

EU response to the Ukraine crisis in support to refugees' integration

- *Policy briefing (27 April 2022)*

Background

In response of the Russian/Ukrainian war crisis (24 February 2022), the European Council adopted [conclusions](#) condemning Russia military aggression against Ukraine, underlining the gross violation of international law and the principles of the UN Charter, and the undermining of European and global security and stability. The EU put forward a number of actions, including:

- Ease the legal barriers in the integration of refugees through the activation of the [Temporary Protection Directive](#)
- [Cohesion's Action for Refugees in Europe](#) (CARE), to amend the [Common Provisions Regulation](#) (Cohesion funds) and the [Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived Regulation](#). This introduces flexibility in the use of these funds for the deployment of services in support of refugees
- Increased funding and simplification in access to [Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund](#) – AMIF and [Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe](#) – REACT-EU
- Development of operational [guidelines](#) to help Member States' border guards in managing arrivals at the borders with Ukraine efficiently and reduce waiting time while maintaining a high level of security
- A [sanction package](#) (the largest sanctions package in the EU history) foreseeing a number of financial and commercial restrictions that restraining the ability of the Russia (and Belarus) to access the EU's capital, financial markets and services
- Laying out a joint European action to achieve more independency from Russian energy supply ([REPowerEU](#))
- Financial support to Ukraine (and neighboring countries) of €600 million (€300 million already disbursed) via the emergency [Macro-Financial Assistance](#)
- "[Stand Up for Ukraine](#)", a global pledging event and campaign that has raised €9.1 billion euro so far

This briefing will focus on the social regulation and aids

Funding support within EU programmes

Call for proposals for NGOs launched to support mental health of Ukrainian refugees

DG SANTE launched, through its EU4Health Programme, a € 2 million call for proposal for non-governmental organisations to support mental health of people fleeing from Ukrainian war. Proposals should suggest the implement of best practices to support mental health and psychological wellbeing in migrants and refugee populations, with a special focus on the Ukraine crisis. Deadline to submit proposals is 31 May. More information on the [Funding and Tenders Portal](#).

Cohesion's Action for Refugees in Europe – CARE

The CARE proposal was published on 8 March 2022, with DG EMPL and REGIO leading the process. Following the Council's 16 March 2022 decision to endorse the text without amendment, Parliament adopted the CARE proposal on 24 March 2022, under the urgent procedure and without amendment. Council adopted the legislative act unanimously on 31 March 2022. The final act was signed on 6 April 2022.

CARE puts forward legal amendments to the regulation of [European Fund for Regional Development](#) (ERDF), [European Social Fund](#) (ESF) and the [Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived Regulation](#) (FEAD). In particular, CARE introduces four main changes to cohesion policy rules to support States accessing funding to help people fleeing Ukraine:

- Possibility of 100% EU co-financing for 2014-2020 Cohesion policy funding to be extended for the accounting year 2021-2022
- Possibility to use resources from ERDF or ESF for any type of measures to support people fleeing Ukraine (also ongoing projects with different target groups)
- Member States' spending on all actions helping people fleeing Ukraine will be eligible for EU support retroactively as of the start date of the war (24/02/2022)
- The reporting and the programme modifications will be simplified

Recovery Assistance Cohesion Territories of Europe – REACT-EU

[Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe](#) (REACT-EU) is an initiative put in place in response to the COVID19 crisis to top up other fundings to allow and facilitate quick allocation of funding when needed. The funding foresees €50.6 billion, €39.6bn was allocated in 2021 with €11bn allocated in 2022. Around €10 billion

from the 2022 REACT-EU funds is readily available and can also be used to finance actions to support in the Ukraine crisis.

Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund – AMIF

The [Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund](#) (AMIF) is a €9.9 billion fund for the period 2021-2027. The Fund aims to support national capacities and improve procedures for migration management, as well as to enhance solidarity and responsibility sharing between Member States, in particular through emergency assistance and the relocation mechanism. The Commission has also [proposed](#) to prolong the implementation period for the money available to Member States under the 2014-2020 Home Affairs funds, which would release around €420 million in additional support to the Ukraine crisis.

Stand Up For Ukraine

The “[Stand Up for Ukraine](#)” is a pledge/fund-raising campaign set up by the European Commission. To date, it has raised €9.1 billion euros for people fleeing the Russian invasion, inside Ukraine and abroad (€1 billion just from the European Commission). On top of that, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development has announced an additional €1 billion in loan to cover the needs of the people displaced by the invasion.

The €9.1 billion pledge is broken down as follows:

- €4.1 billion are financial contributions and in-kind donations from governments, companies and individuals around the world
- €5 billion are loans and grants from the European Investment Bank, and the Council of Europe Development Bank

Temporary Protection Directive

The [Temporary Protection Directive](#) is an emergency tool that can be activated in the EU to alleviate regulation in migration policies during war emergencies. The tool was adopted in 2001 and it will be activated for the first time in response to the Ukraine crisis. Following the call of the home affairs ministers, on 2 March 2022, the Commission rapidly proposed to activate the Temporary Protection Directive. On 4 March 2022, the Council unanimously adopted the Decision giving those fleeing war in Ukraine the right to temporary protection.

Temporary Protection Directive foresees:

- **Reduce barriers** to provide residency rights, access to the labour market, access to housing, social welfare assistance, medical or other assistance, and means of subsistence
- **Create a protection status** with reduced formalities
- **Enhanced solidarity and responsibility sharing** between the Member States in hosting displaced persons from Ukraine
- **Facilitate support from EU Agencies** such as Frontex, the European Union Asylum Agency and Europol

Once adopted, temporary protection applies immediately and run for 1 year. This period is extended automatically by six monthly periods for a further year. The Commission can propose at any time to the Council to end the temporary protection, based on the fact that the situation in Ukraine allows the safe and durable return of those granted temporary protection, or extend it, by one further year.

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) is an independent agency of the European Union (EU) whose mission is to strengthen Europe's defences against infectious diseases. In response to the Ukraine crisis, the ECDC developed guides and an information sheet to support health actors on a number of issues:

- [Information to guide individual health assessment of refugees from Ukraine](#)
- [Testing for tuberculosis infection and screening for tuberculosis disease among incoming refugees from Ukraine to European countries](#)
- [Infographic: Considerations for the provision of immunisation services to people fleeing Ukraine and the prevention of vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks](#)

Other news

- [EU develops strategic reserves for chemical, biological and radio-nuclear emergencies](#)
- [EU Budget 2023: “significant funding” needed to address the consequences of Ukraine war](#)
- [EP Plenary - Adopted: EU Protection of children and young people fleeing the war against Ukraine](#)