

## **Switzerland (Confederation of Swiss Employers) (last update 4 May)**

### Overall approach and state of play

Currently, 30,000 Ukrainian refugees have entered Switzerland, mostly women and children. Around 500 Ukrainian refugees are coming to Switzerland per day. There is a mix of those that are lodged privately, either with relatives or by Swiss families, or being hosted temporarily in asylum accommodation or other locations provided by public administrations

### Coordination of joint social partner or social partner and government actions

On 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022 Swiss authorities activated a specific protection status, the so-called temporary Protection "Status S". Refugees from Ukraine will obtain a 1-year long right of residence in Switzerland (renewable), without having to go through the standard asylum procedure. Every person seeking protection should report to one of the Federal Asylum Centers (BAZ). The authorities examine here – whether the applicant belongs to the group of persons that can benefit from protection status S. This check takes a maximum of 1-3 days. Application can be made online **by filling out [this form](#) and sending it by email to [ukraine@sem.admin.ch](mailto:ukraine@sem.admin.ch)**. **After registration at the federal asylum center, the person is assigned to a canton and accommodated free of charge in a cantonal center or with private hosts organized by the Swiss Refugee Council.**

Persons under protection status S can take up gainful employment in Switzerland without a waiting period. On their meeting with the Swiss government on 16 March 2022, the social partners expressed their willingness to contribute to overcoming the challenges involved.

It is the common goal of the Swiss government and the social partners to make it easier for those seeking protection from Ukraine to take up gainful employment, but at the same time to ensure protection against abuse and social dumping. This protection is primarily guaranteed by the legally anchored authorisation requirement.

The cantonal labour market authorities are responsible for granting employment permits. In particular, they must check whether the working and wage conditions are in line with local, professional and industry standards. Compliance with wage and working conditions is then monitored by the joint and tripartite commissions, in which the social partners are equally represented.

### **Promoting pre-apprenticeship integration and language skills**

The Swiss government and the social partners also agreed that, in principle, persons with protection status S should benefit from the Integration Pre-Apprenticeship (INVOL). With this instrument, persons who are likely to need Swiss protection for a longer period of time can be prepared in a targeted and practice-oriented manner for an apprenticeship or for taking up gainful employment in Switzerland.

SECO also pointed out that persons with protection status S have access to the counselling and placement services of the regional employment centres.

Persons with S status already have access to existing cantonal measures such as language courses. However, on behalf of the FDJP, the State Secretariat for Employment and Migration SEM is currently examining with the cantons whether additional measures are needed to facilitate the acquisition of a national language.

### Company impact

There might be individual cases of Ukrainian nationals leaving their employment to go to Ukraine to fight/be with family members, but there is no specific information on this so far. The number of Ukrainian workers residing in Switzerland before the conflict started is thought to be low.