

Information Sheet – Access to territory, asylum procedures and reception conditions for Ukrainian nationals in European countries

3 March 2022

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 Ukrainian nationals (UA nationals) in their territory following the invasion in Ukraine.¹ The information sheet is published and distributed to assist persons fleeing Ukraine.

Some of the information contained in this document is based on official statements announcing UA-specific policy changes. It is possible that such policy changes are not immediately reflected in the actual practice of authorities receiving UA nationals. Where possible ECRE has reached out to lawyers 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 representatives and lawyers; you can find all contact-related information [here](#).

The document was created on the basis of open-source information and unofficial translation tools. ECRE has also used its AIDA database and the ELENA network, as well as information provided by ECRE members. All efforts have been made to ensure that the information is up-to-date (as of 3 March) and accurate but the situation remains volatile and the developments are unpredictable. Consequently, this is not intended to be an exhaustive or definitive compilation of all developments. ECRE welcomes suggestions for additional information, or the identification of outdated/inaccurate information; for any information, please contact Stavros Papageorgopoulos at spapageorgopoulos@ecre.org.

II. Developments

▪ Austria

- Entry and stay requirements

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](#).

¹ Information on the situation for third-country nationals fleeing from Ukraine will be included as it becomes available.

According to [a statement](#) 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).

▪ Belgium

- Entry and stay requirements

Visa-free travel to Belgium remains possible. A [dedicated page](#) has been created to assist UA nationals in understanding procedures regarding entry and stay. A temporary protection status for Ukrainian citizens is being developed. It is not necessary to apply for international protection to access this specific temporary protection status. More official information will be released when the status becomes available.

- Asylum procedures

The processing of asylum cases of UA nationals [is suspended](#). A temporary protection status for Ukrainian citizens is being developed. It is not necessary to apply for international protection to access this specific temporary protection status. More official information will be released when the status becomes available.

▪ Bulgaria

A [dedicated page](#) for UA nationals explains the national provisions regarding access to asylum and reception conditions.

▪ Czech Republic

- Entry and stay requirements

People from UA will be eligible to apply for a special visa. It will be given immediately at the Ministry offices across the country, not at the borders. Both newly arrived persons and UA national who already reside in the Czech Republic, and whose visa is about to expire, are eligible for this visa.

The Czech Republic 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 no problem crossing the border, even without documents, but there have been instances of incidents where men attempted to cross.

- Reception conditions

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 the Czech Republic without a permit.

- Asylum Procedures

This remains a possibility, however, the special visa regime is specifically designated for UA nationals and therefore faster. Asylum authorities await an EU decision on the activation of the Temporary Protection Directive

▪ Croatia

- Reception conditions

The authorities, in coordination with the Croatian Red Cross, [have set up](#) a reception facility in Osijek, with a capacity of 100 people and a potential for quick expansion to another 200. A reception centre is also under preparation in the area of Varaždin. The Plitvice Motel in Zagreb is also available for the reception and accommodation of refugees, where, in addition to members of the Croatian Red Cross, employees of the Directorate of Civil Protection also participate in the reception and accommodation. The Croatian Red Cross will coordinate psychosocial support and other needs in all facilities.

▪ Denmark

- Entry and stay requirements

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 [a dedicated Q&A page for Ukrainian citizens](#) covering entry, stay and asylum-related developments.

- Asylum procedures

The Refugee Appeals Board [has suspended decisions](#) in asylum cases of UA citizens. The decision will be reviewed in the next Coordination Committee on 28 April 2022.

▪ Estonia

- Entry and stay requirements

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.

- Asylum procedures

Asylum authorities clarified that UA nationals with relatives, or a place to stay, in Estonia do not have to apply for asylum. People without any place to stay or relatives can apply for asylum; there is no detailed information on specific procedures for UA nationals.

- Reception conditions

People without any shelter or relatives in Estonia will be accommodated to designated centres with a capacity of up to 2,000 people. It is reported that the authorities have reached agreement with different cities and accommodation providers to ensure capacity is maintained during the arrival of UA nationals. However, it is unclear how numbers exceeding the capacity limit of 2,000 will be managed.

Special reception needs are currently an issue within the country's reception system, in particular due to the lack of segregated and/or appropriate reception spaces for women, people with disabilities and LGBTQI+ persons. Although no official information has been made available, it is expected that detention will not be applied to UA nationals, in particular due to the lack of flight risk considerations.

▪ Finland

- Entry and stay requirements

Visa-free travel remains possible. [A dedicated page](#) on the website of the Finnish Immigration Service includes information on residence permits following the UA developments.

- Asylum procedures

Decision-making on applications by UA nationals [are suspended](#) 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. [A dedicated page](#) on the website of the Finnish Immigration Service includes information for asylum applicants following the UA developments.

- Reception conditions

[According to the Finnish Immigration Service](#), the reception system is not expected to face challenges and contingency plans have been made. Some 300 beds have been added already to support potentially increased arrivals.

▪ France

- Entry and stay requirements

Entry: Visa-free entry with a biometric passport remains possible. UA nationals without a biometric passport [may submit](#) a request for a visa at the consular posts of the countries bordering Ukraine.

Stay: UA nationals that are already in France [can address](#) a request for extension of stay at the Prefecture in the Department of arrival. A list of Prefectures can be found [here](#).

UA nationals [can travel](#) for free on French trains.

▪ Germany

- Entry and stay requirements

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

Entry: Ukrainian citizens with a biometric passport can enter and move freely in the Schengen area without a visa and move freely within it. 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.

According to the BMI, diplomatic representatives in Warsaw, Kraków, Chişinău, Bratislava, Bucharest and Budapest are ready to travel to certain border crossing points if consular support to German nationals leaving Ukraine is needed, but also to provide information on visa applications and COVID-related travel restrictions.

The national railway services [have announced](#) 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.

Stay: The Federal Ministry of the Interior announced that Ukrainian nationals who are currently in Germany for a short stay are not required to go through the visa procedure in order to receive a temporary residence permit if they did not enter on such a visa. Ukrainian nationals who have entered Germany for a short stay without a visa can apply for a temporary residence permit for an additional 90 days once the 90 days of the short stay have elapsed.

The Berlin Immigration Office [issued a general ruling](#) 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. Additional local information can be found [here](#).

- Asylum procedures

Application for international protection remains possible for UA nationals. However, the BMI is awaiting an EU-level decision on a temporary protection regime.

- Reception conditions

[A dedicated handbook](#) includes specific information regarding, *inter alia*, healthcare, work and accommodation (in German, Ukrainian and Russian).

▪ Greece

- Entry and stay requirements

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 [may only enter Greece](#) through the Promachonas border station on the Greek-Bulgarian border.

- Asylum procedures

The Ministry of Migration and Asylum [has announced](#) that temporary protection up to one year will be offered to UA nationals.

- Reception conditions

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 a right to work and to medical care.

▪ Hungary

- Entry and stay requirements

Following the introduction of a temporary protection scheme for UA nationals in Hungary, it is expected that UA nationals traveling to Hungary from Ukraine can enter the territory even without holding a passport. It is possible that UA nationals with no documents will face longer processing times. The decree applies to UA nationals already residing in Hungary. The details can be found in English [here](#) and in Hungarian, Ukrainian and Russian [here](#).

- Asylum procedures

On 24 February, Hungary introduced a decree designating Ukrainian nationals as eligible for temporary protection. The details can be found [here](#).

▪ Iceland

- Asylum procedures

The Directorate of Immigration [removed](#) Ukraine from the list of safe countries.

▪ Ireland

- Entry and stay requirements

[According to the Ministry of Justice](#), people who are considering leaving Ukraine and travelling to Ireland may for the coming period do so without a visa if they judge it safe to travel. Those who travel to Ireland without a visa during this period will then have 90 days after arrival to regularise their position. This position will be kept under ongoing review with the impact monitored closely.

More information can be found [here](#). Regularly updated information in UA is available [here](#).

▪ Italy

- Entry and stay requirements

VISA-free entry [remains possible](#) for UA nationals. COVID-related restrictions [continue to apply](#): entry must be accompanied by a COVID certificate and a passenger locator form.

- Reception conditions

A [recent decree](#) 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 (+3,000) and places for Emergency Accommodation Centres (+13,000). UA citizens fleeing from the war will have access to these reception centres regardless of whether they have applied for asylum.

A special fund (EUR 500,000) will be dedicated to finance support measures for Ukrainian 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.

▪ Latvia

- Entry and stay requirements

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](#).

- Reception conditions

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](#).

▪ Lithuania

- Entry and stay requirements

Entry: 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 [Ukrainian](#), [Russian](#) and [English](#)).

Stay: 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](#).

- Asylum procedures

There is a suspension of returns to UA.

- Reception conditions

At the registration centre, [there are arrangements](#) 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.

[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.

▪ Malta

- Entry and stay requirements

COVID-related entry restrictions: All passengers fleeing from Ukraine will be accepted subject to quarantine. Those who provide a residential address and there are not more than 4 persons already residing in that place, they will allow them to quarantine there but other residents will have to quarantine with them. Those with no address have to go to the quarantine hotel and pay. Those with a recognised vaccine certificate (by MALta) will quarantine for 10 days and without for 14 days. After 7th march the local residents offering their household for a Ukraine refugee to live with them will NOT need to quarantine with them in the same house but can go in and out while the passenger quarantines in their home.

- Reception conditions

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](#).

▪ Moldova

- Entry and stay requirements

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 [Facebook group](#) has been set up with useful information. You can find more information [here](#) (state Telegram channel, info in UA).

- Reception conditions

Information on free accommodation and other practical topics can be found [here](#).

▪ The Netherlands

- Entry and stay requirements

The Dutch immigration services have released guidance on entry/stay requirements for UA nationals. The [guidance](#) refers to a more lenient assessment of such cases but it does not contain detailed practical information. More detailed information can be accessed [here](#).

All public transportation [is free](#) for UA nationals.

- Asylum procedures

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](#).

▪ Norway

- Entry and stay requirements

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.

- Asylum procedures

Norwegian authorities [no longer consider Ukraine a safe country](#); returns to UA have been suspended.

▪ Portugal

- Entry and stay requirements

Entry: Citizens leaving Ukraine who wish to reach Portugal [should contact](#) 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.

- Asylum procedures

UA nationals fleeing the war will benefit from a temporary protection status; national provisions do not prevent holders of that status from applying for asylum (Art. 19, Law 67/2003).

▪ Poland

- Entry and stay requirements

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.

- Reception conditions

A list of newly formed reception facilities is available [here](#). There is also an amendment to the ordinance on guarded centers and arrests for foreigners. According that amendment, a foreigner may be detained for up to 14 days in the premises of the Border Guard.

Detailed information in English and Ukrainian can also be found [here](#).

▪ Romania

- Entry and stay requirements

Visa-free entry with a biometric passport remains possible. If they apply for asylum in Romania, UA nationals [can also enter](#) 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.

- Reception conditions

If needed, accommodation, food and free medical services will be provided; 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](#).

▪ Serbia

[According to the Asylum Office website](#), authorities have put reception capacity on standby in response to the potential of increased arrivals of UA nationals.

▪ Slovakia

- Entry and stay requirements

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](#).

- Reception conditions

The Slovak government created [a website](#) where UA nationals can find information on accommodation.

▪ Slovenia

- Entry and stay requirements

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.

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](#).

▪ Sweden

- Entry and stay requirements

There are no special arrangements for UA nationals; the immigration authorities [refer to the usual possibilities/options](#) in respect of extending residence permits or changing legal basis of permits, including the possibility to rely on special reasons on an individual basis.

- Asylum procedures

The processing of asylum cases of UA nationals [has been suspended](#). Deportations to UA have also been suspended until further notice. Contingency plans [have been made](#) to increase capacity of asylum services if needed.

▪ Switzerland

- Asylum procedures

The processing of asylum applications by UA nationals [is suspended](#).

▪ United Kingdom

- Entry and stay requirements

The UK Home Office announced temporary visa concessions for family members of British nationals who usually live in Ukraine. You can find more detailed information [here](#). Visa concessions allowing temporary extension and switching of visa regimes were also announced for Ukrainians already in the UK. You can find more detailed information [here](#). A new visa scheme will offer expanded visa options, [according to the latest statement](#) of the UK Home Secretary.

UA nationals [can make use](#) of the temporary visa application centre (VAC) in Lviv, or other centres in the capitals of Poland, Moldova, Romania and Hungary. A pop-up VAC is being set up in Rzeszow which will be operational from next week for dependants of British Nationals.