

Temporary Protection Czechia

2025 Update

This annex on temporary protection complements and should be read together with the [AIDA Country Report on Czechia](#).

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Temporary Protection Procedure

A. General

Title (EN)	Original Title (CZ)	Web Link
Act No. 221/2003 Coll., on the temporary protection of foreigners	Zákon č. 221/2003 Sb., o dočasné ochraně cizinců	https://www.zakonyprolidi.cz/cs/2003-221
Act No. 65/2022 Coll., on certain measures in connection with the armed conflict in the territory of Ukraine caused by the invasion of the Russian Federation's armed forces	Zákon č. 65/2022 Sb., o některých opatřeních v souvislosti s ozbrojeným konfliktem na území Ukrajiny vyvolaným invazí vojsk Ruské federace	https://www.zakonyprolidi.cz/cs/2022-65
Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the residence of foreigners in the Czech Republic and on amendments to certain acts	Zákon č. 326/1999 Sb., o pobytu cizinců na území České republiky a o změně některých zákonů	https://www.zakonyprolidi.cz/cs/1999-326

The Temporary Protection Directive (Directive 2001/55/EC) was incorporated into the Czech legal system already in 2004 through Act No. 221/2003 Coll., on Temporary Protection of Foreigners (Temporary Protection Act). This Act provides the national legal framework for granting temporary protection, defining in particular the conditions of entry and stay, the procedure for lodging and examining an application, and the rights and obligations of a person granted temporary protection. It also contains the grounds for refusal, withdrawal, or expiry of temporary protection status.

Following the activation of the Temporary Protection Directive by Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 of 4 March 2022, the Czech Republic adopted a special act – Act No. 65/2022 Coll., on certain measures in connection with the armed conflict in Ukraine triggered by the invasion by the Russian Federation (known as *Lex Ukraine*) (hereinafter, the 'Act'). The Act constitutes a special legislation *vis-à-vis* Act No. 221/2003 Coll., and introduced a number of derogations with respect to the procedure for granting temporary protection. Nevertheless, several provisions of the original Act on Temporary Protection (notably, the exclusion and cessation grounds) continue to apply, and the new law also operates in conjunction with selected provisions of the Foreigners' Residence Act.

The Act further specifies the categories of persons eligible for temporary protection, fully reflecting the personal scope defined in the Council Implementing Decision. It also introduces a category of inadmissible applications, which applies in defined circumstances (e.g., where an applicant already enjoys temporary protection in another Member State). Since its adoption, the Act has been amended eleven times to reflect the evolving needs of the protection system.

The Act entered into force on 21 March 2022. Until that date, persons fleeing Ukraine were granted special tolerance visas under the Foreigners' Residence Act. From 21 March 2022 onwards, these persons have been automatically regarded as beneficiaries of temporary protection. Temporary protection is granted in a form of a visa sticker with a specific code (e.g. D/DO/667, D/DO/668, D/DO/669, D/DO/767, D/DO/768, D/DO/769, D/DO/867, D/DO/868, D/DO/869).

In response to the unprecedented inflow of displaced persons from Ukraine, the Ministry of the Interior (Mol) played a central coordinating role. Through the Central Crisis Staff, the Mol organised the initial emergency response, including registration of arrivals, issuance of residence statuses, and securing accommodation capacity.

To manage the arrival and immediate needs of refugees, the State established:

- the National Assistance Centre for Ukraine (NACPU), and
- 14 Regional Assistance Centres for Ukraine (KACPU), which provided practical assistance such as registration, accommodation placement, humanitarian support, health services, psychosocial help, and child-care facilities.

As of 1 April 2023, the operation of the KACPU centres was transferred from regional authorities directly to the Mol, which now ensures the complete infrastructure for the reception of applicants, the handling of temporary protection claims, and the associated assistance services.

As of 31 December 2025, a total of 396,076 active temporary protection registrations were recorded in the Czech Republic. In the period from the beginning of the conflict (24 February 2022) to 31 December 2025, a total of 749,328 temporary protection statuses were issued.¹ As of 31 March 2026, there were 379,818 active temporary protection registrations in the Czech Republic.² The number of persons with temporary protection in the country amounted to roughly 34.8 per 1,000 inhabitants, making up 3.48% of the Czech population. In total, 767,112 temporary protection statuses were issued in the period from the beginning of the conflict (24 February 2022) to 31 March 2026.³

As of March 2026, there were 121,434 Ukrainians with a permanent residency and 480,829 with other types of residence permit (including beneficiaries of temporary protection).⁴ 16,674 people have been issued a tolerance visa in a connection with a war by the end of 2025.⁵

B. Qualification for temporary protection

Under the Czech legal framework — Section 2(1) of the *Lex Ukraine* — temporary protection is granted to all foreigners who are mandatorily included in the scope of the relevant EU Council Implementing Decision introducing temporary protection. This category includes primarily:

- Ukrainian nationals who resided in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 and fled due to the Russian invasion;
- Stateless persons and third-country nationals (TCNs) who benefited from international protection or equivalent national protection in Ukraine before that date; and
- Family members of the above categories.

Under § 2(2) of *Lex Ukraine*, temporary protection is also granted to a foreign national who is not automatically covered by the Council Implementing Decision, if the person demonstrates that:

- They held a valid permanent residence permit in Ukraine on the date specified in the Council Decision; and
- They cannot return to their country of nationality (or, for stateless persons, to their last country of habitual residence before entering Ukraine) due to a risk of real danger, as defined by § 179(2) of the Foreigners' Residence Act (e.g., risk of serious harm such as torture, inhuman treatment, indiscriminate violence in situations of armed conflict, etc.).

Family members entitled to temporary protection include:

- a) the spouse or partner (meaning same sex partnership), provided that the marriage or partnership existed at the time when the circumstances giving rise to the granting of temporary protection occurred;
- b) an unmarried child under 18 years of age; and
- c) the parent of a foreign national enjoying temporary protection who is under 18 years of age.⁶

Unmarried partners are not considered to be family members and thus they fall out of the possibility of being granted temporary protection.

¹ Ministry of Interior, *Quarterly Migration Report for the Fourth Quarter of 2025*, available [here](#).

² Ministry of Interior, *Statistics related to the war in Ukraine*, available [here](#).

³ Ministry of Interior, *Quarterly Migration Report for the First Quarter of 2026*, available [here](#).

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Consortium of non-governmental organizations working with migrants, *Refugees from Ukraine: Data and Analysis*, available [here](#).

⁶ Section 51 (2) of the Temporary Protection Act.

A *close relative* to a foreign national enjoying temporary protection, who is not considered a family member, may be granted temporary protection for reasons worthy of special consideration, provided that they were living together on a permanent basis at the time when the events leading to the mass influx of displaced persons occurred.⁷ In these cases it depends on the discretion of the MoI whether temporary protection is granted or not.

Czechia did not extend the personal scope of temporary protection to displaced persons from Ukraine other than the ones specifically mentioned in Article 2 of the Council Implementing Decision. In particular, persons who came to Czechia before 24 February 2022 are not covered by any of the temporary protection mechanisms. These individuals can apply for a long term visa for tolerated stay, which will allow them to stay legally in the Czech Republic for a maximum of one year, with a possibility of extending it repeatedly. Unlike beneficiaries of temporary protection, these individuals are not entitled to humanitarian assistance, do not have free access to the labour market (although they can apply for a work permit) and are not automatically covered by health insurance. In practice, however, for some of these individuals it is not possible to obtain a visa for tolerated stay, especially if they previously held a residence permit in Czechia or another country, regardless of the fact that the residence permit is no longer valid. These people could, therefore, be left without any protection.

In March 2022, additional procedural limitations were introduced into Czech law, notably the “inadmissibility of the application”. This did not change the material scope of the temporary protection but created additional administrative barriers beyond the basic EU framework and led to legal challenges and scrutiny by courts and the Ombudsperson. If an application is declared inadmissible, no procedure is initiated.

Before September 2025, under Section 5(1) of *Lex Ukraine* an application for temporary protection was inadmissible if:

- a) it was not submitted in person
- b) it was submitted by a foreign national who did not fall under the scope of temporary protection
- c) it was submitted by a foreign national who had applied for temporary or international protection in another EU Member State,
- d) it was submitted by a foreign national who was granted temporary or international protection in another EU Member State, or
- e) it was submitted by a foreign national who is a citizen of the EU, of a state bound by an international treaty concluded with the EU granting a right to free movement equivalent to that of EU citizens, or of a State bound by the Agreement on the European Economic Area.

In practice, especially reasons under c) and d), were applied in thousands of cases. As a result, Ukrainian nationals who had previously applied for or had already been granted temporary (or international) protection in another Member State were denied the possibility to obtain temporary protection in Czechia. In such cases, the MoI returned their application form for temporary protection after marking the relevant reason for inadmissibility—regardless of whether the applicant still held a valid residence permit in the other EU Member State or not. Judicial review against these decisions was excluded.

Regardless of the exclusion of inadmissibility decisions from the judicial review, these cases reached the courts which found the legislation to be violating EU law. In one of these cases, the Supreme Administrative Court (SAC) referred a preliminary question to the CJEU regarding the compatibility of the national legislation with the temporary protection. This resulted in the CJEU judgment of 27 February 2025 in case C-753/23 *Krasiliva*, in which the CJEU confirmed the incompatibility of Section 5(1)(c) of the *Lex Ukraine* with EU law.

Following this ruling, the SAC reviewed several cases of Ukrainian nationals who held temporary protection in another EU Member State. Based on the CJEU’s interpretation, the SAC had held that

⁷ Section 52 of the Temporary Protection Act.

Section 5(1)(d) of Act No. 65/2022 Coll. was also contrary to EU law and, therefore, could be applied.⁸ Since then, the SAC has issued dozens of judgments confirming this position.⁹

Despite the clear position of both the CJEU and the SAC, neither the legislation nor the administrative practice has been amended. The Mol systematically fails to respect these judgements and continues to reject applications for temporary protection of Ukrainian nationals who have, or have previously had, temporary protection in another EU Member State, invoking the inadmissibility provisions. This issue potentially impacts thousands of Ukrainians. A total of 12,303 applications had been officially rejected as inadmissible.¹⁰

As of 3 September 2025, a new reason for inadmissibility of the decision for temporary protection has been introduced by the amendment of the *Lex Ukraine*. Section 5(1)(f) now allows for an application for temporary protection to be considered inadmissible if it is lodged by a foreign national who is or has been a holder of temporary protection in another EU Member State or in a State applying the Schengen Borders Code in full after the Mol has sent notified to European Commission of this, pursuant to Section 3(3). In particular, this section states that “*The Mol shall send a notification to the European Commission regarding the risk of exceeding the capacity to manage the consequences of a mass influx of displaced persons and the need to take measures to ensure a fair balance among Member States in sharing the effort related to hosting these persons. The Mol shall publish the notification referred to in the first sentence on its website.*” The Mol already notified the European Commission about the risk of exceeding the capacity to manage the consequences of a mass influx of displaced persons.¹¹ In practice, the new inadmissibility reason is being applied. The SAC has already ruled that this reason for inadmissibility also contradicts EU law.¹²

Third-country nationals who lived in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 and who were not mentioned in Article 2 of the Council Implementing Decision (e.g., students, temporary workers, undocumented migrants, asylum seekers) are not eligible for any form of special material support in Czechia, compared to beneficiaries of temporary protection.

The temporal scope of temporary protection under the Temporary Protection Directive has not been extended by national legislation. A residence permit for the purpose of temporary protection is therefore always issued with validity until 31 March of the relevant year. Pursuant to Section 5(4) of the *Lex Ukraine*, “*temporary protection shall be indicated in the foreign national’s travel document by means of a visa sticker valid until 31 March of the following calendar year*”.

C. Access to temporary protection and registration

1. Admission to territory

As of now, there is no credible documented evidence (from NGOs, media, court cases or testimonies) showing that people fleeing directly from Ukraine have been broadly refused entry at the Czech border. That includes the cases where people go back to Ukraine and then return to the Czech Republic.

To the knowledge of the Organisation of Aid to Refugees (OPU), there were no issues regarding the entry into the Czech border in the past. At the same time, OPU has no evidence to confirm that entry into the territory has been facilitated for persons from Ukraine either.

⁸ See SAC, judgments No. 1 Azs 174/2024-42, 3 April 2025, available in Czech [here](#); and 1 Azs 336/2024-42, 3 April 2025, available [here](#).

⁹ See, e.g., SAC judgements No. 6 Azs 1/2024 – 30, 30 April 2025; 7 Azs 218/2024 – 37, 30 April 2025; 2 Azs 384/2023 – 38, 29 April 2025; 8 Azs 20/2024-53, 29 April 2025; 4 Azs 398/2023-38, 28 April 2025, and many others; all judgments are available in Czech at www.nssoud.cz.

¹⁰ Consortium of non-governmental organizations working with migrants, *Refugees from Ukraine: Data and Analysis*, available [here](#).

¹¹ The letter of the notification is available [here](#).

¹² SAC, judgement No. 8 Azs 181/2025 – 26, 27 February 2026, available [here](#); No. 9 Azs 179/2025 – 18, 26 March 2026, available [here](#); No. 9 Azs 181/2025 – 24, 26 March 2026, available [here](#); and many others.

2. Freedom of movement

Individuals entitled to temporary protection who do not hold a biometric passport or travel document generally do not face legal restrictions regarding their movement within the Czech Republic. Under *Lex Ukraine*, temporary protection is granted regardless of the type of travel document the person possesses, and beneficiaries without a biometric passport or other biometric document are granted a temporary protection visa that is not affixed to a biometric passport.

In practice, movement within the country is not restricted, and beneficiaries can access services, employment, and accommodation. For those attempting to continue their journey to other EU Member States, the situation depends on the entry requirements of the destination country.¹³

3. Registration under temporary protection

The authority responsible for registering the temporary protection application is the Regional Assistance Center for Ukraine (known as the abbreviation “KACPU”), which is a workplace of the Department of Asylum and Migration Policy of the Mol.

Temporary protection is usually granted on the spot. In cases where the application requires a longer assessment period, the competent office will provide the applicant with instructions regarding the next steps in the procedure. The statutory time limit for processing the application is 60 days. This time limit does not run if the proceedings are suspended or if there are other statutory reasons for its interruption.

For children under the age of 15, an application for temporary protection may be submitted exclusively by their legal guardian or authorized representative. Persons aged 15 to 18 are required to submit the application in person, accompanied by their legal guardian or authorized representative.

The applicant must submit the application on the prescribed form, with valid passport or other ID document, a document proving that they were in Ukraine on 24 February 2022 (the information in the passport is usually sufficient - stamps from the border on entry into the Schengen area), a photograph, and proof of accommodation, which is either a rental agreement or confirmation of accommodation from the owner or authorized user of the property.

The person should apply for temporary protection at the regional centre of their place of residence.¹⁴ In most cases, the online appointment system does not work for applying for temporary protection. The person must go to the centre in person and wait for their turn. Appointments for applications for temporary protection can only be provided in very exceptional cases (e. g. in the case of a seriously ill person or an unaccompanied minor placed in a facility for children).

It is not common for a person to express the intention to apply for temporary protection at the border, as there is no external Schengen border and most people fleeing Ukraine travel through another EU Member State. Border controls with neighbouring countries in 2024 were not common. In 2025, border checks were being conducted at the border with Germany and also at the border with Slovakia. However, OPU has no information indicating that these checks have led to an increase in the number of people applying for temporary protection at the borders. At the border, persons expressing the intention to apply for temporary protection are identified by the border police and referred to the Mol's registration office or a reception point. Most essential information regarding temporary protection in the Czech Republic is also available online on the website operated by Mol.¹⁵

There are no time limits to make an application for temporary protection. Nevertheless, if a person overstays the 90-day visa-free period, they risk the consequences associated with this (i.e., fines, initiation

¹³ Section 6(1) of the Temporary Protection Act.

¹⁴ Governmental information on temporary protection available [here](#).

¹⁵ Ibid.

of proceedings to leave the territory, or administrative expulsion). However, people will still be able to apply for temporary protection then.

Applicants are required to provide documentary evidence demonstrating that they fall within the personal scope of temporary protection, in particular evidence of their residence or lawful presence in Ukraine prior to the relevant reference date. Such evidence may include passport data, a humanitarian entry confirmation, or other official documents issued in the name of the applicant that credibly establish their stay in Ukraine.

No exhaustive list of accepted or excluded documents is stipulated in Czech law. Each application is assessed on an individual basis, and the submitted evidence must be authentic, reliable, and verifiable, as well as clearly attributable to the applicant. Documents that do not sufficiently substantiate the applicant's link to Ukraine or that cannot be reasonably verified may be considered insufficient for the purposes of establishing eligibility for temporary protection.

Where an applicant is unable to present a biometric travel document, alternative means of establishing identity and nationality are accepted in line with national implementation measures. Applicants who are able to prove their identity by means of a Ukrainian national identity card may still apply for temporary protection.

In cases where the applicant does not possess any identity document, they are required to contact the Embassy of Ukraine or the Consulate of Ukraine in the Czech Republic for the purpose of confirming their Ukrainian nationality. For this purpose, applicants may also make use of the services provided by branches of the State Migration Service of Ukraine or by the Ukrainian Consultation Centre in Prague.¹⁶

Upon arrival in the Czech Republic and the successful submission of the application, applicants for temporary protection are issued a temporary protection visa stamp immediately after the successful submission of their application, which in most cases is stamped into the passport on the same day. In complicated cases where it is not possible to make a decision on the spot (i.e., because there are doubts about the authenticity of the documents submitted, or the applicant has submitted more documents that need to be assessed in more detail), the applicant will receive confirmation that they have submitted an application and are now in the position of an applicant for temporary protection. A decision on their application should be made within 60 days. In practice, this deadline is in most cases respected.

However, there is documented evidence of a systemic refusal to grant temporary protection to Ukrainians who previously received temporary or international protection elsewhere in the EU (see [Qualification for Temporary Protection](#)).

During periods when large numbers of people arrive to the Czech Republic requesting temporary protection, long queues form at the Regional Centres to submit applications. Mainly in Prague, but also in other cities. In this sense, it is not uncommon for people to wait in front of the centre from the early hours of the morning.

Applicants who are refused registration under the temporary protection regime are entitled to submit a subsequent application for temporary protection. However, the *Lex Ukraine* does not provide for judicial review of registration refusals. The possibility to challenge a refusal through a lawsuit for protection against an unlawful act has been established by case law, not by statute.¹⁷ In practice, applicants are usually not informed about this possibility and become aware of it primarily through contact with a legal professional. Thus, while applicants can submit additional applications, access to effective judicial remedies is limited in practice, and exercising this right typically requires assistance from a lawyer or legal counsellor.

¹⁶ See answers to frequently asked questions [here](#).

¹⁷ CJEU, judgement C-753/23, *Krasiliva*, 27 February 2025, available [here](#).

4. Legal assistance

Applicants of temporary protection have access to legal assistance under the general legal framework applicable in the Czech Republic. The *Lex Ukraine* does not establish a specific entitlement to state-funded legal aid but ensures access to existing legal assistance mechanisms, primarily through NGOs and general legal aid schemes.

In practice, legal aid has been provided pro bono to Ukrainian nationals and other persons fleeing the war in Ukraine by NGOs, law associations and individual lawyers. Support was higher at the beginning of the war and has been decreasing over time.

Legal assistance to beneficiaries of temporary protection is primarily provided free of charge by NGOs. In practice, legal counselling and assistance are ensured mainly through specialised NGOs funded from national and EU sources.

Free legal assistance is provided, *inter alia*, by OPU, which operates offices in Prague as well as in several other cities, including Brno, Plzeň, Ostrava and Hradec Králové. The Association for Integration and Migration (SIMI) provides free legal counselling primarily through its office in Prague. The Centre for the Integration of Foreigners (CIC) offers free legal and social counselling through its main office in Prague and through regional offices in several Central Bohemian cities. The Archdiocesan Charity Prague provides free legal and social counselling in Prague, including services available in Ukrainian.

In addition, Centres for Support of Integration of Foreigners (CPIC) operate in all regional capitals. These centres provide basic legal information, social counselling and referrals, including assistance relevant to beneficiaries of temporary protection.

As noted, free legal counselling is predominantly provided by NGOs and integration centres, whose capacity is limited and unevenly distributed geographically. Those interested in legal assistance must find the organizations or individuals to contact themselves; there is no centralized information on where to turn to.

5. Information provision and access to NGOs

Under *Lex Ukraine*, beneficiaries of temporary protection are provided with information on their rights and obligations in writing, as well as on the sharing of their data with authorities in other EU Member States. The information must be given in a language in which the beneficiary can communicate.¹⁸ This is typically done at the registration office of the Mol. Beneficiaries receive written materials and oral explanations. Additionally, the Mol maintains an information portal with comprehensive guidance in Ukrainian.¹⁹ The information is not provided specifically tailored to the needs of vulnerable individuals.

Information is provided both in writing and orally. At registration offices of the Mol or the Police, beneficiaries receive information sheets and oral explanations, while NGOs and integration centres often provide supplementary guidance, counselling, and group meetings (e.g. group meetings for senior women or minors). Information is given most often in Ukrainian or Russian, with NGOs assisting with translation or interpretation if needed.

The main actors providing information are the Mol and Police staff, NGOs such as OPU, SIMI, CIC, and Arcidiecézní charita Prague, and regional Centres for Support of Integration of Foreigners (CPIC). Alternative sources include the Mol's online portal in Ukrainian (<https://ipc.gov.cz/docasna-ochrana/>), NGO booklets, social workers, and helplines.

Several difficulties remain, including the fact that information is not systematically tailored to vulnerable groups, that beneficiaries are often not informed about judicial remedies, that regional disparities limit

¹⁸ Section 5(6) of the *Lex Ukraine*.

¹⁹ Governmental information on temporary protection available [here](#).

access outside Prague, that language and comprehension barriers persist, and that high demand and limited capacity at registration offices can reduce the time available for explanations.

There is no information available on how to apply for temporary protection at border crossing points. In particular, there is no provision of information at the border since the Czech Republic has no outside Schengen border.

D. Guarantees for vulnerable groups

There are no specific identification mechanisms in place to systematically identify persons entitled to temporary protection who need specific procedural safeguards because of their vulnerability, either before or after their registration as beneficiaries of temporary protection.

A special procedure is applied to unaccompanied minors entitled to temporary protection. When an unaccompanied minor arrives at the registration office, the staff immediately notifies the competent child protection authority (OSPOD). The minor is then taken into care according to child protection regulations, and a legal guardian or custodian is appointed to represent them in all administrative procedures, including registration for temporary protection. This ensures that the minor's rights and best interests are safeguarded throughout the temporary protection procedure.

No specific programme has been formally established under *Lex Ukraine* to address the mental health needs of beneficiaries of temporary protection, including survivors of torture or traumatized individuals. The law does not mandate specialised services for persons with mental health problems or trauma.

In practice, however, specialised support is available through NGOs, medical facilities, and psychosocial services. Several NGOs and organisations, such as the Organisation for Aid to Refugees (OPU) and local counselling centres, provide psychological support, counselling, and referral to mental health care. Hospitals and clinics in the Czech Republic also provide treatment for mental health conditions, including trauma, for beneficiaries of temporary protection, although access may be limited by capacity constraints, waiting times, and language barriers.

However, overall, while there is no legal obligation for a dedicated programme, practical mechanisms exist to ensure that beneficiaries with mental health needs can access specialised support, often in coordination with NGOs and integration services.

Content of Temporary Protection

A. Status and residence

1. Residence permit

Indicators: Residence permit

1. What is the duration of residence permits granted to beneficiaries of temporary protection?
1 year, until 31 March 2025, renewed for prolongation until 31 March 2026, and further prolongable until 31 March 2027.
2. How many residence permits were issued to beneficiaries from the activation of the Temporary Protection Directive until 31 December 2025? 749,328²⁰

Temporary protection is granted by the Mol (Department for Asylum and Migration Policy – OAMP), which is the competent authority for examining applications and issuing residence permits under the temporary protection regime. Applications for temporary protection are registered and decided at Regional Assistance Centres for Ukraine (KACPU) and, in specific cases, directly at OAMP offices.

Applications for temporary protection must be lodged in person at one of the designated registration centres. The procedure includes verification of identity and nationality, assessment of eligibility under the *Lex Ukraine* (relevant government decision implementing the EU Temporary Protection Directive), and the collection of biometric data (photograph and fingerprints). Once the application is accepted, either a visa sticker confirming temporary protection is issued and affixed to the applicant's travel document, or an alternative certificate is provided.

Temporary protection is generally granted immediately upon registration, provided that all required conditions are met and no technical or administrative obstacles arise. Renewals or extensions of temporary protection are also processed swiftly on site.

In practice, the temporary protection procedure functions relatively efficiently, but several systematic obstacles have been observed in the issuance of temporary protection residence permits. Applicants are reportedly refused at the entrance of Regional Assistance Centres for Ukraine (KACPU) due to previous possession of temporary protection or another visa in another EU Member State, without being allowed to formally lodge an application or receive a written inadmissibility decision.²¹ Repeated returns of applications as “inadmissible” have also been reported, together with insufficient information provided to applicants about their rights, including the possibility to challenge an inadmissibility decision before the courts.

Since 1 January 2024, the allocation of state-funded accommodation to applicants for temporary protection who do not have secured accommodation has been centralised at KACPU Ostrava, requiring applicants without accommodation to travel there, while others had to submit a proof of accommodation with a certified signature.

Temporary protection residence permits in the Czech Republic are granted for the period determined by *Lex Ukraine* implementing the EU Temporary Protection Directive. The permit is not automatically prolonged. Beneficiaries are required to register online through the Information Portal for Foreigners within the set deadline (e.g., by 15 March 2026) and subsequently attend an appointment at the Regional Assistance Centre for Ukraine (KACPU) to obtain the new visa sticker in their travel document.

Temporary protection residence permits grant the right to reside in the Czech Republic, work without a separate permit, access healthcare, enrol children in school, receive social assistance (“humanitarian

²⁰ Ministry of Interior, *Quarterly Migration Report for the Fourth Quarter of 2025*, available [here](#).

²¹ Public Defender of Rights, inquiry report No. 585/2025/VOP/VVO, 3 April 2025, available [here](#).

allowance”), and benefit from free humanitarian accommodation for the first 90 days. Some rights, such as social benefits or free health and social insurance coverage, depend on additional conditions such as age, employment, proof of accommodation, or registration.

Holders of temporary protection in the Czech Republic who decide to permanently leave the country are encouraged to formally renounce their temporary protection status. Temporary protection may be renounced either before departure at a Regional Assistance Centre for Ukraine (KACPU) or the MoI, or from abroad through a Czech embassy or consulate (e.g., in Kyiv or Lviv).²² Upon renouncement, it is advised to inform the health insurance provider and other relevant authorities (such as schools or tax offices) to terminate related obligations.²³ If temporary protection is not formally given up, the holder may remain subject to Czech administrative duties (schooling, local fees) and health insurance obligations.

Temporary protection status ceases automatically when the person obtains a residence permit or temporary protection in another country (if they do not formally give up temporary protection status as described above).²⁴

2. Access to asylum and other legal statuses

Persons eligible for temporary protection in the Czech Republic who have not started the temporary protection registration process and have not received temporary protection in other MS may still apply for asylum. Asylum applications are submitted to the MoI, Department for Asylum and Migration Policy at Zástávka u Brna. The statutory deadline for the asylum procedure of 6 months can be extended up to 18 months in cases involving complex factual or legal issues, a large number of simultaneous applications for international protection, or where the applicant fails to comply with obligations under the Asylum Act, making it impossible to issue a decision within the standard deadline.²⁵ In 2025, 172 out of a total number of 1,197 asylum applications (14%) were submitted by Ukrainian nationals. In the same period, 248 out of 325 applications for the extension of subsidiary protection submitted by Ukrainian nationals were accorded.²⁶

Those, who already applied for temporary protection or have received temporary protection in other EU Member States, can lodge their asylum application, but the asylum procedure will be suspended for the period of “introduction of temporary protection”.²⁷ In practice, this means that if a person seeking asylum had previously been a beneficiary of temporary protection or was registered for temporary protection in Czechia or another EU Member State, they will no longer have any rights as an asylum applicant. Although this is a great breach of the rights of asylum seekers,²⁸ the MoI only makes a record of the suspension in the asylum file and the applicant is not directly informed about it. As a consequence, those applicants who wish to have their asylum application assessed remain in a legal vacuum without a legal status in the Czech Republic, access to the labour market, access to free healthcare, etc.

As of 2025, beneficiaries of temporary protection can access an alternative legal status beyond asylum through a “*special long-term residence permit*” introduced under recent amendments to the *Lex Ukraine*. This status is available to those who have held temporary protection for at least two years (with the requirement waived for minors) and who meet conditions such as demonstrating stable income, a clean criminal record, no public-insurance debts, secured housing, valid travel documents, and school attendance for children.

²² See answers to frequently asked questions [here](#).

²³ See information available [here](#).

²⁴ Section 5(8) of the Lex Ukraine.

²⁵ Section 27 of the Act No. 325/1999 Coll., on Asylum and Amending Act No. 283/1991 Coll., on the Police of the Czech Republic, as amended (the Asylum Act).

²⁶ Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic: *International protection in the Czech Republic, annual statistical overview of 2025*. Prague: MoI, 2026, available [here](#).

²⁷ Section 6(5) of the Lex Ukraine

²⁸ CJEU, judgment No. C-195/25, *Framholm*, 20 November 2025, available [here](#).

The *special long-term residence permit* offers several advantages, including a stable five-year residence, the possibility to transition to permanent residence, unrestricted access to the labour market without further income checks, no obligation to complete the adaptation-integration course, and no monitoring of the purpose of stay. However, it also brings significant drawbacks: beneficiaries receive minimal state support, cannot return to temporary protection, are generally ineligible for social benefits or humanitarian assistance, and must cover their own health insurance—children as self-payers and adults either through employment or as self-payers.

B. Family reunification

1. Family reunification as provided under the Temporary Protection Directive

The provisions related to family reunification in the Temporary Protection Directive have been incorporated into Czech law through the *Lex Ukraine* framework (i.e., through Articles 51 and 52 of the original Act on Temporary Protection), allowing eligible family members to request entry and residence on the basis of family unity.

Czech rules follow the Temporary Protection Directive definition and grant temporary protection to a spouse or registered partner (if the relationship existed before 24 February 2022), minor unmarried children, and the parent of a temporary protection beneficiary under 18 years of age. These family members are usually granted temporary protection at KACPU immediately upon registration, provided that all required conditions are met and no technical or administrative obstacles arise.

Other close relatives (e.g., unmarried partners) who lived in the same household before the forced displacement may be granted temporary protection only in exceptional cases, based on the discretionary assessment of the Mol. Applications for temporary protection of other close relatives are lodged at the OAMP offices, and the MOI has 60 days to issue the decision, although this deadline is not always respected in practice.

2. Family reunification beyond the Temporary Protection Directive

Temporary protection beneficiaries in the Czech Republic may also request family reunification through other national/EU residence pathways beyond the Temporary Protection Directive. Two main options exist:

1. **Long-term residence for the purpose of family reunification.** Eligible family members (i.e., spouse, minor or financially dependent adult children, or persons dependent on the care of another person) of a foreigner with a residence permit to stay in the Czech Republic may apply after six months of the temporary protection beneficiary's residence in the Czech Republic. The application requires submission of the following documents: valid passport, photograph, proof of accommodation, proof of family relationship, evidence of financial means to cover the stay (e.g., employment income), and later proof of health insurance. Applications are submitted in person at the Mol's OAMP office. If granted, the residence for the purpose of family reunification is fixed for three years and cannot be changed during that period. Key implications include that family members are not automatically covered by public health insurance and lose eligibility for humanitarian benefits.
2. **Temporary residence as a family member of an EU citizen.** Close family members of EU citizens (i.e., spouse, children under 21 years of age, or their parents) may apply for temporary residence from within the Czech Republic. Unlike the long-term family reunification route, proof of income is not required, although the same documents as above must be submitted. Health insurance and benefit entitlements are the same as under the long-term family reunification pathway.

Mixed-nationality or mixed-ethnicity families are treated under the same rules, with no differentiated treatment beyond the standard residence-law requirements.

Upon arrival, family members must register with the immigration authorities, provide biometric data, and submit supporting documents. Health insurance and accommodation must be confirmed, and the residence permit is issued based on the approved application.

Family members receive either a long-term residence permit for the purpose of family reunification or a temporary residence permit as an EU family member, depending on the procedure. Their status is derivative, tied to the residence permit holder or the EU citizen, and rights differ from those of temporary protection beneficiaries, particularly regarding social support, public health insurance, and humanitarian aid.

C. Movement and mobility

Temporary protection beneficiaries in the Czech Republic are generally free to move within the national territory, as no formal territorial restrictions are imposed. However, beneficiaries must maintain their registered address for administrative purposes and for communication with authorities. If a temporary protection beneficiary does not have a registered address for more than 90 days, they would have their reported address as that of the Mol and the validity of their temporary protection will expire by law.²⁹ The beneficiary is not notified about this by the Mol.

Beneficiaries of temporary protection who hold valid travel documents can travel to other EU Member States for 90 out of 180 days under Schengen Borders Code.

Beneficiaries of temporary protection may temporarily return to Ukraine. However, available information indicates several practical and administrative challenges linked to such travel. Individuals are required to hold a valid passport, and travelling without a physical residence permit or visa sticker may result in delays or uncertainty upon re-entry. Although temporary protection itself does not explicitly prohibit short-term travel, absence from the Czech Republic may affect entitlement to certain benefits (e.g., social assistance, school enrolment, health insurance coverage), depending on the duration and documentation.

There is no evidence of a systematic refusal of entry for persons who have returned to Ukraine and subsequently sought to re-enter the Czech Republic. Reported issues appear isolated and primarily relate to inconsistent interpretation of acceptable documentation by border officials or situations in which beneficiaries travel with expired or incomplete documents. Where temporary protection status and travel documents remain valid, re-entry difficulties do not appear to constitute a structural trend.

National rules do not set a fixed maximum duration of absence that, if exceeded, would lead to the suspension or loss of the temporary protection status. Temporary absence alone does not affect the validity of protection, but related entitlements may be impacted. Absences exceeding 10 working days can influence eligibility for state-provided humanitarian accommodation or a child's school placement, while deregistration from public health insurance is possible only in cases of continuous stay in Ukraine for longer than six months. These provisions highlight the need for beneficiaries to notify relevant institutions before extended travel and to verify the implications of prolonged absence on their associated rights.

²⁹ Section 5(8)(e) of the Lex Ukraine.

D. Housing

Indicators: Housing

1. For how long are temporary protection beneficiaries entitled to stay in reception centres?
90 days for free, paid afterwards
2. Number of beneficiaries staying in State provided accommodation as of 12/2025: 1,894³⁰
3. Number of beneficiaries staying in private accommodation as of 12/2025: 395,379³¹

Applicants for temporary protection are required to present a valid proof of accommodation at the moment of application. In the absence of such documentation, applicants may be granted access to *state humanitarian accommodation*. This accommodation is provided free of charge for the first 90 days following the issuance of temporary protection. State humanitarian accommodation is offered in hostels, dormitories, converted recreational facilities, and in private flats registered in the State Humanitarian Accommodation System (HUMPO).

Since 1 January 2024, *state humanitarian accommodation* is provided only by the Regional Assistance Centre for Ukraine (KACPU) in Ostrava. Therefore, applicants for temporary protection who wish to receive *state humanitarian accommodation* have to travel there. Beneficiaries can be assigned accommodation in any region of Czech Republic (depending on the capacity of the accommodation facilities registered in HUMPO), although personal reasons such as family mergers or university studies are considered by the authorities at KACPU Ostrava when determining the location of *state humanitarian accommodation*. KACPU in Ostrava operates on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and in other days, temporary protection applicants from Ukraine can stay in a *short-term shelter*.

Short-term shelters can be used by those applicants for temporary protection who arrive to the Czech Republic outside KACPU office hours and do not have arranged accommodation while waiting for KACPU offices to open. Short-term shelter operates around the clock and is provided to the beneficiaries at the same address as KACPU OSTRAVA: náměstí Jiřího z Poděbrad 807/14, 703 00 Ostrava. However, before June 2025, the short-term shelter was available at a different place in Havířov (17 km from Ostrava).

Persons granted temporary protection are eligible to request *state humanitarian accommodation* (as described above, free for 90 days) and to apply for the *humanitarian allowance* and other reception-related supports and rights such as free health insurance for the first 90 days. However, access to free state accommodation is time-limited under current rules (i.e., it is free for 90 days). After 90 days, the beneficiaries can stay in the accommodation facilities as self-payers. Once this period of 90 days is over, the humanitarian allowance of those who used the *state humanitarian accommodation* is increased so they can financially support themselves if jobless. The humanitarian allowance for accommodation is 4,000 Kč (around 165 EUR) or 6,000 Kč (around 247 EUR) for vulnerable people (i.e., children, seniors, people with disability pensions, pregnant and breastfeeding women, victims of domestic violence, and people caring for disabled children).

The main public bodies responsible for the provision of reception to beneficiaries of temporary protection are the MoI (registration, regional assistance centres - KACPU) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and its Labour Office (humanitarian allowance, unemployment benefits). Regional and municipal authorities coordinate local provision of reception conditions to temporary protection beneficiaries. International organisations and NGOs (e.g., IOM, UNHCR partners, and local NGOs) provide operational support and deliver complementary services (e.g., information, casework, referrals).

³⁰ Statistics on individuals assigned emergency housing in connection with the war in Ukraine, available [here](#).

³¹ Number of temporary protection beneficiaries (397,273 as of 1 December 2025) minus the number of beneficiaries staying in state humanitarian accommodation. Statistics on number of temporary protection beneficiaries as of 1 December 2025 available [here](#).

National rules provide for the reduction or withdrawal of material reception conditions, in particular access to *state humanitarian accommodation*, on several grounds.³² The entitlement to *state humanitarian accommodation* is automatically withdrawn if the beneficiary refuses the offered accommodation or fails to arrive at the assigned facility without a justified exception; if the person voluntarily leaves the accommodation or is expelled by the provider due to a breach of house rules; after the expiry of the statutory 90-day period from the granting of temporary protection; or if the beneficiary is absent from the facility for more than 10 days without prior written notification of the reason and expected duration of absence. Entitlement is also withdrawn if the beneficiary relocates to an accommodation that has not been allocated through the competent assistance centre or integration centre. Where a facility ceases to operate within the *state humanitarian accommodation* system, residents are informed by the provider and may be reassigned to another facility upon request through the competent integration centre.

There are no publicly available statistics regarding the exact number of places in *state humanitarian accommodation* facilities. With the changes of national legislation (amendments to *Lex Ukraine*) in the field of *state humanitarian accommodation*, the number of accommodated beneficiaries in HUMPO changed. For example, in 14 July 2024 there were over 12,000 beneficiaries, while on 6 October 2024 the same system showed only 756 registered beneficiaries accommodated.³³ The significant decrease in statistics was caused by changes in the field of *state humanitarian accommodation*, namely the shortening of the length of the period of time for which the state humanitarian accommodation was provided, from 150 to 90 days. This change was, however, balanced by the increase of the *humanitarian allowance*, as described above.

The Czech state historically reimbursed HUMPO accommodation at 250–350 CZK (approx. 10-14 EUR) per night, later standardized to 10,500 CZK (around 430 EUR) per month per person. Since legislative changes in 2024, these payments are restricted to the first 90 days of temporary protection, significantly reducing long-term state expenditures on humanitarian housing.³⁴ Because the state reimbursement of 10,500 CZK (approx. 430 EUR) to the accommodation providers in HUMPO is sufficient, some of the accommodation providers request for the beneficiaries to pay the same amount once the 90 days expires. This leads to a noticeable financial difficulty for the beneficiaries since the humanitarian allowance for housing is only 4,000 CZK which is approx. 165 EUR (6,000 CZK for vulnerable beneficiaries which is approx. 247 EUR). In bigger cities like Prague and Brno, the amount of humanitarian allowance for housing simply cannot cover the housing costs in cases where the beneficiary is jobless or cannot work.

Other obstacles regarding housing include lack of information/language barriers, difficulties in securing private rentals (deposit and contractual requirements), and administrative hurdles to register or claim *humanitarian allowance*. Vulnerable groups may face additional barriers despite legal entitlement. NGOs and assistance centres have attempted to mitigate these gaps, but capacity and integration into the private housing market remain practical bottlenecks.

Besides the free 90-days housing, other forms of reception conditions are provided to temporary protection beneficiaries:

- access to public health insurance (the state pays for insurance for 90 days from the granting of temporary protection);
- access to education;
- free access to the labour market, unemployment benefits;
- humanitarian allowance;
- in some municipalities, temporary protection beneficiaries can apply for municipal apartments and have discounts on waste payments.

³² Section 6b and following of the Lex Ukraine.

³³ Petr Svorník, "Uprchlíků z Ukrajiny, kteří žijí v bezplatném ubytování, významně ubylo" (*novinky.cz*, 14 October 2024), available [here](#).

³⁴ Consortium of non-governmental organizations working with migrants, *Změny v systému podpory uprchlíků od 1. 7. 2023: méně podpory pro uprchlíky i pro solidární domácnosti*, June 2023, available [here](#).

Private hosting models include: a) individual/family hosting — private Czech households host beneficiaries in their homes for short or longer terms (often voluntary, sometimes mediated by NGOs); b) private rental placements — beneficiaries rent flats on the private market, either independently or with NGO/municipal support (matching services, deposit schemes); and c) sponsored hosting — formalised schemes where hosts sign a written confirmation of accommodation that is used for registration purposes (the Mol's forms require specific documentation). Some NGOs have set up databases to match hosts and beneficiaries and to provide basic guidance to hosts.

Beneficiaries of temporary protection commonly use several private accommodation models beyond state humanitarian housing. These include standard private rentals through landlords or real-estate agencies, housing arranged by employers or commercial accommodation providers, and private hosting by individuals or families. After the reduction of free state humanitarian accommodation to 90 days, temporary protection beneficiaries were encouraged to seek private housing with the help of regional integration centres and NGOs. To support the transition into private housing, a number of non-profit programmes have been introduced.³⁵ For example: project “S Charitou jako doma”, implemented by the Diocesan Charity of České Budějovice under the AMIF programme, which provides assistance in searching for rental housing, accompanying clients to apartment viewings, helping with lease contracts, and offering one-off financial support to cover initial housing costs.

Before July 2023, private accommodators had to register their rental contract via HUMPO website and the accommodation providers directly received the financial support for the housing of beneficiaries. Since July 2023 when the changes in the HUMPO system happened, the reception in private accommodation is not organised by the State and the beneficiaries received the humanitarian allowance for housing to financially support their private housing. The state is involved by: (a) publishing information and guidance, (b) requiring/accepting certain formal documents for registration (e.g., a written confirmation of accommodation), and (c) providing financial support instruments (humanitarian allowance). There is no uniform nationwide statutory minimum/maximum time limit for private hosting comparable to the 90-day cap on state humanitarian accommodation, so duration is typically governed by private rental contracts.

Accommodation of temporary protection beneficiaries in private rentals or with private hosts is not organised by the State as part of the official humanitarian accommodation system since July 2023. The State is involved mainly through financial support — *humanitarian allowance* for housing provided directly to beneficiaries, who then rent accommodation from private landlords. Time limits apply only to *state humanitarian accommodation*, not to private rental arrangements.

A particular challenge arises in situations where private accommodation is provided without a rental contract (i.e., the host only issues a confirmation of accommodation) and the housing is linked to employment. In such cases, when the employment relationship ends — whether through dismissal or termination — beneficiaries often lose their accommodation very quickly. According to NGOs providing assistance to beneficiaries of temporary protection, such situations occur repeatedly in practice. This creates a heightened risk of dependency, vulnerability and potential exploitation. Safeguards to prevent such risks remain limited, especially in private accommodation models where no formal screening or vetting of hosts is required.

E. Employment and education

1. Access to the labour market

Beneficiaries of temporary protection have been guaranteed free access to the labour market since the introduction of temporary protection in Czechia.

³⁵ For example: project “S Charitou jako doma”, implemented by the Diocesan Charity of České Budějovice under the AMIF programme, which provides assistance in searching for rental housing, accompanying clients to apartment viewings, helping with lease contracts, and offering one-off financial support to cover initial housing costs. More information available [here](#).

For employment purposes, beneficiaries of temporary protection are considered foreigners with permanent residence permits who, by law, have the same employment conditions as citizens of the Czech Republic.

No special measures have been adopted for the recognition of foreign qualifications of temporary protection beneficiaries. Accordingly, they are treated as beneficiaries of permanent residence permits. Therefore, if a temporary protection holder wishes to pursue a profession requiring special professional qualifications, they must apply for a certificate of equivalence of their foreign qualification. Regional offices decide on the issuance of such certificates. A person benefiting from temporary protection for less than 12 months is exempt from the certificate fee for recognition of equivalence of basic, secondary, or higher vocational and university education.

No measures have been adopted to prevent the labour exploitation of temporary protection beneficiaries. Beneficiaries of temporary protection are a very vulnerable group in terms of potential labour exploitation. They have free access to the labour market, so their employment does not represent an administrative burden, as would be the case, for example, with beneficiaries of an employment card. In addition, some find it difficult to navigate their surroundings and are unaware of their rights. This leads to cases where employment is combined with accommodation in unsuitable conditions. In some cases, safety regulations are not observed in the workplace and employees are not provided with protective equipment.

2. Access to education

Beneficiaries of temporary under the age of 17 protection are required to commence compulsory school attendance or compulsory preschool education no later than 90 days from the date of granting temporary protection. This obligation cannot be replaced by online education, for instance. Compulsory schooling begins in the school year for children who reach the age of 6 by 31 August before the given school year. Compulsory schooling lasts for 9 years. However, it lasts at most until the end of the school year in which the student reaches the age of 17.

Act No. 67/2022 Coll. was adopted on measures in the field of education in connection with the armed conflict in Ukraine caused by the invasion of Russian Federation troops. The aim of the Act is to facilitate the entry of temporary protection beneficiaries into the Czech education system. This law allows for the suspension of certain rules generally applicable to Czech education, such as special adjustments to the educational content for temporary protection beneficiaries, the maximum number of children in a class, and the setting of deadlines and conditions for admission to or termination of studies. However, the law applies only to temporary protection beneficiaries, not to other legally residing third-country nationals.

Until 1 September 2024, Act No. 67/2022 Coll. allowed for the creation of purely Ukrainian classes in kindergartens, elementary or secondary schools, conservatories, or after-school clubs. However, this provision was repealed with the aim of strengthening the integration of Ukrainian students into the Czech community.

Holders of temporary protection who are also pupils with special needs must attend compulsory schooling. Pupils can fulfil their compulsory schooling in a regular school in the presence of a teaching assistant, or in a so-called special school for pupils with special educational needs.

However, Act No. 67/2022 Coll. does not introduce any special measures to make education more accessible. The only exception is a general provision that the headteacher of a kindergarten, elementary school, secondary school, conservatory, or higher vocational school may adjust the content of education for a person who has been granted temporary protection for less than 12 months in order to help that person adapt.

In the Czech Republic, it is generally possible to enrol in secondary or vocational education even after reaching the age of 18. Studying at state secondary and vocational schools is always free of charge.

A student and beneficiary of temporary protection may be admitted to secondary school, conservatory, or higher vocational school and enrolled in the first year of a program that has already begun. This measure aims to promote integration even outside compulsory schooling and to ease the situation for families (or unaccompanied minors) who obtain a residence permit in the Czech Republic after the date of regular enrolment in secondary schools, conservatories, or vocational schools.

F. Social welfare

Access to the Czech social security system is limited for beneficiaries of temporary protection. Beneficiaries are not entitled to state social support benefits (i.e., child allowance, parental allowance, housing allowance, childbirth allowance and funeral allowance), living allowance, or housing supplement. They are also not entitled to benefits for persons with disabilities (i.e., mobility allowance and special aid allowance) or to the issuance of a disability card. Finally, beneficiaries are not entitled to care allowance or substitute maintenance for a dependent child.

For benefits not listed above, the social security merit system usually applies – i.e., in order to receive benefits from the social security system, temporary protection beneficiaries are required to pay insurance contributions, and in some cases the law also requires a certain period of prior insurance contributions payments. Holders of temporary protection thus have access to the social insurance system (social and health insurance), but only if they work for a Czech employer who is required to pay social insurance contributions on their behalf, or if they pay these contributions themselves as self-payers. This system includes, for example, sickness benefits and maternity benefits.

This indicates that temporary protection beneficiaries do not have the same level of social welfare provided to them as legally residing third-country nationals. Even legally residing third-country nationals have varying access to the Czech social security system. For example, long-term visa beneficiaries have social security based entirely on their merits. As described above, their access to social security is usually linked to their employment by a Czech employer. Access to the social security system expands with the length of stay and expected integration. Third-country nationals with permanent residence in the Czech Republic have full access to the Czech social security system.

Access for temporary protection beneficiaries is generally similar to that for long-term visa beneficiaries – i.e., linked to employment with a Czech employer. The law implementing Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 into Czech law also introduces a special benefit for vulnerable temporary protection beneficiaries, known as a “humanitarian benefit”.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs assesses the eligibility of applicants for benefits. The relevant contact points for submitting applications are its subordinate organizations – i.e., Labor Offices and the Czech Social Security Administration.

The provision of social welfare is not generally tied to a requirement to reside in a specific place or region, with one exception. When applying for temporary protection for the first time, applicants who do not have their own accommodation are entitled to request state humanitarian accommodation. State humanitarian accommodation is granted for 90 days from the date of the first granting of temporary protection to a person. State humanitarian accommodation can only be requested at the Regional Assistance Center for Ukraine in Ostrava.

G. Health care

Persons with temporary protection are granted full access to public health insurance. In the Czech Republic, this includes emergency care as well as preventive medical care.

Holders of temporary protection are entitled to the same level of healthcare as legally residing third-country nationals. In short, the payer may be: (a) the State, or (b) the insured person themselves.

For a period of 90 days from the date of initial granting of temporary protection, its beneficiaries are automatically covered by public health insurance. Insurance premiums for them are paid by the State during this period.

After 90 days, it is assumed that temporary protection beneficiaries over the age of 18 and under the age of 65 in the Czech Republic will start working. They cease to be insured persons under the special provision on temporary protection and, for the purposes of public health insurance, are regarded as foreigners with permanent residence in the country. They therefore continue to be insured under public health insurance.

The State also covers healthcare provided in the Czech Republic during the 60 days prior to the first granting of temporary protection. Furthermore, a child born in the Czech Republic to a foreigner who has been granted temporary protection is considered, for the purposes of public health insurance, to be a holder of temporary protection for a period of 60 days from birth, without actually being granted a visa. However, within 60 days after birth, the parents must apply for temporary protection for the child.

The biggest obstacle for temporary protection beneficiaries regarding access to healthcare in the Czech Republic is the language barrier, as most hospitals do not have Ukrainian-speaking staff. Temporary protection beneficiaries therefore often turn to social service providers or Ukrainian citizens who have been living in the Czech Republic for a long time and speak the language. Social workers or other Ukrainian citizens with legal residence then provide interpretation services for temporary protection beneficiaries.