

Spain (CEOE) (last update 4 May)

Overall approach and state of play

The reception system is ready and expects to attend about 21,000 people. Current data has only been provided for the refugees who have arrived at the first reception centre that opened and which is located in Madrid, attending about 810 people, so that in the coming days it is expected that these figures will be updated with data from other reception centres located in Barcelona, Alicante and Malaga.

On March 15th, the government reports that some 810 applications for Temporary Protection have been positively resolved and more than 2,700 consultations have been attended. Of the refugees who have arrived in our country, approximately 33% come from Kiev and the rest come from all regions of Ukraine. Most of them are women (58%), about 42% are minors.

According to the data obtained, 35% of the people assisted in the last days present some kind of vulnerability, such as the need for medical treatment, or specific attention due to their advanced age.

Coordination of joint social partner or social partner and government actions

CEOE, within the Tripartite Labour Commission on Immigration, tries to promote bi and tripartite dialogue with the aim of improving the employability of the foreign population that migrates to Spain, understanding that employment is one of the most effective mechanisms when it comes to achieving the social integration of migrants. Nevertheless, this issue is not in the agenda yet. The government is currently focused on ensuring the functioning of the refugee protection system through the four newly opened centres in Spain.

Also, the Government, in relation to the Temporary Protection Directive and the measures contained therein, has transposed them through two orders (Order PCM/169/2022 and Order PCM/170/2022). These orders develop the procedure for the recognition of temporary protection for persons affected by the conflict in Ukraine.

Spain approved an extension of the subjective scope of application of the afore-mentioned Directive, giving coverage also to all persons residing in Ukraine at the time of the invasion. Therefore, Ukrainian nationals and some of their family members who were staying in Spain before February 24, 2022 and who, as a result of the armed conflict, cannot return to Ukraine, third-country nationals or stateless persons and some of their family members who were legally residing in Ukraine and cannot return to their country or region, Ukrainian nationals who were in an irregular situation in Spain before February 24 and who, as a result of the armed conflict, cannot return to Ukraine, are eligible for this temporary protection. This temporary protection speeds up the bureaucratic procedures (24 hours) and includes a residence and work permit for one year, extendable for another year.

The Government, for the time being, is focusing its efforts immediately on the Reception Plan for displaced persons from Ukraine and on the deployment of Reception Centres in Madrid, Barcelona, Alicante and Malaga to facilitate the care of displaced persons and to offer emergency shelter to those who need it. In these centres, in addition, the express processing of residence and work permits, and temporary accommodation is guaranteed.

At this stage, and for the time being, no initiatives aimed at integrating refugees into the labour market have been specified. However, CEOE is in contact with the Directorate General for

International Protection and Humanitarian Assistance Programs to collaborate with different initiatives aimed at providing a coordinated response to the refugee crisis.

There is an agile and fluid social dialogue, although for the time being and due to the fact that the plan to receive refugees from the Ukrainian conflict is in its early stages, there are no joint initiatives or agreements.

Company impact

Currently there is not any data on people leaving their jobs to participate in the conflict, however, there have been numerous initiatives by individuals and organizations that have come to the border to bring humanitarian aid or provide transportation to the refugees.

Some sectoral and territorial employers' organisations have expressed their willingness to provide employment to people directly affected by the conflict, but there is no mechanism foreseen at the moment to do so.

Regarding the qualifications/skills of the people affected by the conflict, from the business organizations we have little data on the levels of training or skills of these people, but it is undoubtedly an essential aspect to be able to integrate refugees into the labour market.

The population of Ukrainian origin does not have a large participation in "seasonal" jobs (agriculture), so we do not believe there is a great impact in this aspect. Traditionally, these people have been providing services in sectors such as construction, domestic jobs or services.