



EU preparedness to welcome those fleeing the war in Ukraine

23 March 2022



Some 3.5 million people have now fled Ukraine following the Russian invasion. The EU is supporting Member States to ensure their protection and full access to their rights.

Temporary Protection and guidelines for Member States





PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN



All children from Ukraine arriving in the EU should have swift access to their rights, without discrimination, including the necessary psychological support, healthcare and access to education. Particular attention must be given to unaccompanied children. It is important that they are immediately registered upon arrival, they should receive full and safe support and a representative of child protection services should be present as quickly as possible. Family tracing must be a priority.

The Commission is:

- Supporting and funding access to **psychosocial** care and basic services.
- Supporting the appropriate reception and care for **orphans** and children with **disabilities**.
- Encouraging the implementation of the **European Strategy on the Rights of the Child**. National coordinators of the **European Child Guarantee** will play an important role at national level and in sharing best practices at EU level.
- Working with international organisations to reunite families through **family tracing programmes**.
- Supporting Member States, through the renewed **Schengen Information System**, in their work tackling child trafficking and abduction.
- Preparing **Standard Operating Procedures** for transfers of unaccompanied minors and other children with special needs to ensure protection from **risks of abuse and trafficking**.

EDUCATION



According to estimates, almost half of the refugees from Ukraine are school-age children. Their return to school will help alleviate their psychological stress, give them a sense of stability and normalcy and an outlook for the future.

The Commission is:

- Financing support for schools, vocational education and training, as well as for early childhood education and care through **EU Cohesion Funds**, and **Erasmus+** and the **European Solidarity Corps**.
- Setting up an **EU Education Solidarity Group for Ukraine** to identify the needs of Ukrainian children and to support Member States who host them, including peer learning and policy guidance.
- Providing access to learning material in Ukrainian and offering online resources and courses for teachers through the **School Education Gateway**.
- Supporting teachers among the refugees through access to EU programmes and exchanges in the **eTwinning community**.





HEALTHCARE



People arriving from Ukraine should be given broad access to sickness benefits and be affiliated to the public health care system of the host Member State. Ukrainian healthcare workers can play a key role in meeting new needs if their qualifications are swiftly recognised.

To ensure specialised hospital treatment and care, for those in urgent need, the Commission:

- Set up a **solidarity mechanism for intra EU medical transfers** of refugees and displaced persons from the Member States bordering Ukraine. 10 000 beds have already been made available.

- Supports access to routine vaccinations for children which should be treated as a matter of priority, as well as targeted actions on mental health and trauma support for those fleeing the war.



ACCESS TO JOBS

People with temporary protection should be able to engage in employed or self-employed activities, as well as vocational training and should also enjoy equal treatment with workers in the Member States, in terms of pay and other conditions.

The Commission is:

- Helping people arriving from Ukraine to acquire the necessary skills to enter the EU job market. Support can be funded through **Cohesion Policy funding** and the new **Cohesion's Action for Refugees in Europe (CARE)**, as well as the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. This could include help such as language courses, counselling, or basic training.

- Language and basic digital skills can also be built up using the networks in the **Pact for Skills** to connect regional authorities, education organisations, and NGOs involved in supporting people who have fled Ukraine.

- The Commission has added the Ukrainian language to the **EU Skills Profile Tool** for third country nationals, to help Ukrainian job seekers and those who wish to continue their studies.

- The Commission is developing new guidelines to facilitate the recognition of professional qualifications obtained in Ukraine. This will make it easier for employers and training institutions to understand the skills of Ukrainians arriving to the EU.

- The **European Training Foundation** is comparing the **Ukrainian and European Qualifications Frameworks**. It is also setting up a resource site to help both Ukrainians seeking assistance in having their qualifications recognised, and others who need help in interpreting them.

- **Public Employment Services** will play a key role in active labour market policies to make use of the skills of the new arrivals, and act as matchmakers on the labour market.

- The Commission will also launch a web-based pilot **EU Talent Pool for displaced people from Ukraine** to match skills with job vacancies.



ACCESS TO ACCOMMODATION AND HOUSING



Immediate accommodation is being provided by the authorities or by charities. The **Temporary Protection Directive** offers the right to suitable accommodation and housing and sustainable solutions therefore need to be found in the medium term combining the public reception system with private accommodation offers.

The Commission will:

- Continue to support Member States in scaling up their reception capacity.
- Launch a new **'Safe Homes' initiative** to embrace and support initiatives taken at local, regional and national levels and in cooperation with the private sector.

The **European Regional Development Fund** helps provide social housing for families and individuals in the community, and covers purchase and refurbishment of appropriate accommodation.

The **European Social Fund** can support investments in community-based accommodation, especially for those with special needs, disabilities, children and older people.



SOLIDARITY PLATFORM

Coordinates cooperation between Member States to coordinate support on the ground, in particular on reception capacity. Accurate data is key to drive the EU response – continuous contributions from Member States are crucial for this effort.

- 7 Member States and Norway have already agreed to transfer 14,500 people from **Moldova**, with the first transfers starting on 19 March.
- The most **vulnerable cases**, including children, are prioritised.
- The platform also provides a dedicated **coordination platform for transfers** to third countries.
- **EU Agencies** are supporting Member States on the ground.

The Commission will support private sector operators to facilitate and expand their efforts to provide **free transport** within the EU and recommends Member States **waive carrier liability**.

Support also continues for the **repatriation** of third country nationals who were caught up in the war in Ukraine.

