

Italy (Confindustria) (last update 4 May)

Overall approach and state of play

The flow of refugees to Italy is constantly growing (and this trend will become more and more evident in the coming days). The latest official updating refers to March 9, 2022, with 23.873 refugees having arrived in Italy. The cities receiving the highest number of refugees are Milan, Rome, Naples and Bologna (source: Italian Ministry of Internal Affairs).

It is evident that the numbers will increase in the next days. Ukrainian refugees mostly arrive to Italy from the Slovenian border. These refugees are mostly women and children, considering that men aged < 60 have been called to combat the war and join the Ukrainian military forces.

Italy has a very large Ukrainian community (around 236.000 people) so Ukrainian citizens who have relatives or friends already in Italy have fled to escape the war and many of them have already reached their families/friends in Italy and will be assisted and hosted by them. The solidarity of Italians towards Ukrainian refugees is very strong and gives rise to plenty of initiatives, both at institutional and private level.

Coordination of joint social partner or social partner and government actions

Italian Institutions, as well as social partners, are very strongly engaged in addressing with concrete responses the dramatic situation of Ukrainian refugees.

As regards the Government's actions focussed on the labour market aspects, a formal Order (Ordinanza) was issued on March 4, 2022, by the Italian Ministry of Labour, defining the hospitality, rescue and assistance procedures to effectively support the refugees inflow to Italy. This Order states that Ukrainian refugees are entitled to work in Italy, both as self-employed or as dependant worker, after simple presentation to the public authority of the request for the residence permit (*permesso di soggiorno*). This, in derogation to the general rule in force, providing maximum quotas defined on a yearly basis by Governmental decree.

As regards the activation of the Temporary Protection Directive, the Italian Government (through the Ministry of Internal Affairs) is already committed to enact formal measures in this direction.

There are also some joint initiatives under discussion among the social partners aimed at defining coordinated and shared actions on the labour market aspects involved by the refugees' arrival. It is too early to give more details, as the situation is developing.

Company impact

The departure of Ukrainian workers employed in Italy towards Ukraine to fight is a clear phenomenon in Italy and is already under the attention of both companies and trade unions. There are possibilities for Ukrainian workers to go on unpaid leave while they are absent to fight in Ukraine.