

Bulgaria (BIA) (last updated 4 May)

Overall approach and state of play

Typically, Bulgaria does not experience a high number of refugees and employers do not expect that this will change, unless there is an escalation of the conflict.

According to the official data, since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, 94,500 Ukrainian citizens have entered Bulgaria. 50,000 have stated they are considering a long-term stay in Bulgaria. A large number are mothers and children.

Coordination of joint social partner or social partner and government actions

A few days after the start of the conflict, the employers sent a number of proposals to the Prime Minister, outlining the possibility to include potential refugees in the labour market and also key emergency measures that need to be undertaken to facilitate the process. A few meetings were organised on the initiative at the ministerial level where concrete steps were outlined to coordinate the efforts of the state and business to help refugees from the war in Ukraine. The Bulgarian government has adopted an act determining where and how people running from the war in Ukraine will be able to register in Bulgaria and obtain their Bulgarian residence documents as refugees under temporary protection. This document is called "Registration card of a foreigner who has been granted temporary protection". Further information can be found here: <https://ukraine.gov.bg/your-legal-status/>

There are no planned social partner initiatives.

Company impact

There are many Bulgarian employers (representatives of the tourism sector, retail chains etc.) that are supporting or offering help to Ukrainian refugees in finding work and accommodation. With regard to skills assessment – it was one of the topics Bulgarian employers put for discussion with the government. Currently, the public employment agency is collecting data from employers willing to offer jobs. This contains data on skills needed for the respective job. Upon arrival and registration qualification data and language skills are gathered by the authorities. It is considered that Ukrainian refugees could be employed in seasonal work in Bulgaria.