

ESSENTIAL GUIDELINES TO PEOPLE FLEEING UKRAINE:

YOUR FIRST STEPS IN ITALY.¹

This document provides essential information to people fleeing Ukraine and arrived in Italy. Information includes how to regularize your presence in Italy, how to access temporary and international protection, what protection entails, where to stay, and numbers to contact in case of emergency. These guidelines are available in Ukrainian, Russian, English, and Italian.

Q1: I'M IN ITALY. WHAT'S THE FIRST THING I SHOULD DO?

Ukrainian citizens are exempted from the requirement to be in possession of a visa to enter the Schengen Area. If you are Ukrainian or a national of a non-EU country exempted for the visa requirement, you have the right to regularly stay in Italy for up to 3 months, starting from the day on which you entered the Schengen area and the entry stamp was affixed to your passport. In other words, if you fall into this category of persons exempt from the visa requirement and if you already have a stamp in your passport certifying your entry into the Schengen area, during the first three months of your stay in Italy you do not have to go to the *Questura* (office for public security) to declare your presence on Italian territory. In the absence of the stamp in your passport (or of the passport itself), your right of residency will begin from the day on which you make the "declaration of presence" at the competent *Questura*. In order to enjoy the right to residency for the first three months following your entry, in this second case, you will have to declare your presence in Italy, as explained below.

To regularize your position on the territory and receive the assistance you need, you should go to the **Immigration Office** (*Ufficio Immigrazione*, in Italian) at the *Questura* within 8 days from your entry in Italy. There is a *Questura* and an Immigration Office in all Italian municipalities. To verify whether the *Questura* of the municipality where you are staying has an immigration office, you can also check the website of the office for public security.

If you are a Ukrainian citizen but do not have your documents with you, please inform the pertinent *Questura*. Qualified entities in Italy can assist you in the issuance of your ID card. For example, the Ukrainian Embassy in Rome stated that Ukrainian citizens arriving in Italy without documents will be identified at the Consulates. The passports of Ukrainian citizens are valid for a further 5 years and, in addition, the passports may include the data of children under the age of 16.

If you come from Ukraine but are national of a non-EU country for which a visa is needed to enter the EU and you are not in possession of it, you should go to the Immigration Office at the *Questura*. Clearly declare that you have fled Ukraine and that you need assistance. The officers will provide you with useful information regarding your stay in Italy, the assistance you are entitled to, and the right to claim asylum.

If you are an **unaccompanied minor**, meaning that you are younger than 18 years old and your parents or family members are not with you, as soon as you reach Italy, you must go to any police station and declare that you are an unaccompanied minor fleeing Ukraine. Within 90 days from your entry into Italy, you can apply for special protection at the *Questura*. The officers will immediately inform the Juvenile Court for the purpose of activating the procedure for the appointment of a guardian and the social services and will take care of you, providing, among other things, food, shelter, safe and child-friendly accommodation, legal assistance, and information.

Police stations and policy officers in Italy look like this:

¹ Please note that these guidelines are regularly updated. Last update: **3 July 2022.**



Q2: WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT? SHOULD I ASK FOR PROTECTION?

Claiming protection is a fundamental right of each individual. It is your choice to decide to enjoy your right or not. Please remember that if you are a citizen of a country without a visa requirement, such as Ukraine, you can apply for special protection at the *Questura* within 90 days from your entrance in Italy.

Currently, beyond ordinary protection statuses that will be described later, **most people fleeing from Ukraine can apply for TEMPORARY PROTECTION.**

On 28 March 2022, the Italian Government implemented the Decision 2022/382 on temporary protection of the Council of the European Union by means of a Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers, pending its publication in the Official Gazette. The beneficiaries of temporary protection are: **Ukrainian nationals residing in Ukraine before the start of the armed conflict; stateless persons and third-state nationals who were beneficiaries of international protection or equivalent national protection in Ukraine before 24 February 2022; third-state nationals legally residing in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 with a permanent residence permit; family members of the respective categories, *i.e.* the spouse or unmarried partner, minor unmarried sons/daughters, adult children and dependent parents of the person beneficiary of temporary protection.**

When this protection status is granted, you will obtain a residence permit for 1 year, valid until 4 March 2023 regardless of the date of your application, renewable if insecurity conditions in Ukraine persist. You will be entitled to work in Italy, receive medical and legal assistance, accommodation and access to education for your sons and daughters. You will also be entitled to **family reunification**. Reunited family members will also enjoy temporary protection.

To start the Temporary Protection procedure (it is free of charge!) you have to go to the *Questura*, which will provide you with all the necessary information about the procedure, rights and implications of temporary protection status. In order to formalise the application, you must submit: 2 passport-size photos; a declaration of hospitality; a passport with entry stamp in Italy (if applicable); a declaration of presence if the passport is not stamped at the Italian border; possible certificates attesting family relationships. Only after the publication of the Prime Ministerial Decree can the *Questura* complete the examination of the application with the printing and issuance of the residence permit. This will be in electronic format and valid no later than 4 March 2023.

Please note that applying for or obtaining temporary protection status does not prevent you from returning to Ukraine for a short period. In fact, temporary protection status may cease when security conditions in Ukraine are restored.

For temporary protection applicants who have found independent accommodation, the Italian Civil Protection provides a subsistence contribution of €300 per month per person and, in the case of minors, an additional monthly contribution of €150 for each child under the age of 18. The contribution will be paid for a maximum duration of three months from the date of entry into Italy. Should the beneficiary find a job in Italy, he/she may continue to benefit from the contribution for a maximum of 60 days.

In order to benefit from the contribution, it is necessary to submit the relevant application by accessing a special IT platform that will soon be made available by the Civil Protection Department.

Q3. WHAT OTHER PROTECTION STATUSES ARE AVAILABLE IN ITALY FOR PEOPLE FLEEING UKRAINE?

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION (refugee or subsidiary protection status) provides protection to people fleeing their country because of war or persecution on account of their nationality, ethnicity, political opinion, religion or membership of a particular social group, or because of the risk of serious harm to their life and safety.

When you are at the *Questura*, you can already express your intention to claim asylum in Italy. Police officers may ask to take your fingerprints and photos to formalise your application and will provide you with adequate information on the procedure for determining international protection.

You can ask the legal assistance service providers to explain you the procedure and what international protection entails. Here is a practical guide edited by the Italian Ministry of Interior for additional information: https://www.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/la_guida_in_inglese.pdf

If you are an **unaccompanied minor**, you can apply for international protection or temporary protection. You can still obtain a residence permit for minors to remain legally in Italy until you turn 18.

SPECIAL PROTECTION provides protection for two years renewable to any person who cannot be returned to the country of origin for fear of being subjected to persecution, torture or inhuman and degrading treatment, serious and systematic violations of human rights. To apply for special protection, you need: a passport, a 16 euros revenue stamp, 2 passport photos and an 80,46 euros form.

Compared to temporary protection, which is activated immediately, the process of obtaining international or special protection takes longer, as it involves the analysis and individual assessment of your application by a specialised body, called the Territorial Commission.

Q4: WHERE COULD I STAY?

If you have parents or friends you trust in Italy who can provide you with accommodation, food and shelter, you can register in the *Questura* of the city where your hosts live and declare that they will host you. Your hosts will then need to formalize this declaration at the *Questura* within 2 days. The Reception and Integration System managed by the Local Authorities and the Extraordinary Reception Centres

managed by the Prefectures have been reinforced with additional places. Access to these facilities is also allowed to those who have not requested international protection. Other forms of widespread reception are planned with the cooperation of the Third Sector.

Q5: WHO CAN I CONTACT IN CASE OF EMERGENCY?

The single European emergency number is **112**. Depending on your needs, it will put you in touch with the relevant police force or agency (police, fire brigade, 118, etc.).

Helpline against violence and stalking: call **1522**.

FURTHER INFORMATION (education, health, work...):

- **Migrant Integration Portal, Ukraine Emergency. Useful information for refugees, standards and data.** Constantly updated focus: <https://www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it/Dettaglio-approfondimento/id/44/Emergenza-Ucraina>
- **Access to work.** People from the Ukraine can work, independently or in an employed capacity, following the application to the Police Headquarters for a residence permit, as an exception to the maximum quotas defined by the annual programming. An exception is made to the rules on the recognition of health professional qualifications for Ukrainian doctors, nurses and OSS who were resident in Ukraine before 24 February. More info at: <https://www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it/Dettaglio-approfondimento/id/44/Emergenza-Ucraina>
- **Video message in sign language** addressed to all Ukrainian women who are leaving Ukraine and are at the border, by Mikhail Akimov: <https://www.jumamap.it/it/2022/03/09/messaggio-segni/>
- **Useful Info for Ukrainian Citizens Arriving in Italy**, available in 12 languages, Jumamap, <https://www.jumamap.it/it/emergenza-ucraina/>
- Jumamap, FAQ - Request for International Protection, available in Italian, English, Russian, Ukrainian: <https://www.jumamap.it/it/2022/02/28/faq-protezione-internazionale/>
- **Passports and identification of Ukrainian citizens:** <https://dait.interno.gov.it/servizi-demografici/circolari/circolare-dait-n23-del-10-marzo-2022>
- **Free transportation for Ukrainian citizens in Italy.** Ukrainian citizens can travel free of charge within 5 days of their arrival in Italy to their first place of destination or reception. The measure includes free travel on Trenitalia (FS Group) trains operating Intercity, Eurocity and Regional services, maritime services, and the motorway network: <https://www.protezionecivile.gov.it/it/normativa/ocdpc-n-876-del-13-marzo-2022-0>. Displaced persons arriving in Italy with their Ukrainian-registered **cars** without insurance cover are issued with free temporary third-party liability policies valid for 30 days: <https://www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it/it-it/Ricerca-news/Dettaglio-news/id/2436/Polizze-temporanee-gratuite-per-le-auto-dei-profughi-dallUcraina>
- **Schooling of Ukrainian minors:** The government has provided specific psychological and linguistic support and financial resources for Ukrainian minors. Further information is available here: https://www.miur.gov.it/documents/20182/6740601/m_pi.AOODPIT.REGISTRO+UFFICIALE%28U%29.0000381.04-03-2022.pdf/7e8cc387-b753-1ca7-f466-2d3f15ede33b?version=1.0&t=1646642414348
- **Health:** Beneficiaries and applicants for temporary protection have access to health care from the moment they submit their application for a residence permit, with exemption from participation in health care costs, if they are not working. The exemption will be issued to the applicant when the general practitioner and/or freely chosen paediatrician is appointed and will



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last from 4 March to 31 December 2022. <https://www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it/Dettaglio-approfondimento/id/44/Emergenza-Ucraina>