

## Guide to the Special Act on assistance to citizens of Ukraine in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine

On February 24, 2022, Russia attacked Ukraine. As a result, 1.5 million people seeking shelter and help have already arrived in Poland. In connection with the adoption of the law on assistance to Ukrainian citizens in connection with the armed conflict in the territory of this country on March 12, 2022 (Journal of Laws of 2022, item 583), we want to bring the legal status of both parties closer – both to refugees and Poles who help them.

The new solutions entered into force on the date of their publication in the Journal of Laws on March 12, 2022, and will apply retroactively from February 24, 2022.

### FOR REFUGEES

#### LEGALIZATION OF STAY

If you crossed the border after February 24, 2022, your stay in Poland (“RP”) is legal after registration by the Border Guard at the border (stamp on your passport) for 18 months with the possibility of extension, which also applies to your minor children and your spouse, even if they are not a citizen of Ukraine.

**You do not need to register anywhere else – on the basis of the stamp, your stay is legal for 18 months from February 24, 2022.**

If you have not been registered when entering the territory of Poland, your stay will be registered at your request to the Commander-in-Chief of the Border Guard. You must submit this application no later than 60 days from the date of entry.

If you crossed the border before February 24, 2022, and your stay in the territory of Poland is or was considered legal, **you will be granted a one-time temporary residence permit for the next 3 years from the date of issuing this decision.**

After 9 months of legal stay in Poland, you will be able to apply for a temporary residence permit in the territory of the RP for a period of 3 years.

If the last day of your stay in the territory of the RP on the basis of a national visa falls in the period from February 24, 2022, the period of stay on the basis of this visa and the validity period of this visa will be extended **until December 31, 2022**.

During your stay in Poland, upon your request (to any commune authority), you will be assigned a PESEL number and a trusted profile. Your most important identification information will be entered into the mObywatel mobile application, to which you will have individual access.

#### TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENTS

Both the application for a PESEL number and the printout of the confirmation of creating a trusted profile are available on a template in Ukrainian and Polish, and can also be made in other languages.

You do not have to prepare the application in Polish or in another language that you do not know –the transliteration method, specified in Article 14 Section 2 of the Act of November 25, 2004, on the Profession of a Sworn Translator, is applied to the data contained in the application for granting a PESEL number.

#### JOB OPPORTUNITIES

If you cannot work or you do not have an assured job in Poland, you have the option of registering with the commune office as an unemployed person.

If you can work, you have free access to the labour market. The employer is obliged to report you to the appropriate labour office within 14 days from the date of commencement of work. In the territory of the RP, you can also undertake and conduct business activities – on the same terms as Polish citizens. The only condition is that you obtain a PESEL number.

If you are looking for a job, you also have the opportunity to take advantage of job placement services, career counselling and training – on the same terms as Polish citizens.

#### HEALTHCARE

During your stay in Poland, you will gain universal access to healthcare and the right to free psychological assistance.

The National Health Fund will pay for each medical service for a Ukrainian citizen in the public health service. The financing of these benefits will be guaranteed from the state budget.

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

As a citizen of Ukraine legally residing in the territory of the RP, you are entitled to a one-time cash benefit in the amount of PLN 300 (per person). You can spend the funds transferred in any way on your maintenance.

As a citizen of Ukraine, during your stay in Poland, you will be exempt from income tax (PIT) until the end of 2022. You will also be entitled to certain financial aid benefits: Family Care Capital, parental benefit, the Good start benefit, and family benefits.

Aid will also be provided in the form of food packages or meals under the Operational Program Food Aid 2014–2020 co-financed by the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION

During your stay, you will be able to continue your studies at Polish universities and benefit from social scholarships. Ukrainian teachers and lecturers will have easier access to practice in Poland.

## FOR HELPERS

### LEGALIZATION OF STAY

If the refugee crossed the border after February 24, 2022, their stay in Poland is legal after being registered by the Border Guard at the border (stamp on the passport) for 18 months with the possibility of extension, which also applies to their minor children and their spouse, even if they are not a citizen of Ukraine.

There is no need to register them anywhere else – based on the stamp, their stay is legal for 18 months from February 24, 2022.

If the refugee has not been registered when entering the territory of Poland, their stay will be registered at their request to the Commander-in-Chief of the Border Guard. They must submit this application no later than 60 days from the date of entry.

After 9 months of legal stay in Poland, the refugee will be able to apply for a temporary residence permit in the territory of the RP for a period of 3 years.

During their stay in Poland, the refugee, at their request, will be given a PESEL number and a trusted profile. Their most important identification information will be entered into the mObywatel mobile application, to which they will have individual access.

### TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENTS

Both the application for a PESEL number and the printout of the confirmation of creating a trusted profile are available on a template in Ukrainian and Polish, and can also be made in other languages.

You can prepare the application in Polish –the transliteration method, specified in Article 14 Section 2 of the Act of November 25, 2004, on the Profession of a Sworn Translator, is applied to the data contained in the application for granting a PESEL number.

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

If you provide assistance that will provide accommodation and food to Ukrainian citizens fleeing the war, you will be able to receive a benefit on the basis of an agreement concluded with your commune. This benefit will be payable for a period of 60 days, and its amount will be specified in the regulation of the Council of Ministers. It is estimated that it will be PLN 40 a day, i.e. about PLN 1,200 per month. This support will be tax-free. The template of the application for the benefit will be determined by the regulation of the Minister responsible for public administration.

### FACILITATION OF EMPLOYMENT

Ukrainians whose stay in Poland will be legalized on the basis of the Act or the Act on Foreigners, may take up and perform work in Poland without the need for a work permit. To use this solution, the employer will have to notify the competent labour office via [praca.gov.pl](http://praca.gov.pl) within 14 days that work has been entrusted to a foreigner.

Ukrainians can also undertake and conduct business activities in the territory of the RP – on the same terms as Polish citizens. The only condition is that they obtain a PESEL number.