

A predictable and common European way forward for Ukrainians in the EU

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#StandWithUkraine

Since the start of Russia's war of aggression, millions of displaced people from Ukraine have found safety, shelter and opportunities across the EU.

As the situation in Ukraine remains precarious, an extension of temporary protection for an additional year is necessary. At the same time, a lasting perspective for Ukraine and its citizens who have found protection in the EU is needed.

While more stable forms of legal residence should be provided for those who have integrated in the EU, we also have to ensure Ukrainians can return to their homes in Ukraine if the situation allows.

Ukraine needs its people back to rebuild the country. It is important that the EU prepares a smooth and well-prepared transition out of temporary protection in close coordination with the Ukrainian authorities.



As of March 2025, almost **4.3 million persons** displaced from Ukraine, of whom one third are children, enjoy temporary protection in the EU.

Extending temporary protection for one more year

Temporary protection was extended a few times, most recently until 4 March 2026. As the war in Ukraine continues and the conditions are not met to allow large-scale returns in safe and durable conditions, the Commission proposes to extend the temporary protection **until 4 March 2027**.

... while preparing a coordinated transition out of temporary protection

Looking ahead to Ukraine's recovery and long-term development, the country will increasingly rely on the support of its own citizens to drive reconstruction and shape its future.

A common way forward is required, one that offers predictability, stability, and ensures a balanced impact on Member States.

The Commission recommends to Member States:



For displaced Ukrainians within the EU, transition to other legal statuses such as residence permits based on employment, education, research, family reasons, or a national long-term resident status.



Prepare for a gradual and orderly return to Ukraine through **exploratory visits to Ukraine, voluntary return programmes** and looking after **vulnerable people** until their needs can be addressed in Ukraine.



Unity Hubs as information centres for both inclusion of displaced people in host societies and to provide support for going back home to Ukraine where conditions allow, now and in the future.



Strengthen coordination amongst Member States and with the Ukrainian authorities: setting up adequate communication tools and channels, including information campaigns.

A Special Envoy for Ukrainians in the EU will be nominated to work with Member States, international organisations and with Ukraine to implement the EU's coordinated approach to temporary protection and the transition out of it.

Since the start of the war, the EU has been supporting Member States hosting displaced people from Ukraine **through EU funding**, under the Home Affairs Funds and Cohesion policy funding.

- Around **EUR 15 billion** have already been allocated to Member States accommodating people from Ukraine.
- Additional allocations of up to **EUR 4 billion** are being made available - from the Home affairs funds - aimed both at supporting Member States in implementing the Pact on Migration and Asylum and at catering for people enjoying temporary protection.