless person concerned. As of yet, the protection has not been extended to include those without permanent legal residency. More information on how the protection is implemented in Malta and how to apply can be found here.

General information on entering Malta, accommodation, psychological support and other practical advice can be found here.

21. Moldova

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum

Ukrainians can enter Moldova with their ID if they do not have a passport; They do not have to show a COVID certificate; people can drive in a car without a green card if they go on to receive one within 24 hours; there is a hotline 080001527 and calls to 112 will be transferred to the hotline. A <u>Facebook group</u> has been set up with useful information. You can find more information here (state Telegram channel, info in UA).

Information on free accommodation and other practical topics can be found <u>here</u> and <u>here</u>. UA nationals are allowed to work without a work permit (see national legislation in Romanian here).

b. Temporary protection and other special statuses

Moldova allows Ukrainian citizens to stay on its territory for 90 days without any special permission; this permission is expected to be prolonged if the circumstances do not change.

22. The Netherlands

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum

The Dutch immigration services have released guidance on entry/stay requirements for UA nationals. The <u>guidance</u> refers to a more lenient assessment of such cases but it does not contain detailed practical information. More detailed information can be accessed <u>here</u>. All public transportation is free for UA nationals.

As of 28 February 2022, the Dutch immigration services will not deliver any decisions on asylum applications made by UA nationals; deportations to UA are also suspended. Both measures will be valid for a duration of 6 months and is subject to certain exceptions (Dublin cases, granted protection in another EU Member State, commission of war crimes/threat to public order or national security). For more information, see here.

Dutch municipalities are opening special reception locations which can be reserved through the immigration service.

b. Temporary protection and other special statuses

The Netherlands has implemented the TPD introducing <u>detailed national measures</u> and extending the scope of protection. The scope covers:



- UA nationals that left UA after 26 November 2021; or UA nationals that left UA before 27 November 2021 and at that time they had been in the Netherlands for a longer period of time on a residence permit or following an application for asylum and can prove that they were in the Netherlands before 27 November 2021 and not in another EU country.
- Non-UA nationals provided that they left Ukraine after 26 November 2021 and on 23 February 2022, they were recognised as refugees by Ukraine; or they left Ukraine after 26 November 2021 and on 23 February 2022, they had a valid Ukrainian residence permit.
- Family members of the above groups.

Information on how to receive the status are available here.

23. Norway

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum

Visa-free travel with biometric passports remains possible. UA citizens in Norway on expiring permits or visa-free visits can continue to stay in the country until further notice. A dedicated page with further details for UA nationals has been created by the authorities.

Reception capacity <u>is expected</u> to increase. Norwegian authorities <u>no longer consider Ukraine</u> a safe country; returns to UA have been suspended.

b. Temporary protection and other special statuses

A temporary collective protection status will be available for UA citizens in Norway. The protection can be granted to a) UA citizens who resided in UA before 24 February 2022, b) persons who have been granted protection in UA before 24 February 2022 and c) close family members of such persons regardless of nationality. Family members are those who, before 24 February 2022, were part of the same household as the person receiving collective protection. Those who will receive a temporary collective protection status will be granted a residence permit for up to a year.

People who do not fall under the above categories will be assessed individually.

24. Portugal

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum

Citizens leaving Ukraine who wish to reach Portugal <u>should contact</u> the Portuguese Embassies of the transit countries, in order to update the information on their location and so that they can be provided with the necessary support.

The temporary protection provides accommodation and subsistence allowances to beneficiaries who do not have financial resources of their own and provides the issuance of a healthcare system number and employment registration. The Portuguese government have launched an information platform to combine details of reception, protection and integration in one place.

b. Temporary protection and other special statuses



An online platform for remote submissions of temporary protection requests is available <a href="https://example.com/her

Another platform has been set up focusing on unaccompanied children, available here.

25. Poland

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum

Although the situation remains very dynamic in Poland, the authorities seem to proceed mainly based on existing measures on entry based on biometric passports, visas and asylum. You can find detailed information on entry possibilities here (in English). Amendments to existing entry-related regulations have suspended coronavirus-related quarantine and testing requirements and allow regular movement at the border crossings with Ukraine.

A list of newly formed reception facilities is available here. There is also an amendment to the ordinance on guarded centres and arrests for foreigners. According that amendment, a foreigner may be detained for up to 14 days in the premises of the Border Guard. Residence under the new law will provide full access to the labour market and to family, social, health and education benefits.

Detailed information in English and Ukrainian can also be found here.

Although, the TPD provides for free movement of applicants to choose the Member State in which they want to avail of protection, there have been some reports of applications in Germany being rejected on the basis of registration certificates issued in Poland.

b. Temporary protection and other special statuses

Poland has brought in the Act on Assistance to Citizens of Ukraine in Connection with armed conflict on the territory of this country which will legalise the stay for 18 months of UA citizens who crossed the border from Ukraine after 24 February. More information on the new special law can be found here.

26. Romania

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum

Visa-free entry with a biometric passport remains possible. If individuals apply for asylum in Romania, UA nationals <u>can also enter</u> the country on the basis of another type of identity document (national identity document, birth certificate etc.), or on the basis of the declared identity, without an identity document, from humanitarian reasons.

In respect of COVID-related restrictions, UA nationals are not required to quarantine upon arrival, regardless of whether they arrive from Ukraine or through the Republic of Moldova.

If needed, accommodation, food and free medical services are provided and if individuals choose to stay in Romania they will have the right to work under certain conditions. The



government has communicated detailed information on medical services and the right to work for UA nationals; they can be consulted in English and Ukrainian here.

Information provision and legal counselling at the main border crossing points from Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova (Halmeu, Sighetu Marmatiei, Siret, Stanca, and Isaccea). Information provision is also provided in reception centres, as well as through two hotlines (+40 730 073 170 / +40 721 206 926) and an online platform.

As far as can be derived, asylum procedures are still accessible in Romania, of which applicants will be accommodated in the six main regional centres in Timis, Maramures, Suceava, Giurgiu and Bucharest.

27. Serbia

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum

UA citizens with a passport can enter the territory through any border crossings and are eligible to stay for 90 days without a visa.

According to the Asylum Office website, authorities have put reception capacity on standby in response to the potential of increased arrivals of UA nationals. Once in reception centres, individuals will have access to healthcare, elementary and high school education and humanitarian aid. More information can be accessed here.

b. Temporary protection and other special statuses

On 18 March 2022, Serbia adopted <u>a decision</u> implementing the TPD. The decision provides an extensive scope of protection that includes 1) UA citizens and their families who have resided in Ukraine; 2) asylum seekers, stateless persons and foreign citizens who have been granted asylum or equivalent national protection in Ukraine and members of their families who have been granted residence in Ukraine; 3) foreign nationals who have been granted valid permanent residence or temporary residence in Ukraine and who cannot return to their country of origin under permanent and long-term circumstances, and 4) UA citizens and their families who legally resided in the Republic of Serbia at the time of the national decision but whose right to residence expired before the decision on temporary protection is revoked.

28. Slovakia

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum

Entry is allowed to all persons fleeing the war in UA. Entry is also possible without valid travel documents by applying for temporary protection or asylum. You can find more information on entry and stay issues here.

The Slovak government created <u>a website</u> where UA nationals can find information on accommodation.

b. Temporary protection and other special statuses

Slovakia is providing UA nationals and family members with a form of <u>temporary protection</u> which gives them access to healthcare, the labour market and education.



29. Slovenia

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum

Visa-free entry with a biometric passport is possible for UA nationals. The validity of the travel document must be at least three months longer than the intended residence in the Republic of Slovenia. A dedicated webpage has been created to address the situation of UA nationals in Slovenia and gives details about the temporary protection implementation and application. From the information available, the protection is applicable to third-country nationals and stateless people who have resided in Ukraine on the basis of a valid permanent residence permit and are unable to return to their country of origin.

Information on assistance to UA nationals fleeing the country will be provided by Slovenian authorities through a dedicated phone number; you can find the information in English and Ukrainian here.

b. Temporary protection and other special statuses

Temporary protection will be available for citizens of Ukraine, as well as stateless persons and third-country nationals who are not citizens of Ukraine and who were granted international protection or other equivalent national protection in Ukraine, provided that they left UA before 24 February 2022. Family members of the above groups are also covered.

Stateless persons and third-country nationals who are not citizens of Ukraine and who resided in Ukraine on the basis of a valid permanent residence permit and who are unable to return to their country or region of origin in a safe and sustainable or lasting manner will be covered by this form of protection.

Information on the procedure and the rights involved can be accessed here.

30. Spain

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum

The Spanish national railway network is providing <u>train journeys free of charge</u> to UA citizens in possession of a passport or identity card. The Minister of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration has <u>announced plans</u> to provide at least 6,000 places in reception centres and hotels, the details and conditions of which are still unknown.

A high court in Spain <u>granted subsidiary protection</u> to a UA family who had been rejected protection prior to 24 February 2022.

b. Temporary protection and other special statuses

Spain has enacted two orders, the first one (Orden PCM/169/2022) develops the procedure for the recognition of temporary protection for people affected by the conflict and the second order (Orden PCM/170/2022) extends the scope of the TPD to UA nationals who were residing irregularly in Spain at the time of the invasion. The orders confirm that applications will be processed and resolved within a maximum of 24 hours, will provide residence and work permits and furthermore that all legal residents in Ukraine and not solely UA nationals are included.

Information about temporary and protection information will be regularly updated here.



31. Sweden

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum

UA nationals can enter Sweden without a visa and stay for up to 90 days and can apply to be covered by the TPD on arrival. Application locations, further details and practical information can be found here.

The processing of asylum cases of UA nationals <u>has been suspended</u>. Deportations to UA have also been suspended until further notice. Contingency plans <u>have been made</u> to increase capacity of asylum services if needed.

Statistics on arrivals from UA can be found here.

b. Temporary protection and other special statuses

Sweden has implemented the TPD and a narrow designation of the scope of national measures covers UA citizens who left UA after 24 February 2022 and non-UA citizens who had a residence permit in UA as refugees or subsidiary protection holders, provided they left UA on or after 24 February 2022 and can present a valid identity document. Family members are covered too. More information on the procedure can be found here.

32. Switzerland

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum

The processing of asylum applications by UA nationals is suspended.

b. Temporary protection and other special statuses

A temporary protection status has been introduced (le status de protection S) which will entitle UA nationals and their family members to protection for one year, which can be extended. More information can be found here and information about the rights associated with the protection status S can be accessed here.

33. Turkey

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum

UA nationals are subject to visa exemption and can stay for up to 90 days in the territory. The Ministry of Interior has <u>announced</u> that after the 90 day period, UA nationals will be provided with residence permits. Currently, UA nationals also have the option to apply for international protection, although it is unclear if the residence permit option will become an alternative for this.

34. United Kingdom

a. Entry/stay requirements, reception conditions and asylum

The UK Home Office announced temporary visa concessions for family members of British citizens and residents under the Ukraine Family Scheme. Non-British nationals can act as sponsors under this scheme provided they have the following status: indefinite leave to



remain, EU settled status, EU pre-settled status, refugee status and humanitarian protection. You can find more detailed information here. The Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine) is pathway through which UA nationals or their family members can apply to join a UK based sponsor. Applications can be made online here. Furthermore, the Home Office has confirmed that UA surrogate mothers of British intended parents will be entitled to travel to the UK outside of the usual immigration rules. The First Minister of Wales has announced that UA nationals will be eligible for free rail travel for six months while settling in Wales.

UA nationals <u>can make use of</u> the temporary visa application centre (VAC) in Rzeszow, or other centres including in the capitals of Poland, Moldova, Romania and Hungary. In person appointments for visas are no longer required for UA passport holders.

For UA nationals previously benefitting from permission to stay in the UK, the Ukrainian Extension Scheme will open on 3 May 2022 allowing for the extensions of permits expired since 1 January 2022.

A group of volunteer legal professionals in the UK are providing free legal advice, which can be accessed here.