



Manuscript completed in June 2022

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Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2022

PDF	ISBN 978-92-9400-212-9	doi: 10.2847/946505	BZ-09-22-284-EN-N
Print	ISBN 978-92-9400-211-2	doi: 10.2847/388835	BZ-09-22-284-EN-C

Cover page photograph, Joel Carillet © iStock, 2022

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1. General information

Language and state structure

Belgium is a federal constitutional monarchy in which the king is the head of state and the prime minister is the head of government in a multi-party system. Decision-making powers are not all centralised but divided between three levels of government: the federal government, three language-based communities (Flemish, French and German-speaking) and three regions (Flanders, Brussels Capital and Wallonia).

The Kingdom of Belgium has a federal state structure, with three Communities and three Regions.

The three communities are:

- ◆ Flanders and Brussels - Flemish community (Dutch speaking)
- ◆ Wallonia and Brussels - French community (French speaking)
- ◆ German speaking community in the eastern part of Belgium

The three regions are:

- ◆ Flemish region
- ◆ Brussels Capital region
- ◆ Walloon region

Each community and region has its own government and ministry (in Flanders, the region and the community share the same government). In total there are five governments. Legally, they all are equal but they hold powers and responsibilities in different fields. There are also 581 municipalities (*communes*) representing the local level.

According to the national statistics office Statbel, the legal population of Belgium on 1 January 2021 was 11 521 238.

The federal government's information website is:

<https://www.belgium.be/en>.





Emergency contacts

- ◆ Ambulance and fire-brigade **100**
- ◆ Police **101**
- ◆ European emergency number **112**
- ◆ Child protection services **116000**
- ◆ Poison centre **070245245**
- ◆ Missing children **116**
- ◆ Suicide prevention helpline **1813 (NL), 080032123 (FR), 108 (DE)**
- ◆ Violence, abuse, and child abuse hotline **1712**

Information for Ukrainian displaced persons: <https://info-ukraine.be/en>
(also available in [French](#), [Dutch](#), [German](#) and [Ukrainian](#))



Driving licence

For information on the validity of Ukrainian driver licences in Belgium, visit https://mobilit.belgium.be/en/road_traffic/driving_licence/recognition_foreign_driving_licences.



Ukrainian diaspora

The largest Ukrainian populations are settled in the regions of Flanders and Brussels.



Ukrainian embassy in Belgium

Address: Avenue Albert Lancaster 30, Brussels, Belgium, 1180

Email: emb_be@mfa.gov.ua or consul_be@mfa.gov.ua

Phone **+32 23792111**

Website: <https://belgium.mfa.gov.ua/>

Hotlines of the Embassy of Ukraine:

Reservation: **+32 23792115**

General questions: **+32 23792160**

Housing questions: **+32 23792112**



2. Entry to Belgium

Ukrainian citizens with biometric passports can enter and stay in Belgium for 90 days without a visa. This is possible under the Association Agreement concluded between the European Union and Ukraine in 2017. This 90-day period may be extended up to a maximum of 180 days if the situation in Ukraine does not allow for a safe return at the end of the 90 days.

Ukrainian citizens who do not hold a biometric passport but have received a visa for Belgium can also obtain an extension of their authorised stay up to a maximum of 180 days.

In the case of children, it is necessary to present a birth certificate and a certificate proving the family relationship or relationship with the legal guardians or the persons who accompany the child and are responsible for them. The Immigration office will verify if the persons accompanying the child have parental authority. If the required documents are missing, they will inform the Guardianship Service and contact the Ukrainian diplomatic representations who will appoint a guardian to safeguard the interests of the child.

Ukrainian citizens who have left Ukraine and are already in the Schengen area can apply for a residence permit directly at the municipal administration of their place of residence in Belgium. The conditions for granting this residence permit (studies, work, family reunion) are maintained but, if the applicant cannot present the usual official documents, the Immigration Office will look for alternatives.

Ukrainian citizens who have left Ukraine and are in a country that is not part of the Schengen area can contact the Belgian embassy or consulate responsible for that country.



3. Temporary protection

The following categories of persons are eligible for temporary protection.

- ◆ Ukrainian nationals residing in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 and their family members.
- ◆ Stateless persons and nationals of third countries other than Ukraine, and their family members, who benefitted from international protection or equivalent national protection in Ukraine, whose primary residence was in Ukraine before 24 February 2022.
- ◆ Other close relatives who were living within the family unit at the time that circumstances surrounding the mass influx of displaced persons unfolded and who were wholly or mainly dependent on the family at the time.
- ◆ Nationals of third countries legally residing in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 on the basis of a valid permanent residence permit and who are unable to return to their country or region of origin under safe and sustainable conditions.

If the conditions for granting temporary protection are met, a certificate will be issued. The municipality will give the holder of the certificate a residence permit issued to nationals of third countries admitted or authorised for a temporary stay of more than 3 months (“Temporary A” card).

Ukrainian citizens who legally reside in Belgium for a limited period of time and no longer meet the requirements for renewal of their residence card (card A) can obtain an extension of their authorised stay (end date of stay + 90 days), with a possibility of extension up to a maximum of 180 days.

Where can you register for temporary protection in Belgium?

Temporary protection is granted upon registration with the Immigration Office.

To register for temporary protection, book an appointment at <http://www.register-ukraine.be/>.

Registrations take place in person at the registration centre, Hall 8, Brussels Expo, Heysel, Brussels. It is open from Monday to Friday, from 8.30 to 16.00. Opening hours are always adapted according to the number of requests received.



What documents do you need for registration?

You will need identity data and copy of the documents proving eligibility.

Biometric data (fingerprints) will be taken, if necessary.

For minors under the age of 18 years accompanied by an adult who is their legal guardian, the request will be formalised by the legal guardian on behalf of the child.

For minors under the age of 18 years old without parents or a legal guardian, further support and a legal guardianship will be provided. The Guardianship Service will appoint the guardian. Only people officially recognised by the Guardianship Service can be appointed as guardian. To this end, prospective guardians go through a selection procedure and receive specific training on guardianship. The guardian carries out their duties under the supervision of the Guardianship Service and the Justice of Peace.

What is the procedure to access temporary protection in Belgium?

The registration centre is a one-stop service point.

At the registration centre, the Immigration Office registers Ukrainian refugees. They are granted temporary protection and do not have to apply for asylum.

Fedasil is responsible to find accommodation for refugees without housing in Belgium. If necessary, you will be accommodated for 1 or 2 nights in an emergency shelter in Brussels while suitable accommodation is located in one of the municipalities. The local and regional authorities are responsible for establishing long-term accommodation for refugees.

The Red Cross takes care of the reception of refugees (catering, medical aid and ticketing).

If you or your family members have special needs (derived from age, health condition, family situation or because of experiences of violence or exploitation), it will be taken into consideration to provide you with assistance



What documents do you receive as a beneficiary of temporary protection?

Upon registration a Certificate of Temporary Protection is issued by the Immigration Office.

With this certificate, the municipal administration of the place of residence will issue an A card (residence card) valid until 4 March 2023.

Duration of the temporary protection

Temporary protection ends when the maximum period is reached (1 year until 4 March 2023 + 6 months + 6 months, after which a new Council decision is required), or on the date mentioned by the Council decision activating the temporary protection directive.

At the end of this period, the residence permit will be withdrawn and former beneficiaries of temporary protection who do not return spontaneously will receive an order to leave the territory. The order to leave the territory has a deadline that cannot be shorter than 1 month. The residence permit can be exceptionally extended, when the person cannot be reasonably expected to travel due to health reasons. The residence permit may also be extended to allow families with minor children to complete the school year (only from Easter till the end of June).

Your rights as beneficiary of temporary protection in Belgium

- ◆ Accommodation.
- ◆ Access to the labour market.
- ◆ Access to medical care.
- ◆ Right to study (also at a university).
- ◆ Social assistance: when beneficiaries do not have sufficient resources, they may benefit from social and health services.
- ◆ Upon request, temporary protection will be granted to family members (spouse or unmarried partner, the partner's unmarried children, other close relatives, who lived together as part of the family unit at the beginning of the armed conflict, depending totally or mainly on them), as long as the family was already existing as such in the country of origin and was separated because of the armed conflict in Ukraine.



More information about these rights



Accommodation

Reception is organised outside of the traditional reception system for asylum applicants, through local authorities. Fedasil directs beneficiaries to accommodation offered by the local authorities of Belgium.



Initial reception

If necessary, you will be accommodated for 1 or 2 nights in an emergency shelter managed by Fedasil in Brussels (500 places) while suitable accommodation is located in one of the municipalities. More information is available at <https://info-ukraine.be/en/assistance-belgium/i-need-place-stay>.



Long-term accommodation

Establishing long-term accommodation for refugees is the responsibility of local and regional authorities. Private initiatives are coordinated through the #PlaceDispo initiative. See <https://info-ukraine.be/fr/que-puis-je-faire/je-veux-aider/placedispo>.



Access to labour market

With the residence card, you can access the labour market without restrictions (this is noted on the residence card).

More information is available at <https://info-ukraine.be/en/assistance-belgium/what-are-my-rights>.



Social welfare

Beneficiaries of temporary protection have access to the general social welfare assistance.

Means of subsistence in the reception system

Beneficiaries of temporary protection can receive social assistance benefits. This right is available as soon as the person is listed on the register of foreign nationals, after the temporary protection certificate has been issued.





An information leaflet on social care for beneficiaries of temporary protected status is available at https://info-ukraine.be/sites/default/files/documents/files/Version_EN_01.pdf.

More information is available at <https://info-ukraine.be/en/assistance-belgium/what-are-my-rights>.

Public health

Medical care/medical prescription



Beneficiaries of temporary protection who have the Temporary Protection Certificate can be affiliated to a mutual health insurance fund.

While waiting for the right to join a mutual health insurance fund, urgent medical assistance is provided to persons who have left Ukraine due to the war and who declare to the Public Centre for Social Welfare (PCSW) that they are claiming temporary protection status.

More information on medical care is available at <https://info-ukraine.be/en/assistance-belgium/medical-care-ukrainian-refugees>.



Psychosocial support

Information on psychological support is available at <https://info-ukraine.be/en/assistance-belgium/psychosocial-support>.



Disabilities

Information on support for persons with disabilities is available at <https://info-ukraine.be/nl/ondersteuning-belgie/ik-heb-een-handicap>.



COVID-19

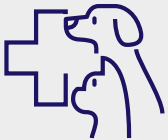
COVID-19 health screening is not carried out systematically. General restrictions due to COVID-19 measures apply when entering the country. Belgium offers COVID-19 vaccinations to displaced persons who arrive to the country.





Vaccinations for children

Information on vaccinations for children is available at <https://www.vaccination-info.be>.



Mandatory veterinarian check-up for pets

Dogs, cats and ferrets brought as pets from Ukraine must normally meet the following requirements:

- ◆ be identified (with microchip);
- ◆ have received an anti-rabies vaccination in compliance with the validity requirements;
- ◆ have undergone a rabies antibody titration test with a favourable result (30 days after the date of vaccination and 3 months prior to the date of departure);
- ◆ be accompanied by an official certificate stating that they meet the import requirements.

In emergency situations, the law provides that permits can be issued for pet animals that do not meet the above-mentioned import requirements if their owners have applied for these permits prior to the movement of the animals to Belgium.

In light of the alarming situation in Ukraine and in order to prevent additional problems refugees from Ukraine who travel with their dogs, cats or ferrets, the authorities are adopting a flexible approach in this regard. For more information, see <https://info-ukraine.be/en/newsroom/pets-brought-belgium-ukrainian-refugees-fasfc-adopts-flexible-approach>.

Information on free veterinarian care is available at <https://info-ukraine.be/en/documentation/communication-material/flyer-care-pets-ukfrennl>.



Access to education

Children in compulsory education age (5–18 years old) have the same rights and obligations in education as their Belgian peers.

Municipalities provide help in enrolling children in education facilities. Children typically join preparatory or bridging classes first, when their knowledge of the regional language (French, German or Dutch) is not sufficient.

For higher education at university or colleges, visit the websites below:

- ◆ Flanders and Brussels: <https://www.studyinlanders.be/>
- ◆ Wallonia and Brussels: <http://www.studyinbelgium.be/en>
- ◆ German-speaking community: <https://www.ahs-ostbelgien.be>

Childcare/nursery

If you are staying in the Flanders, visit <https://www.kindengezin.be/nl/vertalingen/Oekraiens>

If you are staying in the Wallonia/Brussels federation, visit <https://www.one.be/public/ukraine>

University

Holders of a Ukrainian diploma who want to continue their studies should contact the educational institution where they want to study.

Recognition of education titles

Holders of a Ukrainian diploma who want to work in Belgium do not need a recognition of their diploma unless the employer explicitly asks for it, with 2 exceptions:

- ◆ persons working with the government
- ◆ persons working in a registered profession (e.g. medical doctor, nurse).

For information on the recognition of foreign diplomas, see:

- ◆ in the Flanders: <https://naricvlaanderen.be/nl/erkenningen/erkenning-buitenlands-diploma>;
- ◆ in Wallonia: <http://www.equivalences.cfwb.be/index.php?id=845#c1873>.

4. International protection

Beneficiaries of temporary protection can apply for international protection in Belgium at any time. The examination of their application is suspended until the end of the temporary protection regime.




Annex I . Repository of sources

General information		
Service	Website	QR
General information	https://info-ukraine.be/uk Available in English, French and Ukrainian	
Ukrainian embassy/consulate	https://belgium.mfa.gov.ua/ Available in English, French and Ukrainian	
Driving licence	https://mobilit.belgium.be/en/road_traffic/driving_licence/recognition_foreign_driving_licences Available in English and French	
Entry requirements	https://dofi.ibz.be/nl/themes/oekraïne Available in English, French and Ukrainian, Russian	

Temporary protection		
Eligibility criteria, registration and requirements	http://www.register-ukraine.be/ Available in English, French and Ukrainian	
Accommodation		
National accommodation system	https://info-ukraine.be/en/documentation/communication-material/flyer-route-registration-centre-enuk Available in English and Ukrainian	
Private housing/registration	https://info-ukraine.be/fr/que-puis-je-faire/je-veux-aider/placedispopo Available in English and French	
Public health		
General information on the Health system	https://info-ukraine.be/en/assistance-belgium/medical-care-ukrainian-refugees Available in English and Ukrainian	
Psychosocial support	https://info-ukraine.be/en/assistance-belgium/psychosocial-support Available in English and Ukrainian	

Education		
Higher education	In Flanders: http://www.studyinlanders.be/	
	In Wallonia/Brussels: https://www.studyinbelgium.be/en	
Recognition of education titles	In Flanders: https://naricvlaanderen.be/nl/erkenningen/erkenning-buitenlands-diploma	
	In Wallonia/Brussels: http://www.equivalences.cfwb.be/index.php?id=845#c1873	
International protection		
Information on how to apply for international protection	https://www.fedasil.be/en/asylum-belgium/asylum-procedure Available in English	

Free travel options		
Transports	<p>People fleeing from Ukraine can use Thalys trains free of charge.</p> <p>https://www.belgiantrain.be/en/news/ticket-help-ukraine</p> <p>Available in English</p>	
Information platforms		
More about Temporary Protection in specific countries	<p>https://whoiswho.euaa.europa.eu/temporary-protection</p> <p>Available in English</p>	