

## The Integration of the Ukrainian Refugees

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Bucharest (Romania), 30/09/2022

- Recognizing that:
  1. 24 February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine in a major escalation of the Russo-Ukrainian War that began in 2014 has caused loss of many lives, leaving many people severely injured and forcing the remaining to leave their homes and seek refuge across the border or within Ukraine. With numerous casualties, as well as the great damage to buildings and infrastructure, many have been left homeless and have nowhere to return. Moreover, the war resulted in irreversible long-term psychological damages, separation of families and regression of a social development of Ukraine.
  2. This unjustified and unprovoked attack on a sovereign and independent state represents a gross violation of international law and has been condemned as such by the European community and its international partners, including the UN General Assembly. The EU is unified in its condemnation of the actions of Russia and strongly supports Ukrainian territorial sovereignty and its independence, as well as Ukraine becoming a member of the EU, by granting its candidate country status on 23 June 2022.
  3. The EU offers solidarity with and support to Ukrainian refugees, especially with granting them refugee status and other social rights that are connected to the status. The EU Temporary Protection Directive, facilitating the admission of Ukrainian refugees and avoiding onerous individual asylum procedures, has been quickly and rightfully activated. The European Agency for Asylum appointed the Ukraine Emergency Response Board (UERB), in order to coordinate the Agency's efforts to support Member States with Ukraine-related asylum and reception needs, as well as assist in their implementation of the EU Temporary Protection Directive.
  4. The war in Ukraine did not only provoke a humanitarian crisis, but also an economic collapse of the country. The war destroyed the economic development of Ukraine, which has also severely affected domestic and global supply chains. Extensive damage to infrastructure has left many people homeless and many Ukrainian cities unfit for habitation. The physical damage, uncertainty, reduction of capital and destroyed business infrastructure have led to serious economic challenges, especially rapid unemployment and inflation;

- Acknowledging that:
  1. Since the start of the Russian invasion on Ukraine around 6,5 million people have fled Ukraine to neighbouring countries in search for shelter, peace and stability, with more than 3 million people being internally displaced<sup>1</sup>, making the Ukrainian crisis the biggest humanitarian crisis since World War II.
  2. Data shows that the overwhelming majority of Ukrainian refugees are women and children. In April, the share of women and children was 90%.<sup>2</sup> This poses particular challenges to governments and NGOs dealing with women and children refugees. Notably, women refugees have frequently experienced particular forms of violence, including sexual violence, while children refugees are particularly impacted and traumatized from living in and fleeing from war zones. What is more, the experience of dislocating and integrating in a different country, including a new educational environment, is an especially heavy challenge for children.
  3. There is a big number of people who were kidnapped, especially children. According to the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs, official number of cases supported by evidence reaches 5600.<sup>3</sup>
  4. The consequence of the general mobilisation of Ukrainian men aged between 18 and 60 years is that they are banned from leaving the country in case they are called up to serve in the military.
  5. As of September 27, according to the data provided by authorities in MS to UNHCR, the number of refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe is 7 533 843 persons, the number of refugees registered for Temporary Protection or similar national protection schemes in Europe – 4 181 251. TOP 3 countries are Poland – 1 409 139, Germany – 709 148, Czech Republic – 438 926.<sup>4</sup>
  6. There is no data regarding registration process of refugees in the Russian Federation and it is not known whether they were forcibly removed, deported or crossed the border as refugee. According to data released by the United Nations, the Russian authorities used filtering and

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<sup>1</sup> UNHCR - The UN Refugee Agency Data Portal, <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine> (data last updated on August 9, 2022) statistics are compiled from a variety of sources, mainly data provided by authorities from official border crossing points

<sup>2</sup> UNHCR - The UN Refugee Agency, Global Focus - UNHCR Operations Worldwide, <https://reporting.unhcr.org/ukraine-situation>

<sup>3</sup> [https://t.me/mvs\\_ukraine/15843](https://t.me/mvs_ukraine/15843), August 2, 2022

<sup>4</sup> <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>

deported from 900,000 to 1.6 million Ukrainian citizens to the Russian Federation. A significant part of these people were sent to remote regions of the Far East.<sup>5</sup>

7. There are still people living under occupation in East and South of Ukraine, but their official number is unknown.
8. As of June 1, 2022, according to the Ukraine Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA) that was jointly prepared by the World Bank, the Government of Ukraine, and the European Commission, direct damage has reached over \$97 bn. Disruptions to economic flows and production, as well as additional expenses associated with the war, are collectively measured as losses of about \$252 bn. Reconstruction and recovery needs, as of June 1, are estimated at about \$349 bn.
9. The decision to activate the EU Temporary Protection Directive was made by unanimous vote of the Council on 4th March 2022, providing the possibility for national legislation to step in and to ensure refugees have access to key integration-related services such as education, accommodation and housing, healthcare and employment.<sup>6</sup> The most recent figures show that around 4 million Ukrainians have already registered to use this right.<sup>7</sup>

- YEPP calls on:

1. Unequivocal support towards a unified and sovereign Ukrainian country within its internationally recognized borders.
2. Stronger integration of Ukrainian citizens by continuing to apply the Temporary Protection Directive and all the rights that derive from its application.
3. Continuation of providing political, diplomatic, humanitarian, financial and every other assistance to Ukraine as long as the situation requires it.
4. Active pursuit of integration of Ukrainian children and youth, attending compulsory education into the educational system of host countries, including access to school supplies, educational support and language training programmes.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://usun.usmission.gov/remarks-by-ambassador-linda-thomas-greenfield-at-a-un-security-council-meeting-on-russias-filtration-operations/>

<sup>6</sup> European Commission, EU countries preparing to welcome those fleeing Ukraine, [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/stronger-europe-world/eu-solidarity-ukraine/eu-countries-preparing-welcome-those-fleeing-ukraine\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/stronger-europe-world/eu-solidarity-ukraine/eu-countries-preparing-welcome-those-fleeing-ukraine_en)

<sup>7</sup> European Agency for Asylum and Migration, Ukraine Crisis: Data and Analysis, <https://euaa.europa.eu/euaa-response-war-ukraine-vidpovid-euaa-agentstvo-evropeyskogo-soyuzu-z-pitan-pritulkuna-viynu-ukraini> (figures are being weekly updated, 25-31 July 2022)



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5. Increased access for Ukrainians to accurate information about the progression of the war including the ability to contact relatives within and outside Ukraine, humanitarian workers and organisations regarding legal, humanitarian or any other kind of assistance;
6. Stronger cooperation with international humanitarian partners, especially regarding provisions of logistical, financial and material aid and support to humanitarian workers who are helping vulnerable civilians in Ukraine or in countries that have accepted Ukrainian refugees;
8. Financial, legal and humanitarian aid to Ukrainian refugees with respect to their possible return after the stabilisation of the situation, including long term support such as assistance with the rebuilding of the destroyed infrastructure as well as short term support, e.g. temporary accommodation for those who lost their homes in the war. Whilst recognising that return is crucial in rebuilding Ukrainian society & economy and preventing unintentional and unregulated brain drain.