

Temporary Protection Slovakia

2025 Update

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

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Temporary Protection Procedure

A. General

Title (EN)	Original Title (SK)	Web Link
Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum and on Amendments and Supplements to Certain Acts	Zákon č. 480/2002 Z. z. o azyle a o zmene a doplnení niektorých zákonov	https://www.slovlex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2002/480/?ucinost=26.02.2026
Government of the Slovak Republic No. 151/2024 Z. z. on the Provision of an Accommodation Allowance for Persons Leaving the Country	Nariadenie vlády 151/2024 Z. z. z 26. Júna 2024 o poskytovaní príspevku za ubytovanie odídenca	https://www.slovlex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2024/151/20250301

As of 31 December 2025, a total of 139,637 persons were registered as beneficiaries of temporary protection in Slovakia. This represents an increase compared to the previous year, when 131,696 persons held temporary protection status as of 31 December 2024.¹

B. Qualification for temporary protection

The personal scope of temporary protection in Slovakia is determined primarily by Government Resolution No. 185/2022 adopted pursuant to Article 29(2) of the Asylum Act.

Temporary protection is granted to three main categories of displaced persons:

First, Ukrainian nationals and their family members, provided that the family was present and residing in Ukraine prior to 24 February 2022. Family members include spouses, minor children of Ukrainian nationals or their spouses, parents of minor Ukrainian nationals, and other close relatives who lived in the same household and were wholly or partially dependent on the Ukrainian national.

Second, third-country nationals and stateless persons who were granted international protection or equivalent national protection in Ukraine before 24 February 2022, as well as their family members under similar conditions.

Third, third-country nationals who held permanent residence in Ukraine prior to 24 February 2022 and who are unable to return safely and permanently to their country or region of origin.

Eligibility for temporary protection in Slovakia is not conditioned on the date on which a person left Ukraine or entered the territory of Slovakia. Instead, eligibility depends primarily on whether the person falls within the categories defined by Government Resolution.

The Slovak implementation of temporary protection largely corresponds to the categories defined in Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 and does not introduce significant restrictions compared to the TPD.

Temporary protection applies to third-country nationals and stateless persons who were granted international protection or equivalent national protection in Ukraine prior to 24 February 2022, as well as their family members (spouses, minor children of the beneficiary or their spouse, parents of minor Ukrainian nationals, and other close relatives who lived in the same household and were wholly or partially dependent on the beneficiary). It also applies to third-country nationals who held permanent residence in

¹ BBFP PFP, *Štatistický prehľad legálnej a nelegálnej migrácie cudzincov v Slovenskej republike za rok 2025, 2026*, available (in Slovak) [here](#).

Ukraine before that date and who are unable to return safely and permanently to their country or region of origin.

Persons fleeing Ukraine who do not fall within the personal scope of the temporary protection regime may apply for international protection under the standard asylum procedure governed by Act on Asylum. This includes both refugee status asylum and subsidiary protection, depending on the individual circumstances of the applicant and the risk upon return.

In addition to international protection, individuals may in principle seek residence under general migration law, including temporary or tolerated stay under Act on the Residence of Foreigners. However, such residence statuses are generally not designed as protection mechanisms and may not be accessible in all cases involving forced displacement.

In practice, the asylum procedure has constituted the primary alternative protection pathway for persons fleeing Ukraine who were excluded from temporary protection, including certain categories of third-country nationals who had resided in Ukraine prior to the outbreak of the conflict but did not meet the eligibility criteria for temporary protection. Applications for international protection by such persons have been registered in Slovakia. HRL have provided legal assistance and representation to a number of applicants from this group in asylum proceedings before the Migration Office.

The temporal scope of temporary protection in Slovakia has been extended repeatedly through national implementing measures adopted in response to prolongations of temporary protection at EU level. Most recently, a government decision adopted in February 2025 extended the provision of temporary protection in Slovakia until 4 March 2027, in line with EU measures prolonging the TPD regime.

C. Access to temporary protection and registration

1. Admission to territory

No official reports, NGO publications, media articles, or documented testimonies were identified in 2025 indicating that persons fleeing Ukraine were systematically refused entry at the Slovak border. However, HRL encountered a small number of individual cases involving third-country nationals who had fled Ukraine and were denied entry to the territory of the Slovak Republic. These cases did not concern Ukrainian citizens and appeared to be exceptional rather than indicative of a broader practice. HRL addressed these situations on a case-by-case basis in cooperation with UNHCR and the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police, with the aim of ensuring access to protection procedures.

Access to the territory for persons fleeing Ukraine was significantly facilitated by the Slovak authorities following the outbreak of the war in 2022. Between 2022 and 2024, border authorities applied the humanitarian exception provided for under the Schengen Borders Code, allowing entry to persons fleeing the conflict even where they did not fully meet the standard entry conditions applicable to third-country nationals. This practice gradually changed around 2025. Without any publicly communicated policy shift, Slovak authorities appear to have ceased applying the humanitarian exception and have required persons arriving from Ukraine to comply with the standard entry conditions set out in the Schengen Borders Code and relevant national legislation.

2. Registration under temporary protection

The authority responsible for registering applications for temporary protection in Slovakia is the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, acting primarily through the Foreign Police departments of the Police Corps. The legal framework governing the procedure is set out in Articles 29–31 of Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum.

Under Article 30(1) of the Asylum Act, the procedure for granting temporary protection is initiated by a declaration made by the foreign national at a police department indicating that they request temporary

protection in the territory of the Slovak Republic. The declaration may be made either at the border crossing point upon entry into the territory or after entry at the competent police department according to the place of stay (Article 30(2)). The police authority records the declaration on an official form and forwards it without delay to the Ministry (Article 30(3)). Following the declaration, identity documents are collected, biometric data are taken, and documentation relevant to the assessment is transmitted to the Ministry (Article 30(4)).

The Ministry may subsequently conduct an interview to determine whether the applicant meets the conditions for temporary protection (Article 31(2)) and is required to decide within 30 days, with the possibility of extension in justified cases (Article 31(6)). If temporary protection is granted, no formal decision is issued; instead, the applicant receives a confirmation of tolerated stay (Article 31(10)).

In practice, the procedure has evolved since the beginning of the mass influx in 2022. Initially, large-scale registration centres operated near border crossings and in major cities. As of 2024, applications are processed exclusively at Foreign Police departments, and prior appointment through an online reservation system is generally required.

The legal framework allows foreign nationals to express their intention to apply for temporary protection at a border crossing point upon entry into the territory (Section 30(2)(a) of the Asylum Act). In such cases, the police authority records the declaration and forwards it to the Ministry without delay (Section 30(3)). Applicants should subsequently be transferred to a reception facility within 24 hours unless serious reasons prevent this or accommodation has been secured independently (Section 30(5)).

In practice, referral mechanisms have varied over time depending on operational capacity. During the initial phase of the response to the large number of arrivals from Ukraine, registration often took place directly at or near border locations through large-scale centres. In later phases, applicants have typically been referred to designated Foreign Police departments across the country. The introduction of mandatory appointment systems at police departments has added an additional procedural step in accessing registration in practice.

Applicants are required to provide personal data and documentation necessary for assessing eligibility for temporary protection. Pursuant to Section 31(1) of the Asylum Act, applicants must provide personal data to authorised Ministry staff within the scope specified by law. Identity documents, such as passports or other proof of identity, are typically required and may be retained temporarily by the police authority during the procedure (Section 30(4)).

In practice, authorities have accepted various types of documentation, particularly during the early stages of the influx, reflecting a flexible approach to evidentiary requirements. However, applicants without documents are more likely to be referred to a standard administrative procedure before the Migration Office, which may delay the granting of temporary protection.

Practice has also shown discrepancies between the legal framework and administrative practice. For example, although holding a residence permit or visa issued by another state is not a legal obstacle to granting temporary protection, some police departments have required applicants to demonstrate cancellation of such permits before registration.

Slovak legislation does not establish a specific time limit within which individuals must apply for temporary protection after entering the territory.

Following arrival at a reception facility, applicants may be issued an identity card of a foreign national applying for temporary protection until a final decision is taken (Section 31(5) of the Asylum Act).

If temporary protection is granted, no formal decision is issued; instead, the applicant receives confirmation of tolerated stay on the territory of the Slovak Republic, which constitutes their residence document (Section 31(10)). This document confirms lawful stay and enables access to rights linked to temporary protection.

Documentation formats have evolved since 2022, including transitions between paper confirmations and more standardised residence documents. Administrative errors in personal data recorded during registration may require subsequent correction by the authorities, which can create practical difficulties for beneficiaries.

Several practical challenges have been identified in relation to the registration of temporary protection applications.

At the structural level, organisational changes introduced after the initial emergency phase — including the requirement to obtain an appointment at Foreign Police departments — have created additional administrative steps that may affect timely access to registration.

Where the eligibility of an applicant cannot be determined during the initial registration process, for example due to the absence of identity documents or other uncertainties, the case is referred to an administrative procedure before the Migration Office. The Migration Office must decide on the application within 30 days. In duly justified cases, the time limit may be extended by a further 30 days and may be prolonged repeatedly where necessary.²

Differences between legal rules and administrative practice have also been reported. In some cases, police authorities have required cancellation of existing visas or residence permits despite the absence of a legal requirement to do so. Practical problems also arise in situations involving temporary protection granted in another EU Member State. Although this is not legally a barrier to obtaining protection in Slovakia, overlapping statuses may later lead to administrative complications, including withdrawal of status, which leads practitioners to advise applicants to cancel protection in the other Member State before applying in Slovakia. Additional practical difficulties include errors in personal data recorded during registration, delays in corrections of documents, and cases where institutions such as banks do not recognise updated documents lacking official stamps, despite their legal validity following automatic extensions.

The Slovak legal framework does not explicitly regulate a situation described as a “refusal of registration”. Instead, the law defines circumstances in which the procedure is not initiated or in which the Ministry may stop or reject the procedure.

Under Article 30(1) of the Asylum Act, the procedure is not initiated if certain conditions are met, including where temporary protection has not been declared by the government or where the person already holds a relevant protection or residence status. The law does not provide a specific remedy against a decision not to initiate the procedure.

Where proceedings are initiated but subsequently discontinued, Article 31(7) provides several grounds for discontinuation, including withdrawal of the application, departure from the territory, lack of cooperation, or other procedural reasons. According to Article 31(8), no administrative appeal (*rozklad*) is available against a decision discontinuing the procedure. Judicial review is limited, as certain discontinuation decisions are not subject to review by administrative courts, and the lodging of a judicial action does not have suspensive effect.

If the Ministry concludes that the applicant does not meet the conditions for temporary protection, the application may be rejected pursuant to Article 31(11). In such cases, general rules on judicial review under administrative law may apply, although the specific procedural guarantees are more limited than in the asylum procedure.

1. Legal assistance

² Article 31(6) of the Asylum Act.

Persons entitled to temporary protection in Slovakia do not have access to a state-funded legal aid scheme specifically designed for beneficiaries of temporary protection. Beneficiaries of temporary protection largely rely on legal assistance provided by non-governmental and international organisations.

Free legal assistance is primarily delivered through projects funded by international donors, EU funds, and humanitarian programmes. The main providers include the Human Rights League (HRL) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). To a more limited extent, legal information and counselling have also been provided by charitable organisations, such as the Greek Catholic Charity and the Slovak Red Cross.

In practice, legal assistance is offered through in-person consultations in major cities, particularly Bratislava, Košice, Prešov and Trnava. Service providers also make extensive use of remote counselling channels, including telephone consultations, online platforms and social media applications. Telegram has proven to be a particularly important communication tool due to its widespread use among displaced persons from Ukraine. For vulnerable individuals, including persons with reduced mobility, legal assistance has in some cases been provided directly in accommodation facilities or other locations where beneficiaries reside.

Although legal assistance is generally available throughout the country, several practical obstacles remain. Since legal aid services depend largely on project-based funding, their capacity is limited and may fluctuate over time. Geographic disparities also persist, as in-person legal counselling is concentrated primarily in larger urban centres. Furthermore, there is no dedicated state-funded institution mandated to provide free legal assistance to beneficiaries of temporary protection, which places significant responsibility on civil society and international organisations.

2. Information provision and access to NGOs

The legal framework governing temporary protection in Slovakia does not contain detailed provisions on the form or method through which beneficiaries of temporary protection must be informed about their rights, obligations and available services. While the relevant legislation establishes certain rights and entitlements associated with temporary protection, it does not specify comprehensive information-provision mechanisms, the format of information materials, or language requirements comparable to those existing in the asylum procedure.

In practice, the provision of information to beneficiaries of temporary protection has been largely carried out by international and non-governmental organisations. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has developed and disseminated general information materials for third-country nationals residing in Slovakia, covering topics such as residence, access to services and integration. In addition, targeted information materials have been prepared by civil society organisations to address specific integration-related issues faced by displaced persons from Ukraine.

For example, the Human Rights League, in cooperation with Mareena, developed information leaflets on access to housing and social services, including information on the state accommodation support scheme available to beneficiaries of temporary protection. Furthermore, the World Health Organization (WHO) prepared a “Health Booklet” outlining rights and obligations in the area of healthcare and providing practical guidance on access to medical services in Slovakia.

Information has been disseminated through a variety of channels, including printed leaflets, websites, social media platforms and direct counselling provided by NGOs and international organisations. Most information materials have been made available in Ukrainian and Slovak, and in some cases also in English.

No specific information is available indicating that Slovak authorities systematically provide information at border-crossing points on the possibility of applying for temporary protection or on the procedures for obtaining such status. HRL is not aware of any formal information provision mechanisms operating at border-crossing points in this regard.

Similarly, there is no information suggesting that interpretation services are routinely available at border-crossing points for the purpose of informing newly arriving persons about access to temporary protection. Furthermore, applications for temporary protection cannot be lodged at border-crossing points. Persons

wishing to obtain temporary protection must submit their application after entering the territory of Slovakia at the designated police departments responsible for processing temporary protection applications.

D. Guarantees for vulnerable groups

There is no specific identification mechanism in Slovakia to systematically assess and identify beneficiaries of temporary protection who may require special procedural guarantees due to vulnerability. Neither the legislation governing temporary protection nor the registration procedure includes a standardised vulnerability assessment. Questions relating to vulnerability, special needs, health conditions, experiences of violence, disability or other factors potentially affecting a person's ability to access rights and services are not part of the temporary protection application form or registration process.

In practice, vulnerability is taken into account in a limited number of administrative situations. For example, certain categories of persons may be exempted from the standard appointment system used by the police for submitting applications for temporary protection. Such exemptions are granted to children under the age of 18, persons over 65 years of age and persons with disabilities or serious health conditions. However, this approach remains narrowly focused and does not constitute a broader vulnerability assessment mechanism. For instance, parents or primary caregivers of young children do not automatically benefit from such exemptions solely on the basis of their caregiving responsibilities.

No state-run programme specifically targeting beneficiaries of temporary protection suffering from mental health problems, including torture survivors and traumatised persons fleeing Ukraine, was identified during the reference period. Access to mental health support has instead been provided primarily through non-governmental organisations and project-based initiatives.

One example is the Pathways project implemented by the League for Mental Health (Liga za duševné zdravie), which focused on providing psychological support and mental health services to young people from Ukraine living in Košice. In addition, the organisation operates the Ukrainian-language “Nezábudka” helpline, which offers psychological support and counselling to persons affected by displacement and the consequences of the war in Ukraine.

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? | 90 days/3 years/duration of TP |
| 2. How many residence permits were issued to beneficiaries from the activation of the Temporary Protection Directive until 31 December 2025? | 139 637 |

Pursuant to Article 36(8) of the Asylum Act, temporary protection holders are considered foreigners granted a tolerated stay. Tolerated stay constitutes one of the three types of residence available for third-country nationals under the Act on Residence of Foreigners, alongside temporary residence and permanent residence. In this case, tolerated stay is directly linked to the granting of temporary protection; that is, the termination of temporary protection simultaneously results in the termination of tolerated stay.

Format of residence permit

In case the application for temporary protection is well-founded, the MOI does not issue the decision on granting temporary protection, but the temporary protection beneficiary is provided with the tolerated stay certificate marked “DOČASNÉ ÚTOČISKO” (*Potvrdenie o udelení/predložení tolerovaného pobytu na území Slovenskej republiky s označením “DOČASNÉ ÚTOČIKO”*).³ The tolerated stay certificate has been printed on regular A4 paper, and it contains the holder’s facial photograph, his or her personal details, including identifier and personal number and a QR code to verify the validity of temporary protection.

In practice, the format of the tolerated stay certificate created significant challenges for temporary protection holders who wished to travel from Slovakia to other EU member states. Within the meaning of Article 2(16) of the Schengen Border Code (SBC), the tolerated stay certificate has not been issued in the uniform format laid down by Council Regulation (EC) No. 1030/2002, and residence cards issued in accordance with Directive 2004/38/EC. In addition, the Slovak Republic decided not to notify the European Commission of the tolerated stay certificate within the meaning of Article 39(1)(a) of the SBC. As the other EU member states have not recognised the tolerated stay certificate issued by the Slovak authorities, the temporary protection holders could not move freely within the Schengen zone on the grounds that they hold a valid residence permit in one of the EU Member states.⁴ (For details, see [Movement and Mobility](#))

Following the intensive advocacy of HRL towards the MOI SR, based on the amendment of the Act on Residence of Foreigners and Asylum Act effective from 15 December 2024, temporary protection holders are issued a residence permit in the EU uniform format (standard plastic cards). Temporary protection holders are still considered foreigners who have been granted a tolerated stay. What has changed is the format of the residence permit that may be issued to them, from A4 paper to a plastic card compliant with the EU standards.

Duration of the residence permit

Before the amendment allowing the change of the paper format of the tolerated stay certificate to a plastic card, the validity of the tolerated stay certificate has been connected to the duration of the temporary protection provided by the respective governmental decision.

With each extension of temporary protection, the validity of the corresponding certificates was automatically prolonged without any formal action required from the beneficiaries. Temporary protection holders could, on a voluntary basis, download and print updated tolerated stay certificates reflecting the extended validity period. This was facilitated through a dedicated [website](#) of the Ministry of Interior, where

³ A specimen of the tolerated stay certificate available [here](#).

⁴ Article 6(1)(b) of the SBC.

beneficiaries were required to enter their assigned identifier and personal number. In practice, many temporary protection holders took advantage of this option, as they encountered difficulties when presenting a residence permit showing an expired validity date. Many employers, banks, or educational institutions were not aware that the validity of tolerated stay certificates was automatically extended and requested a valid residence permit.

All paper formats of tolerated stay certificates issued **before 15 December 2024** are valid until the foreigner is issued with a tolerated stay certificate in a format of plastic card or until the cessation of temporary protection.⁵ Foreigners who were granted temporary protection before 15 December 2024 are not legally obliged to exchange the paper residence permit for a plastic card.

Foreigners who applied for temporary protection **on 15 December 2024 or later** and whose application is well-founded are provided with paper tolerated stay certificate valid for 90 days.⁶ Temporary protection holders must, within the 90-day period, apply for a plastic card. The validity of the plastic card expires upon the cessation of temporary protection, but in any case, no later than three years from its issuance.⁷ If the temporary protection holder did not apply for a plastic card within the 90-day period, the law does not foresee any sanctions. In practice, this is a relatively standard situation, as in order to apply for the issuance of a plastic card, a foreigner must first book an appointment with the foreign police department through the Mol SR's online reservation system. Due to the limited capacity of the BBFP PPF and persistent technical issues affecting the reservation system, many temporary protection holders are objectively unable to submit their application for a plastic card within the 90-day period.

According to national legislation, there is no provision prohibiting a foreigner who has been granted temporary protection in Slovakia from applying for temporary protection or another form of legal status in another country. However, if a foreigner is granted asylum or subsidiary protection on the grounds of serious harm by another EU Member State, or if another state grants the foreigner temporary protection or residence without a time limit, the temporary protection provided by Slovakia ceases *ex lege*.⁸

A foreigner may renounce temporary protection by submitting a written declaration to the MO.⁹ A signed written declaration renouncing temporary protection may be submitted either by email to a dedicated address¹⁰ or by post to the MO. The foreigner must also attach their tolerated stay certificate (original or copy) and a copy of their passport. According to the internal instructions of the Migration Office, temporary protection holders are not obliged to return paper-format tolerated stay certificates. In the case of tolerated stay certificates issued in the format of plastic cards, the provision of Article 111(1)(r) of the Act on Residence of Foreigners applies, under which the third-country national is obliged, without delay, to return an invalid residence card to the police department. Temporary protection ceases on the day the declaration was delivered to the Migration Office. The law does not prescribe a time limit within which the MO must record the cessation of temporary protection in the respective information systems. HRL is aware of cases in which the cessation of temporary protection has not been recorded in the systems for several weeks following the submission of a written declaration renouncing temporary protection. This practice complicates the situation of individuals who wish to access temporary protection in other countries, as some of these countries grant temporary protection only if the applicant does not hold temporary protection in any other country.¹¹

Renouncing temporary protection in Slovakia does not constitute a ground preventing a foreigner from re-applying for the temporary protection status, even repeatedly.

During the first months of providing temporary protection, the various foreign police departments did not follow a uniform approach in case of foreigners who fell within the personal scope of temporary protection

⁵ Article 54j of the Asylum Act.

⁶ Article 31(10) of the Asylum Act and Article 59(15) of the Act on Residence of Foreigners.

⁷ Article 73(13) of the Act on Residence of Foreigners.

⁸ Article 32(1)(e)(f)(g) of the Asylum Act.

⁹ Article 32(1)(d) of the Asylum Act.

¹⁰ po.mu@minv.sk.

¹¹ Based on HRL's experience.

but had some form of visa or residence provided in another country. Based on the official statement sent to HRL by the MO via email on 19. October 2022, if a foreigner has been granted a visa, residence permit, or temporary protection by another state, regardless of whether these legal statuses are still valid, this does not constitute an obstacle to providing them with temporary protection in Slovakia.

2. Access to asylum and other legal statuses

Foreigners eligible for temporary protection can apply for asylum. Such asylum applications are examined under regular time limits provided in the Act on Asylum. There has been no suspension of the examination of asylum applications submitted by Ukrainian nationals and other third-country nationals eligible for temporary protection. Similarly, persons provided with temporary protection may also apply for asylum. In such cases, the temporary protection status ceases *ex lege* from the moment the asylum application is lodged.¹²

In the rare cases when a foreigner applies for temporary protection but is not provided with the status immediately, the foreigner still has the right to apply for asylum. In such cases, the MO discontinues the proceedings for granting the temporary protection.¹³

The following table shows the number of asylum applications submitted by Ukrainian nationals since 2022:¹⁴

Number of asylum applications submitted by Ukrainian nationals					
	Asylum applications	Asylum	Subsidiary Protection	Negative Decision	Discontinuation of Asylum Procedure
2022	154	0	13	2	136
2023	32	1	23	3	9
2024	31	0	10	3	14
2025	40	0	13	3	21
TOTAL	257	1	59	11	180

The relatively high number of decisions discontinuing asylum procedures concerning applicants from Ukraine suggests that many applicants, at a later stage of the procedure, choose to withdraw their asylum applications to apply for temporary protection or another form of legal status. It may also indicate that some applicants leave Slovakia before a final decision on their asylum application is issued, either to move to another EU Member State or to return to Ukraine.

All temporary protection holders have the right to apply for a regular residence permit (temporary or permanent), provided that they meet the relevant legal requirements. The temporary protection ceases *ex lege* moment once the residence permit is granted (not the moment of submitting the application for temporary/permanent residence)¹⁵. As a rule, applications for temporary or permanent residence must be submitted from abroad at a Slovak embassy. Articles 31(3) and 44(1) of the Act on Residence of Foreigners provide an exhaustive list of exemptions allowing applications for temporary and permanent residence to be submitted also within the territory of Slovakia at the competent foreign police department. Following an amendment to the Act on Residence of Foreigners, effective from 15 July 2024, all temporary protection holders can apply for temporary or permanent residence from within Slovakia. Before this amendment, temporary protection holders could apply for temporary or permanent residence only if they were third-country nationals exempted from the visa requirement, which mostly concerns Ukrainian nationals holding biometric passports.

¹² Article 32(1)(c) of the Asylum Act.

¹³ Article 31(7)(d) of the Asylum Act.

¹⁴ The data is publicly available [here](#).

¹⁵ Article 32(1)(c) of the Asylum Act.

B. Family reunification

1. Family reunification as provided under the Temporary Protection Directive

Family Reunification under the Asylum Act

The TPD was transposed to the national legal order by the Asylum Act, effective from 1 May 2004. According to Article 31a of the Asylum Act, the MoI provides temporary protection for the purpose of family reunification to:

- (1) the spouse of the temporary protection holder, if their marriage continues, and continued, also at the time when the foreigner left the country of origin, and if the temporary protection holder gives a prior written consent to the reunification
- (2) the unmarried children of the temporary protection holder and the unmarried children of the temporary protection holder's spouse who are not 18 years of age
- (3) other close relatives if they lived in a common household with the temporary protection holder and were totally or partially dependent on him or her.

Family Reunification under the governmental decision No. 185/2022 from 16 March 2022

Article 31a of the Asylum Act on the provision of temporary protection for family reunification is not applied in practice. The temporary protection to family members is provided on the ground of the governmental resolution no. 185/2022 from 16 March 2022,¹⁶ defining, inter alia, the personal scope of the temporary protection. In accordance with point B.1 of the resolution, temporary protection is also provided to family members of the Ukrainian citizens on the condition that the family lived in Ukraine before 24 February 2022. The resolution defines the family members of Ukrainian nationals as:

- (1) a spouse of a Ukrainian citizen
- (2) a minor child of a Ukrainian citizen or a minor child of a Ukrainian citizen's spouse
- (3) a parent of a minor child who is a Ukrainian citizen
- (4) other close relative of the Ukrainian citizen who lived in a common household at the time and was wholly or partly dependent on him or her.

Third-country nationals who have been granted temporary protection based on their family ties with a Ukrainian citizen are entitled to the same rights and benefits as temporary protection holders holding Ukrainian citizenship. Temporary protection status of Ukrainian family members is not dependent on the status of their sponsor. The procedure for granting temporary protection to family members of Ukrainian citizens is similar, with the distinction that family members must provide evidence of (1) their family relationship and (2) the fact that the family was residing in Ukraine before 24 February 2022. The law does not specify the documents that must be submitted for this purpose. In practice, applicants typically provide birth or marriage certificates to prove their family relationship with a Ukrainian citizen. The fact that the family resided in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 is usually documented by a Ukrainian residence permit, employment contract, lease agreement, or other similar documents. Applicants have not been required to legalise and/or to translate the documents they present in the procedure for granting the temporary protection.

An application for temporary protection may be submitted only from the territory of Slovakia, including in the case of family members of Ukrainian citizens. There is no possibility of submitting such an application at a Slovak embassy abroad.

HRL has been assisting a Ukrainian woman who arrived in Slovakia shortly after the outbreak of the full-scale invasion. She arrived in Slovakia alone as her husband, an Egyptian citizen, was at that time in Egypt. Despite the fact that he is also eligible for temporary protection as a spouse of Ukrainian citizen he has not been provided the status yet, because the application for temporary protection must be submitted from Slovakia. As a third-country national from Egypt, he is subject to a visa requirement to

¹⁶ Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 185 of 16 March 2022, available (in Slovak) [here](#).

enter Slovakia. Currently, the national legislation does not provide for any type of visa for the reunification of family members of temporary protection holders, as is the case with family members of asylum holders or holders of subsidiary protection (see [Country Report – Family Reunification](#)). He applied for a national visa (type D) at the Slovak Embassy in Cairo, which was rejected. He challenged the decision at the Administrative Court in Bratislava, arguing that Slovakia did not transpose the TPD correctly, as there is no effective family reunification procedure in place. As of the date of publication of this report, the administrative court has not ruled yet.

2. Family reunification beyond the Temporary Protection Directive

Family reunification under the Act on Residence of Foreigners

In addition to temporary protection, family members of Ukrainian citizens may also be granted temporary residence for the purpose of family reunification under the Act of Residence of Foreigners,¹⁷ provided that they meet all the conditions laid down by law. However, the temporary residence for the purpose of family reunification can be granted to a third-country national only if the sponsor has already been granted temporary or permanent residence in Slovakia. Given that temporary protection holders are granted, together with a protection status, a residence only in the form of tolerated stay, the family reunification procedure based on the Act on Residence of Foreigners is relevant only for a selected group of families from Ukraine. The definition of a family member eligible for a temporary residence under Article 27 of the Act on Residence of Foreigners is broader than provided in the Asylum Act and the governmental resolution No. 185/2022. Article 27(2) of the Act on Residence of Foreigners defines a family member eligible for temporary residence for the purpose of family reunification as:

- (1) a spouse, if the spouse reached 18 years of age,
- (2) an unmarried child under 18 years of age of the person granted temporary or permanent residence and/or of his or her spouse,
- (3) a dependent unmarried child older than 18 years of age of a person with granted temporary or permanent residence and/or of his or her spouse, unable to take care of themselves due to a long-term unfavourable health condition,
- (4) a parent of a person with granted temporary or permanent residence or of his or her spouse who is dependent on his or her care and lacks appropriate family support in the country of origin.

In view of the fact that persons granted temporary residence for the purpose of family reunification are not under the temporary protection, they are not entitled to the same rights and benefits which are associated with this protection status. Their residence rights depend on the residence of their sponsor. If the sponsor loses the residence permit in Slovakia, it may result in the cancellation of the residence of the reunited family member. Applicants for temporary residence for family reunification must provide, apart from the evidence of their family relationship with a sponsor, also a criminal record statement, proof of accommodation and pay administrative fees.¹⁸

C. Movement and mobility

Beneficiaries of temporary protection have freedom of movement within the territory of Slovakia and no territorial restrictions are applied.

Beneficiaries of temporary protection have freedom of movement towards other EU Member States or third countries. Leaving the territory of Slovakia is not a ground for cessation or withdrawal of temporary protection. Temporary protection may cease *ex lege* only if the person is granted asylum, subsidiary protection, residence for an unlimited time or temporary protection (For details see [Status and Residence: Residence Permit](#)).

Nevertheless, the holders of temporary protection have been facing problems with travelling to other EU Member States in practice. Due to the fact that a tolerated stay certificate in a paper format is not issued

¹⁷ Art. 27 of the Act on Residence of Foreigners.

¹⁸ Details are provided in Article 32 of the Act on Residence in Foreigners.

in an EU unified format of residence permit, and Slovakia did not notify the European Commission according to the Article 39(1)(a) of the SBC, other EU Member States do not recognise a tolerated stay certificate as a residence permit. In case of Ukrainian nationals who can no longer benefit from the visa-free regime, because they have been staying in the Schengen zone for more than 90 days in a 180-day period, they were refused entry in other EU Member States for the reason of not having a valid visa or residence permit. The described problem was partially resolved when the BBFP PPF started to issue tolerated stay certificates also in an EU unified format – plastic cards (For details see [Status and Residence: Residence Permit](#)).

Beneficiaries of temporary protection may also return to Ukraine without losing the temporary protection. The law does not prescribe any period upon the expiry of which temporary protection would terminate. This means that the temporary protection of persons who returned to Ukraine is valid until the termination of the provision of temporary protection. Those persons may also return to Slovakia and continue to enjoy the rights and benefits associated with the temporary protection. Based on Article 12(1)(2) of the Act on Residence of Foreigners, the border police cannot, without any exceptions, refuse entry to a person who has been granted temporary protection. HRL is not aware of any case in which the police refused entry to Slovakia of a temporary protection holder.

Even though the departure from Slovakia to Ukraine, another EU Member State or a third country does not affect the temporary protection status, it may affect the eligibility for different social benefits. For example, in case a temporary protection holder resides abroad for more than 30 consecutive days, they lose entitlement to material need assistance (See [Social welfare](#)).

D. Housing

Indicators: Housing

1.	For how long are temporary protection beneficiaries entitled to stay in reception centres?	60 days / vulnerable persons unlimited
2.	Number of beneficiaries staying in reception centres as of 12/25	38
3.	Number of beneficiaries staying in private accommodation as of 12/25	n/a

Since the outbreak of the full-scale invasion in Ukraine, all forms of accommodation have been available for persons fleeing Ukraine, including:

- short-term accommodation in tent towns located near the border or registration centres,
- medium-term accommodation provided in asylum facilities, state-run accommodation facilities or accommodation facilities operated by commercial entities
- long-term accommodation provided by private owners.¹⁹

Access to accommodation for beneficiaries of temporary protection is regulated by the Asylum Act and governmental resolutions. Temporary protection holders are entitled to (1) be accommodated at asylum facilities under the Migration Office or (2) to an accommodation allowance that is paid directly to the accommodation provider.

Accommodation at asylum facilities

Accommodation of temporary protection holders in asylum facilities is guaranteed by Article 36(2) of the Asylum Act. The maximum length of stay in an asylum facility is 60 days from the first granting of temporary protection in Slovakia.²⁰ In the case of vulnerable persons, the maximum duration of their accommodation in asylum facilities is set at six months, with the possibility of (repeated) extension upon their request. A vulnerable person is defined as:

¹⁹ EMN, *The Application of the Temporary Protection Directive: Challenges and Good Practices in 2023 – contribution of the Slovak Republic* November 2023, available [here](#), 10.

²⁰ Article 36(2) of the Asylum Act.

- (1) a person who has reached 65 years of age,
- (2) a single parent caring for a child under five years of age, or a person who personally cares for a child under five years of age based on a court decision, or
- (3) a child under five years of age of the person referred in point (2).²¹

Material reception conditions may be withdrawn from the temporary protection beneficiaries if (1) their temporary protection ceased, (2) they did not apply for extension of accommodation, or their request for extension was denied, or (3) they seriously breached the internal rules of the asylum facility.²²

Originally, when the provision of temporary protection was declared, there were no limitations on how long temporary protection beneficiaries could stay accommodated in the asylum facilities. The first limitation became effective on 1 July 2024, and it restricted the maximum stay to 120 days after the first granting of the temporary protection. Since 1 March 2025, a maximum 60-day period has been applied. These limitations have never applied to vulnerable persons defined by the Asylum Act, who may stay in an asylum facility for 6 months with possible repeated extensions.

The asylum facility used for accommodating the temporary protection holders has been the Humenné Reception Centre. In March 2026 all accommodated temporary protection holders were moved from the Humenné Reception Centre to accommodation camps in Rohovce (for single men) and in Opatovská Nová Ves (for women, families and other vulnerable groups). The Humenné Reception Centre is no longer used for accommodating temporary protection applicants or beneficiaries.

Accommodation allowance

Two days after the commencement of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, on 26 February 2022, a new amendment of the Asylum Act entered into force, which introduced a new provision of Article 36a, which regulates the conditions for providing the allowance for accommodating the temporary protection holders.

The accommodation allowance is paid to an accommodation provider by the MoI through the municipality in whose territorial district the temporary protection holder is accommodated. The rules governing the accommodation allowance have changed several times already. In 2025²³, persons eligible for accommodation allowance include:

- (1) natural person who owns a dwelling – the accommodation allowance is provided at a rate of **€5 per night per person**, with the **maximum monthly allowance for all persons accommodated in the dwelling ranging from €390 to €900**,²⁴ depending on the number of habitable rooms.²⁵
- (2) a municipality or self-governing region that provides accommodation directly or through their budgetary or contributory organisations - the accommodation allowance is provided at a rate of **€6 per night per person**. The maximum allowance is not set.²⁶

In both cases, the accommodation must be provided free of charge; otherwise, the accommodation allowance shall not be paid.²⁷

²¹ Article 36(3) of the Asylum Act.

²² Article 36(7) of the Asylum Act.

²³ Until 1 July 2024, legal persons providing free-of-charge accommodation to temporary protection holders outside of their business activities could also receive the accommodation allowance.

²⁴ Over the period during which the accommodation allowance has been provided, the rates have changed several times. Initially, the accommodation allowance was set at EUR 7 per night for a person over 15 years of age and €3.50 per night for a person under 15 years of age. As of 16 June 2022, the rates were increased to €8 per night (€4 per night in the case of children under 15 years of age). A further increase entered into force on 1 October 2022, setting the rates at €10 per night (€5 per night in the case of children under 15 years of age). As of 1 March 2024, the accommodation allowance has been provided at a flat rate of €5 per night, regardless of the age of the accommodated person.

²⁵ Article 1(2) of the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 151/2024 Coll. On the provision of allowance for accommodating a temporary protection holder.

²⁶ Article 1(3) of the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 151/2024 Coll. On the provision of allowance for accommodating a temporary protection holder.

²⁷ Article 36a(4) of the Asylum Act.

Similarly to the case of the accommodation in the asylum facilities, the allowance for the accommodation of temporary protection holders was initially provided for an unlimited time, then it was reduced to 120 days from the first granting of the temporary protection, and as of 1 March 2025, the allowance is provided only during the first 60 days from the first granting of the temporary protection. There are no time limitations on the provision of allowance for vulnerable temporary protection holders. In this case, the definition of a vulnerable person eligible for accommodation allowance is broader than in the case of accommodation in asylum facilities, and it covers:

- 1) a person who has reached 65 years of age,
- (2) a single parent caring for a child under five years of age, or a person who personally cares for a child under five years of age based on a court decision, or
- (3) a child under five years of age of the person referred in point (2),
- (4) a member of a household that receives material need assistance,**
- (5) a person with severe disability receiving a humanitarian aid subsidy.²⁸**

Apart from the accommodation allowance scheme administered by the MoI SR, landlords providing accommodation as part of their business activities (e.g. hotels, guesthouses, etc.) were also eligible to receive an allowance for accommodating holders of temporary protection. This scheme fell within the competence of the Ministry of Transport of the Slovak Republic and was terminated on 30 June 2024. The legal basis for the provision of the allowance was Article 27k of Act No. 91/2010 Coll. on the Promotion of Tourism, as well as governmental resolutions setting the rate of the allowance and further details concerning its payment. The provision of accommodation to holders of temporary protection could, but was not required to, be provided free of charge.

Based on the HRL's experience, the main challenges for beneficiaries of temporary protection when accessing the accommodation identified were the following:

- Humenné Reception Centre is located in a small regional city at the very eastern part of Slovakia, with limited opportunities for long-term integration.
- The absence of an effective system for monitoring the quality of private accommodations and verifying the profiles of landlords providing such accommodations, which creates a risk of abuse and exploitation, particularly of vulnerable groups of temporary protection holders.
- No availability for affordable long-term social housing.
- Abuse of the accommodation allowance scheme by landlords who received payments despite temporary protection holders not residing in their dwellings, or who demanded additional informal payments despite their obligation to provide accommodation free of charge.

E. Employment and education

1. Access to the labour market

The access of temporary protection holders to the labour market is regulated primarily by the Act No. 5/2004 Coll. On Employment Services (Employment Services Act).

Beneficiaries of temporary protection have free access to the labour market in Slovakia.²⁹ No work authorisation (a confirmation on the possibility of filling a vacancy corresponding to highly qualified employment, or a confirmation on the possibility of filling a vacancy, or a work permit) is required. Similarly to the employment of other third-country nationals, employers are obliged to notify the OLSAF within 7 working days of the commencement and termination of employment by submitting the information card.³⁰ The employer must also attach to the information card a copy of the employment contract or agreement and a copy of the tolerated stay certificate.

²⁸ Art. 36a(2) of the Asylum Act.

²⁹ Art. 23a(1)(k) of the Employment Services Act.

³⁰ Art. 23b(2) of the Employment Services Act.

Thanks to the amendment of the Asylum Act adopted shortly after the commencement of the full-scale invasion in Ukraine, free access to the labour market is guaranteed also for Ukrainian nationals and their family members who applied for asylum.³¹ They are allowed to be employed without the need of any permit from the day of submitting the asylum application. The transitional provision allowing this is valid only during the extraordinary and crisis situation (*mimoriadna situácia*) in connection with the mass influx of foreigners to the territory of Slovakia, declared on 26 February 2022. As of publishing the report, the extraordinary and crisis situation has not been revoked. Normally, asylum applicants may start working after 6 months from the commencement of the asylum procedure and only after receiving a work permit from the determining authority.³²

Beneficiaries of temporary protection can work on the basis of an employment contract or on the basis of agreements on work performed outside the employment relationship. Generally, they are entitled to equal treatment in employment relationships as Slovak nationals.

In connection with the war in Ukraine, several legislative amendments have been adopted since 2022, which have simplified the process of recognition of education and professional qualifications. Generally, if a temporary protection holder for reasons related to his or her displacement is unable to provide certain documents required in the recognition procedure, it is recommended to provide all documents available (including ordinary copies, scans, or photographs). If it is not possible to submit any of the mandatory documents, it may be replaced by a hand-signed solemn declaration. Each application is assessed on an individual basis.³³ Further simplification of recognition procedures primarily concerned teachers and healthcare professionals.³⁴

In 2022 and 2023, labour offices implemented the projects “Helping Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection – Counselling” (*Pomáhame odídencom – poradenstvo*) and “Helping Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection” (*Pomáhame odídencom*), under which a range of measures and services specifically targeted at displaced persons were available. These projects aimed to improve their employability and integration into the labour market through so-called active labour market measures.

Within the framework of the project “Helping Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection – Counselling”, the OLSAFs provided displaced persons with counselling services, including assistance in job searching and the provision of information on employment opportunities on the Slovak labour market. Job-search assistance included, inter alia, assessing the displaced person’s professional goals, matching them with labour market opportunities, support in contacting potential employers, assistance in drafting a CV and motivation letter, and information on available active labour market measures. Each temporary protection holder was entitled to nine hours of counselling services, delivered in three in-person sessions of three hours each. For each counselling session attended, the displaced person might receive a financial contribution to cover meals and travel expenses, with the total amount for all three sessions capped at €13.38.³⁵

Within the framework of the “Helping Displaced Persons” project, four specific measures are available, namely: (1) Education and training for displaced persons, (2) Support for labour mobility, (3) Voluntary activities, and (4) Workplace integration with an employer.³⁶

Job counselling for temporary protection holders is also provided by various NGOs (SHC, Mareena, Tenenet, SME Spolu, etc.) and IOM through their Migration Information Centres. In addition, IOM was

³¹ Art. 54f of the Asylum Act.

³² Article 23(6) of the Asylum Act.

³³ MoESRS, *Špecifické postupy pre držiteľov odborných kvalifikácií z tretích štátov* available (in Slovak) [here](#).

³⁴ For further information see: HRL, *Dočasné útočisko v podmienkach Slovenskej republiky – 1. Rok* August 2024, available (in Slovak) [here](#).

³⁵ HRL, *Dočasné útočisko v podmienkach Slovenskej republiky – 1. Rok* August 2024, available (in Slovak) [here](#), 47-49.

³⁶ For more information about each measure see: HRL, *Dočasné útočisko v podmienkach Slovenskej republiky – 1. Rok* August 2024, available (in Slovak) [here](#), 45-46.

providing financial support to temporary protection holders to participate in education, upskilling, and language courses. A specific category of highly qualified beneficiaries may receive financial support for the recognition of their education and professional qualifications, as well as for completing supplementary examinations required for health professions.³⁷

On the other hand, beneficiaries of temporary protection are not allowed to be included in the register of job seekers, thus they are unable to fully benefit from the services provided to unemployed persons seeking a job.

As of December 2025, there were 28,727 beneficiaries of temporary protection employed in Slovakia (employment contract or one of the agreements on work performed outside the employment relationship).³⁸ The three most frequently performed occupations were:

- (1) Elementary occupations and unskilled workers (10,040 employees),
- (2) Plant and machine operators and assemblers (8,160 employees),
- (3) Service and sales workers (4,178 employees).³⁹

The following table provides a comparison of the number of employed temporary protection holders with other years:⁴⁰

Number of employed TP beneficiaries	
(As of December)	Number of employed TP beneficiaries
2022	15,112
2023	20,931
2024	24,832
2025	28,727

As a response to the start of war in Ukraine, the National Labour Inspectorate created a special [sub-page](#) on their website dedicated to Ukrainian workers, where they have published bilingual (Slovak-Ukrainian) information about the selected rights of employees in Slovakia as a preventive measure for labour exploitation. In addition, the National Labour Inspectorate, in cooperation with the European Labour Authority, published a Slovak and Ukrainian language [Guidebook “Legal Work and Employment”](#).

As a result of the incorrect transposition of the TPD (Article 12 of the TPD) into Slovak law, holders of temporary protection were previously unable to engage in self-employed activities. Under Article 59(4) of the Act on Residence of Foreigners, in force until 14 July 2024, third-country nationals granted a tolerated stay (including temporary protection holders) were prohibited from operating a business. Following advocacy by national NGOs and international organisations, the provision was amended, and holders of temporary protection are now permitted to operate their own business or engage in self-employment under a trade license. As of March 2024, there were, in total, 282,247 trade licenses issued to Ukrainian nationals.⁴¹

2. Access to education

Access of temporary protection holders to education is regulated primarily by the Act No. 245/2008 Coll. On Education and Schooling (The School Act).

³⁷ EMN, *The Application of the Temporary Protection Directive: Challenges and Good Practices in 2023 – contribution of the Slovak Republic* November 2023, available [here](#), 13.

³⁸ Official response of the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (No. UPS/USI/OPS/ INF/2026/56 2026/25605) from 10 February 2026 to a request for information submitted on 6 February 2026.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Official response of the Mol (No. KM-TO2-2024/003986-006) from 23 September 2022 to a request for information submitted on 12 September 2024.

According to Article 42(1) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, everyone has the right to education. School attendance is compulsory. Its length up to the age limit shall be fixed by law. According to the School Act, children of foreigners with a residence permit in Slovakia are provided with education and training, accommodation and meals in schools under the same conditions as Slovak citizens.⁴² There are three types of residence provided in Slovakia to third-country nationals: (1) permanent residence, (2) temporary residence, and (3) tolerated stay. Considering that temporary protection holders are regarded as foreigners with tolerated stay, beneficiaries of temporary protection shall also enjoy access to education.

The MoERDY has prepared a guide for principals of kindergartens, primary and secondary schools entitled *A child from a war zone of another country comes to our school. What should I do as a school principal? The guide contained a definition of 'foreigner'* and, like the School Act, it provides that 'if it is a primary school or secondary school established by a municipality, a self-governing region or a regional office of school administration, education and training shall be provided free of charge to such children.'

Even though education and training should be provided equally to every child in Slovakia, including children who are foreigners, after 24 February 2022, it was obvious that schools were not prepared for the mass influx of refugee children who had obtained a residence permit in Slovakia. According to Article 146(4) of the School Act, children of foreigners without permanent residence are enrolled in the appropriate year by the headmaster after their previous education and mastery of the language is ascertained. The School Act provides that a child may be conditionally enrolled in the appropriate year according to age if they lack proficiency in the national language; the informed consent of the legal guardian or representative is required for enrolment in a lower year. The difference between Slovak children and children from Ukraine granted temporary protection is that Ukrainian children are not *admitted*, but are *enrolled* in the educational process. Therefore, they do not have to go through an admission procedure or an entrance exam. The principal may include a pupil based on a request from the child's legal guardian.

For a child to be enrolled in school, the parent should provide proof that temporary protection proceedings (or asylum proceedings) have been initiated, the school should ascertain the child's previous education level and proficiency in the Slovak language, and the principal should enrol the child in the appropriate year and class by issuing a written enrolment document. If the child does not have sufficient knowledge of the Slovak language, they are conditionally enrolled in the appropriate year according to their age. If the child has sufficient knowledge of the Slovak language, they are placed in the appropriate year according to their previous education.

According to the MoERDY SR's interpretation of relevant legal provisions, the fulfilment of compulsory pre-primary education (*povinné predprimárne vzdelávanie*)⁴³ and compulsory school attendance (*povinná školská dochádzka*)⁴⁴ is tied to the child's *permanent residence* in Slovakia. If children from Ukraine have been granted "only" a tolerated stay (as it is the case with temporary protection holders), they are not obliged to fulfil compulsory school attendance in Slovakia since their residence is not a form of permanent residence. Therefore, they are not obliged to attend compulsory pre-primary education or schooling.⁴⁵

On 1 September 2025,⁴⁶ an amendment of the School Act entered into force. According to the changes in the legislation, legal representatives of all children (1) of Ukrainian citizenship, (2) who applied for

⁴² Article 146(2) of the School Act.

⁴³ Every Slovak child who reaches the age of five by August 31 preceding the start of the school year in which the child will begin compulsory schooling at primary school is required to attend pre-primary education.

⁴⁴ Compulsory schooling in Slovakia lasts ten years and continues until the end of the school year (i.e., until August 31 of the relevant school year) in which the child (1) reaches the age of 16, or (2) has completed ten years of education since the start of compulsory schooling.

⁴⁵ MoERDY SR's statement available [here](#).

⁴⁶ Selected provisions of the School Act regulating compulsory education of temporary protection applicants and holders became effective on 1 January 2025. They are mainly regulating situations when a child from Ukraine applied for or was granted temporary protection before 31 December 2024 or in the period between 1 January 2025 and 31 August 2025. Similar obligations for legal representatives to apply in the name of their child for compulsory education are applicable.

temporary protection or were granted temporary protection after the 1 September 2025 and (3) are in age of compulsory pre-primary education or compulsory school attendance must apply for enrollment to kindergarden or primary/secondary school within three months from the commencement of their temporary protection proceedings.⁴⁷ Failure to comply with this obligation shall be considered an administrative offence, for which a legal representative may be repeatedly fined up to €331.50.⁴⁸ The amendment does not provide for compulsory pre-primary education or compulsory school attendance that apply to, inter alia, Slovak children or foreigners with permanent residence in Slovakia. Rather, it established a system parallel to compulsory pre-primary education/school attendance for Ukrainian holders of temporary protection, and it introduced a new institute of *compulsory education*. Even after this amendment became effective, it cannot be said that beneficiaries of temporary protection have an equal position in the schooling system as Slovak nationals.

As of 30 November 2025,⁴⁹ there were 1,443 Ukrainian children in kindergartens, 6,994 Ukrainian children in elementary schools, and 2,479 Ukrainian children in secondary schools.⁵⁰ There are no publicly available data on the number of Ukrainian students at Slovak universities, and the MoERDY was also unable to provide these data, as they are not available.⁵¹

The following table provides a comparison of the number of Ukrainian children in Slovak schools with other years:⁵²

Number of Ukrainian children in Slovak schools			
(As of December ⁵³)	Kindergartens	Elementary Schools	Secondary Schools
2022	1,703	6,918	1,506
2023	1,903	7,634	2,284
2024	1,482	7,036	2,114
2025 (as of 11/2025)	1,443	6,994	2,479

Regarding the access of temporary protection holders to universities, the Act No. 131/2002 Coll. on Higher Education Institutions and on Amendments and Supplements to Certain Acts (The Higher Education Act) has been amended several times since February 2022 with the aim of facilitating access to higher education in Slovakia. The first amendment introduced the possibility of a pregnant student who is a Ukrainian national or a family member of a Ukrainian national with granted temporary protection to receive a pregnancy scholarship.⁵⁴ The scholarship may be granted only during an extraordinary and crisis situation declared in connection with the mass influx of foreigners to Slovakia due to armed conflict in Ukraine.

Temporary protection holders were also exempted from paying tuition fees for higher education, regardless of whether they studied in a Slovak or foreign language.⁵⁵ Finally, bachelor's and master's students who have been granted temporary protection in Slovakia were given the possibility to apply for a social scholarship to cover study-related expenses.

⁴⁷ Article 161r(3) of the School Act.

⁴⁸ Article 39hm(5) of the Act No. 596/2003 Coll. on State Administration in Education and School Self-Government and on Amendments and Supplements to Certain Acts.

⁴⁹ Official response of the MoERDY from 11 February 2026 to a request for information submitted on 6 February 2026.

⁵⁰ The reported data include only Ukrainian children with a tolerated stay. Many children who arrived in Slovakia from Ukraine after February 2022 were already granted temporary residence; these children are not reflected in the data.

⁵¹ Official response of the MoERDY from 11 February 2026 to a request for information submitted on 6 February 2026.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ In the 2022/23 and 2023/24 school years, the reported data on temporary protection holders included a child/pupil with Ukrainian citizenship whose stay in Slovakia and first studies in Slovakia did not begin before 24 February 2022.

⁵⁴ Article 113al of the Higher Education Act.

⁵⁵ Article 92(11) of the Higher Education Act.

The main challenges related to access of temporary protection holders to education have been language barriers, limited capacities of schools, differences between the Slovak and Ukrainian education systems, and a lack of experience of pedagogical staff with children of foreign backgrounds.

F. Social welfare

Temporary protection holders have access to several social welfare programs under the same conditions as Slovak nationals.

Material Need Assistance

Foreigners residing in Slovakia in accordance with the Asylum Act or the Act on Residence of Foreigners, including temporary protection holders, are eligible for material need assistance under the same conditions as Slovak nationals.

Material need assistance is a part of the social protection system regulated by the Act No. 417/2013 Coll. on Material Need Assistance (Material Need Assistance Act). It represents a safety social net for individuals, families and their members who need to ensure their basic living conditions and material need assistance with their active participation.

'Material need' is a situation in which the income of household members does not reach the subsistence minimum, and the household members are unable or cannot, through work, the exercise of ownership or other property rights, or by asserting their legal claims, secure or increase their income.⁵⁶ The subsistence minimum is a socially recognised minimum level of income of a person. Anyone whose income is below this level is considered to be in material need. The subsistence minimum amounts are adjusted annually as of 1 July and are set by the MoLSAF. Since 1 July 2025, the subsistence minimum amounts to €284.13 per month for one adult person, €198.22 per month for another jointly assessed adult person and €129.74 per month for a dependent child or a non-dependent minor child.⁵⁷

Material need assistance is provided in the form of material need allowance and supplements (protective allowance, activation allowance, housing allowance and allowance for dependent child) which are provided in monetary, material or combined forms. The amounts of different allowances listed below are as of 31 December 2025. As of 1 January 2026, they were increased by MoLSAF;⁵⁸ the increased amounts are indicated in parentheses.

Material need allowance amounts to:

- €86.50 (€89.70) per month for a single person;
- €164.50 (€170.60) per month for a single person with one child or up to four children;
- €150.30 (€155.90) per month for a couple without children;
- €224.90 (€233.20) per month for a couple with one child or up to four children;
- €240.30 (€249.10) per month for a single person with more than four children;
- €303.20 (€314.40) per month for a couple with more than four children.

Number of temporary protection holders receiving material need allowance: 5,903 (2025), 8,900 (2024), 13,306 (2023) and 27,170 (2022).⁵⁹

⁵⁶ Article 2(1) of the Material Need Assistance Act.

⁵⁷ Article 1 of the Measure No. 168/2025 Coll. of the of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic on the adjustments of the subsistence minimum amounts.

⁵⁸ Measure No. 365/2025 Coll. of the of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic on the adjustments of the material need assistance.

⁵⁹ Official response of the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (No. UPS/USI/OPS/ INF/2026/56 2026/25605) from 10 February 2026 to a request for information submitted on 6 February 2026.

Protective allowance is intended to cover personal expenses.⁶⁰ It can be provided, in addition to material need allowance, for example, to pensioners, disabled persons, pregnant women, and others.⁶¹ Protective allowance amounts to €88.40 (€91.70) per month.

Activation allowance is intended to support the acquisition, retention, deepening, or enhancement of knowledge, professional skills, practical experience, and work habits for the purpose of improving employability in the labour market.⁶² The activation allowance is provided at three levels, with the amount of the allowance differentiated according to the degree of activation of a person in material need.

Housing allowance is intended to partially cover the costs associated with housing for those who are in material need and who own or rent an apartment.⁶³ An individual is entitled to €97 (€100.60) per month.

Allowance for a dependent child is intended to support the upbringing, education, and overall development of a child who is properly attending compulsory school.⁶⁴ It amounts to €24.20 (€25.10) per month.

Additionally, the Material Need Assistance regulates one-off allowance which is intended for partial reimbursement of the extraordinary expenses of members of a household in material need.⁶⁵ The one-off allowance is mainly intended to provide essential clothing, linen, footwear, essential household equipment such as a bed, table, chairs, refrigerator, stove, cooker, heater, fuel, washing machine, duvet, bed linen, and ordinary kitchen utensils, as well as emergency medical expenses or school supplies. A one-time allowance may be granted as a single payment up to the amount of actual expenses but not exceeding three times the subsistence minimum for one adult.⁶⁶

Temporary protection holders are eligible for material need assistance under the same conditions and in the same amounts as Slovak nationals. Processing the applications for material need assistance, and its disbursement is under the competence of the OLSAFs.

For many beneficiaries of temporary protection who have been unemployed (either voluntarily or due to objective reasons), the material need assistance is their only source of income, which, based on the amounts of the allowances, is generally very low.

Subsidy for humanitarian aid for severely disabled persons with special protection

Apart from the material need assistance, severely disabled persons granted temporary protection may receive a subsidy for humanitarian aid for severely disabled persons with special protection (*Dotácia na podporu humanitárnej pomoci osobes osobitnou ochranou v súvislosti s jej závažným zdravotným postihnutím*). The subsidy was introduced by the governmental regulation No. 131/2022 Coll. on Specific Measures in the Field of Subsidies within the Competence of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic as a response to the mass influx of refugees from Ukraine. The subsidy is provided only during the emergency and crisis situation and only to persons who: (1) have been granted temporary protection, (2) were granted temporary protection that ceased upon submitting an asylum application, or (3) were granted temporary protection that ceased upon obtaining temporary residence. The amount of the subsidy depends on the disability severity rate. Persons with disability severity rate above 60% receive €508 per month, and persons with disability severity rate in the range 40 to 59% receive €300 per month.⁶⁷ The provision of subsidy is administrated by the OLSAF. HRL has recorded

⁶⁰ Article 11(1) of the Material Need Assistance Act.

⁶¹ Article 11(2) of the Material Need Assistance Act.

⁶² Article 12(1) of the Material Need Assistance Act.

⁶³ Article 14(2) of the Material Need Assistance Act.

⁶⁴ Article 23(2) of the Material Need Assistance Act.

⁶⁵ Article 17(1) of the Material Need Assistance Act.

⁶⁶ Article 17(2) of the Material Need Assistance Act.

⁶⁷ Article 3n(2) of the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 131/2022 Coll. on certain measures in the area of subsidies under the competence of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

several cases when disabled beneficiaries of temporary protection faced difficulties in accessing the subsidy. The severity of the disability is assessed by the employees (mostly social workers, not medical workers) of the OLSAF; however, the Slovak authorities do not recognise Ukrainian disability documents for any purposes. Many persons with severe disabilities (officially recognised in Ukraine) have not been granted the subsidy in Slovakia. HRL has been assisting those applicants with submitting a complaint to the Office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities. In some cases, the intervention of the Commissioner led to reconsideration of the OLSAF's negative decision. In other cases, the applicants for the subsidy were successful after re-applying several times.⁶⁸

Number of temporary protection holders receiving the subsidy: 1,729 (2025), 1,688 (2024), 1,447 (2023) and 0 (2022).⁶⁹

Subsidies for children

Children of temporary protection holders who attend kindergartens or elementary schools and come from households that receive material need assistance (or whose income is below the subsistence minimum) are entitled to a **subsidy for lunch** in the amount of €1.40 to €2.30 per day, depending on the school grade.⁷⁰ Number of temporary protection holders receiving the subsidy for lunch: 5,848(2025), 5,563 (2024), 4,136 (2023) and 2,436 (2022).⁷¹ In addition, children of temporary protection holders coming from households receiving material need assistance (or whose income is below the subsistence minimum) who attend elementary school or the last year of kindergarten are entitled to a **subsidy for educational equipment** in the amount of €33.20.⁷² Both of these subsidies are regulated by the Act No. 544/2010 Coll. on Subsidies under the Competence of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (Act No. 544/2010 Coll.) and are provided to children of temporary protection holders under the same conditions and in the same amount as for children of Slovak nationals.

Number of temporary protection holders receiving the subsidy for educational equipment: 257 (2025), 266 (2024), 464 (2023) and 446 (2022).⁷³

State Social Benefits

Generally, the provision of state social benefits to foreigners living in Slovakia is conditional upon having temporary or permanent residence. However, the Governmental Regulation No. 93/2002 extended the personal scope of selected State Social Benefits also to persons with special protection that are defined as persons who (1) have been granted temporary protection, (2) were granted temporary protection that ceased upon submitting an asylum application, or (3) were granted temporary protection that ceased upon obtaining temporary residence.⁷⁴ Based on the governmental regulation, beneficiaries of temporary protection may receive a **childcare allowance** (*príspevok na starostlivosť o dieťa*) and an **allowance to support substitute childcare** (*príspevok na podporu náhradnej starostlivosti o dieťa*) regulated by the Act No. 627/2005 Coll. on Allowances to Support Substitute Care of a Child (the Act No. 627/2005 Coll.). The childcare allowance is provided to a temporary protection holder who has income. The child must be under 3 years of age, or if the child has a long-term unfavourable health condition, under six years of age. The amount of the allowance ranges from €41,40 to €280, depending on who takes care of the child. In case of the allowance to support substitute childcare, it can be provided to a child entrusted to a foster

of the Slovak Republic during a state of emergency, emergency situation, or extraordinary situation declared in connection with the mass influx of foreigners into the territory of the Slovak Republic caused by the armed conflict in Ukraine

⁶⁸ Based on HRL's experience.

⁶⁹ Official response of the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (No. UPS/USI/OPS/ INF/2026/56 2026/25605) from 10 February 2026 to a request for information submitted on 6 February 2026.

⁷⁰ Article 4 of the Act No. 544/2010 Coll.

⁷¹ Official response of the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (No. UPS/USI/OPS/ INF/2026/56 2026/25605) from 10 February 2026 to a request for information submitted on 6 February 2026.

⁷² Article 4 of the Act No. 544/2010 Coll.

⁷³ Official response of the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (No. UPS/USI/OPS/ INF/2026/56 2026/25605) from 10 February 2026 to a request for information submitted on 6 February 2026.

⁷⁴ Article 1(2) of the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 131/2022 on certain measures in the areas of social affairs, family, and employment services during a state of emergency, emergency situation, or extraordinary situation declared in connection with the mass influx of foreigners into the territory of the Slovak Republic caused by the armed conflict in Ukraine.

care or to a parent taking children into a foster care, either in the form of a one-off allowance or a recurring allowance. The amount of the allowance depends on the child's age and other criteria set in the Act No. 627/2005 Coll., and it ranges from €244 to €829.86.

Number of temporary protection holders receiving the childcare allowance: 3 (2025), 9 (2024), 25 (2023) and 15 (2022).⁷⁵

Number of temporary protection holders receiving the allowance to support substitute childcare: 19 (2025), 33 (2024), 43 (2023) and 71 (2022).⁷⁶

G. Health care

Legal provision regulating the health care for beneficiaries of temporary protection is set mainly in:

- the Act No. 580/2004 Coll. on Health Insurance and on Amendments and Supplements to Act No. 95/2002 Coll. on Insurance and on Amendments and Supplements to Certain Acts (Health Insurance Act),
- the Act No. 577/2004 Coll. on the Scope of Healthcare Covered by Public Health Insurance and on the Reimbursement of Healthcare-related Services (Act No. 577/2004 Coll.), and
- Act No. 576/2004 Coll. on Healthcare, Services Related to the Provision of Healthcare, and on Amendments and Supplements to Certain Acts (Act No. 576/2006 Coll.).

In general, beneficiaries of temporary protection are not covered by the public health insurance. Applicants for temporary protection and holders of temporary protection have the right to receive urgent medical health care.⁷⁷ The MoH may also determine the scope of medical procedures reimbursed beyond the urgent medical care by publishing the scope on its website.⁷⁸

As of 1 January 2023, the Ministry of Health adjusted the scope of health care for **children and adolescents from birth to 18 years of age + 364 days**, who were granted temporary protection in Slovakia.⁷⁹ The scope of health care now equals the health care covered by the public health insurance and includes also preventive examinations, urgent medical care, medical procedures and health spa treatment.⁸⁰ As of 1 September 2023, the MoH adjusted the scope of health care for **adults** who were granted temporary protection in Slovakia.⁸¹ The scope of health care now equals the health care covered by the public health insurance and includes also preventive examinations, urgent medical care and medical procedures.⁸² The health spa treatment is not reimbursed in the case of adult temporary protection holders.

The health care provided to applicants and beneficiaries of temporary protection is reimbursed by the health insurance company with the highest number of insured persons.⁸³ That is Všeobecná zdravotná poisťovňa, a.s. To receive the health care, the foreigner must present a document confirming that he or she is an applicant for temporary protection, or a tolerated stay certificate marked as "TEMPORARY PROTECTION (DOČASNÉ ÚTOČISKO)". As of 1 July 2024, adult general practitioners, paediatricians, dentists, and gynaecologists are not allowed to refuse to provide health care to temporary protection holders with tolerated stay registered in their healthcare districts on the grounds of full capacities.⁸⁴

⁷⁵ Official response of the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (No. UPS/USI/OPS/ INF/2026/56 2026/25605) from 10 February 2026 to a request for information submitted on 6 February 2026.

⁷⁶ Official response of the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (No. UPS/USI/OPS/ INF/2026/56 2026/25605) from 10 February 2026 to a request for information submitted on 6 February 2026.

⁷⁷ Article 9h(2)(a) and (c) of the Health Insurance Act.

⁷⁸ Article 9h(9) of the Health Insurance Act.

⁷⁹ The scope of health care was published on the Ministry of Health's [website](#).

⁸⁰ See Article 2, 3 and 7 of the Act No. 577/2004 Coll.

⁸¹ The scope of health care was published on the Ministry of Health's [website](#).

⁸² See Article 2 and 3 of the Act No. 577/2004 Coll.

⁸³ See Article 9h(3) of the Health Insurance Act.

⁸⁴ Article 12(10) of the Act No. 576/2004 Coll.

In connection with the extraordinary and crisis situation declared in connection with the mass influx of foreigners to the territory of Slovakia caused by the armed conflict in Ukraine, transitional provisions were adopted in the Health Insurance Act. Based on the Article 38eza of the Health Insurance Act, persons who have been residing in Ukraine, do not have the public health insurance and entered Slovakia due to the war in Ukraine have the right to reimbursement of urgent medical care for the first 30 days from their entry to the country. The health care is reimbursed by the health insurance company Všeobecná zdravotná poisťovňa, a.s. The transitional provision aims to ensure continuous access to urgent healthcare for these persons from the moment of entry into Slovakia until the time they apply for asylum or temporary protection.

Beneficiaries of temporary protection may also have a mandatory public health insurance if they meet one of the conditions set in Article 3 of the Health Insurance Act. Usually, it is the situation that a temporary protection holder starts to work for an employer in Slovakia and receives an agreed monthly income at least the amount of minimum wage (915 EUR in 2025) or starts to carry out self-employment. In such cases, the public health insurance is also extended to their dependent children younger than 18 years of age.

The main challenges faced by the beneficiaries of temporary protection when accessing the health care are a language barrier, a lack of medical staff, especially specialists in psychiatry and child psychiatry, long waiting times for examinations, poor awareness of health care providers about the ways in which medical procedures administered to temporary protection holders are reimbursed and on the level of coverage for the administered procedures and the related lower level of willingness to treat them.⁸⁵

As an example of good practice, the dedicated outpatient clinics and medical centres specifically serving temporary protection holders from Ukraine were set up, for example, in Bratislava, Košice, Prešov and Banská Bystrica. Their main purpose is to ensure access to primary healthcare for refugees from Ukraine, including the prescription of medication for chronic conditions, guidance on navigating the healthcare system, referrals to specialist care, and reducing the pressure on standard first-contact outpatient clinics. An additional advantage is that many of the healthcare professionals working in these centres are Ukrainian nationals, which significantly mitigates language barriers and facilitates effective communication with patients.⁸⁶

⁸⁵ EMN, *The Application of the Temporary Protection Directive: Challenges and Good Practices in 2023 – contribution of the Slovak Republic* November 2023, available [here](#), 14.

⁸⁶ Ibid.