Temporary protection - Austria

Overview

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Relevant EU legislation

Austria transposed the Temporary Protection Directive in 2003 and activated temporary protection for displaced persons from Ukraine by issuing an order, the Displaced Persons Order | Vertriebenen-Verordnung on 11 March 2022. Austria transposed the Temporary Protection Directive (Council Directive 2001/55/EC) into national law in 2003. Following the activation of the EU Temporary Protection Mechanism for persons displaced from Ukraine by Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382, Austria implemented temporary protection through the Displaced Persons Ordinance (Vertriebenen-Verordnung, VertriebenenVO, StF: BGBl. II Nr. 92/2022), adopted on 11 March 2022 and most recently amended on 28 July 2026. Following the latest extension by Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2026/1912, residence permits granted under temporary protection are valid until 4 March 2028.

National legislation

The national legal framework governing temporary protection consists of:

- Section 62 of the Asylum Act 2005 (Asylgesetz 2005 – AsylG; Federal Law Gazette I No. 100/2005), which provides the legal basis for granting a temporary right of residence to displaced persons.
- Displaced Persons Ordinance (Vertriebenen-Verordnung) of 11 March 2022, as amended.
- Asylum Act Implementing Regulation 2005 (Asylgesetz-Durchführungsverordnung 2005, AsylG-DV 2005 idF BGBl II 93/2022).

These national provisions implement Council Directive 2001/55/EC and give effect to Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382, which established the existence of a mass influx of displaced persons from Ukraine and activated temporary protection. The temporary protection regime was extended until 4

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March 2028 by Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2026/1912 amended by 2026/90680.

Measures supporting the transition out of temporary protection

Austria has adopted legal and administrative measures to facilitate the transition of beneficiaries from temporary protection to other residence statuses. Beneficiaries who meet the relevant conditions under Austrian immigration legislation may apply for another residence permit or legal residence status. These measures are intended to provide continuity of lawful residence beyond the temporary protection regime where the applicable legal requirements are fulfilled.

Since 1 October 2024, displaced person, who meet the requirements, are able to apply for a Red-White-Red Card Plus (Rot-Weiss-Rot-Karte Plus), which is a temporary, but renewable residence permit for people from third countries. To qualify, applicants must, inter alia, have been in fully insured employment in Austria for at least 12 months within the previous 24 months, have a realistic prospect of an income at the level of the equalisation supplement and demonstrate German language skills at A1 level. This also applies to self-employed persons, provided that they were insured under the Commercial Social Insurance Act *(Gewerbliches Sozialversicherungsgesetz – GSVG*). The transition is also possible for family members, including spouses, registered partners, children, adopted children and stepchildren. The Red-White-Red Card Plus is valid for a maximum of 12 months. However, the Red-White-Red Card Plus can be issued for a period of 3 years if the above-mentioned requirements are met, the person has been residing in Austria for at least 2 years, and Module 1 of the Integration Agreement has been completed (e.g., A2-level German language proficiency).

Competent authority and stakeholders

Area	Competent national authority	Assistance to the competent authority (if applicable)

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Screening at the external border (if relevant)	n/a	n/a
Registration of displaced persons	Police | Polizei (*Landespolizeidirektion* - LPD)	n/a
Biometric data (if relevant)	Police | Polizei (*Landespolizeidirektion* - LPD) Ages 14 and older, in accordance with § 24 Abs 1 Z 3 BFA-VG	n/a
Provision of information	Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI), Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services GmbH (BBU GmbH)	n/a
Granting temporary protection	Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum | Bundesamt für Fremdenwesen und Asyl (BFA)	n/a
Issuing the residence permit - ID Card for Displaced Persons	Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum | Bundesamt für Fremdenwesen und Asyl (BFA)	n/a
Legal counselling and legal aid	Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services GmbH (BBU GmbH)	n/a
Processing appeals	Federal Administrative Court (BVwG), Constitutional Court (VfGH), Higher Administrative Court (VwGH); Regarding Red-White-Red Cards - State Administrative Court (LVwG)	n/a

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Accommodation and housing	Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services (BBU GmbH) and 9 federal provinces l Bundesagentur für Betreuungs - und Unterstützungsleistungen + 9 Bundesländer (GVS Stellen)	n/a
Access to employment and sel-employment	Public Employment Service Austria (AMS)	Chamber of Labor (*Arbeiterkammer*), Chamber of Commerce (*Wirtschaftskammer*)
Medical care	Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services (BBU GmbH) and 9 federal provinces l Bundesagentur für Betreuungs - und Unterstützungsleistungen + 9 Bundesländer (GVS Stellen)	Austrian Health Insurance Fund (ÖGK) | Österreichische Gesundheitskasse (ÖGK), Social Security Administration for the Self-Employed (SVS)
Social welfare	Basic welfare system of the federal states	n/a
Assistance to unaccompanied minors	Child and youth welfare authorities	n/a
Assistance to people with special needs	Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services (BBU GmbH) and competent authorities of the federal provinces l Bundesagentur für Betreuungs - und Unterstützungsleistungen	n/a
Transition out of temporary protection (if relevant or applicable)	Competent settlement and residence authorities - (Niederlassungsbehörden): District Administrations	n/a

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Eligibility

According to the Displaced Persons Order | Vertriebenen-Verordnung, adopted pursuant to Section 62(1) of the Asylum Act 2005, the following categories of persons are eligible for temporary protection:

- Ukrainian nationals residing in Ukraine who were displaced from Ukraine due to the armed conflict from 24 February 2022 onwards or not long before 24 February 2022.
  Other third-country nationals and stateless persons who, before 24 February 2022, were granted international protection or a comparable national protection status under Ukrainian law and were displaced from Ukraine due to the armed conflict. This applies to persons with asylum or complementary protection in Ukraine.
- Family members of the above categories, provided they were residing in Ukraine as family members before 24 February 2022. This applies in particular to family members who are not Ukrainian citizens or who do not meet one of the other conditions for the right of residence as displaced persons for other reasons. According to Section 2 of the Displaced Persons Ordinance (Vertriebenen-Verordnung), eligible family members include spouses and registered partners, unmarried minor children of the eligible persons or of their spouses or registered partners, and other close relatives of the eligible persons who lived in the same household before displacement and were completely or mainly dependent on the eligible person, provided they were already residing in Ukraine as family members before 24 February 2022.
- Ukrainian nationals holding a valid Austrian residence permit under the Settlement and Residence Act (NAG) or Sections 55–57 of the Asylum Act 2005 on 24 February 2022, who are after the end of the period of validity unable to return to Ukraine due to the armed conflict. Temporary protection applies after the expiry of their residence permit, provided the residence permit has not been renewed or withdrawn because the conditions for its issuance were no longer fulfilled. Not included are persons with currently valid residence permits as they are still lawfully residing in Austria.
- Ukrainian nationals who were lawfully staying in Austria under a visa-free regime or with a visa on 24 February 2022 and who are unable to return to Ukraine or to their country of habitual residence due to the armed conflict after the end of the visa-free stay or the expiry of the visa. Temporary

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protection applies after the expiry of their lawful short-term stay. This applies especially to Ukrainian citizens who were on a trip to Austria at the beginning of the war and lived in Ukraine or another state to which they cannot return. Not included are persons who lived in another state and can return there.
- In light of the jurisprudence of the Constitutional Court (VfGH E 3249/2022, 15.03.2023), Ukrainian nationals who were residing in Ukraine and left Ukraine shortly before 24 February 2022 are also eligible for temporary protection.

If a Ukrainian national also holds citizenship of a third country, this does not affect their eligibility under the Displaced Persons Ordinance. However, this is only the case if they were forced to leave Ukraine or are unable to return there. If a person with multiple nationalities was residing in the country of their other nationality on February 24, 2022, rather than in Ukraine, they are not considered a displaced person.

EEA/Swiss citizens and third-country nationals who are family members of Union citizens and are therefore entitled to reside in Austria are not covered by the right of residence for displaced persons, even if they are also Ukrainian nationals or family members of displaced persons.

In line with the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2026/1912, temporary protection will now only be granted to persons who have fulfilled their military obligations under Ukrainian law. If necessary, this must be proven by appropriate evidence. Ukrainian citizens who are not subject to compulsory military service may nevertheless have military obligations – regardless of their age or gender– for example because they are required to carry out certain tasks in support of military activities. Evidence may be furnished by confirmation of lawful departure from Ukraine – such as a stamp from border control in the passport – or in the form of a certificate confirming exemption from or fulfilment of military obligations. This certificate is issued by the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence and can also be obtained digitally via the “Reserv+” app. This new rule does not apply to persons who were granted a temporary right of residence in an EU member state before or on 4 August 2026 and have continuously held this status since then.

Displaced person, who previously had temporary protection in another EU country, can also register as a displaced person in Austria, giving they provide proof that they no longer have temporary protection in another country and that they no longer receive social benefits. In this case, the displaced person must

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also provide evidence that they had fulfilled all the military obligations in Ukraine, as the implementing decision excludes only those persons who already had displaced person status in the Member State concerned (meaning in Austria) on 4 August 2026.

Grounds for exclusion from temporary protection

The legal grounds for exclusion from temporary protection are set out in Section 1 of the Displaced Persons Ordinance (VertriebenenVO), which refers directly to Article 28(1) of Council Directive 2001/55/EC.

A person is excluded from temporary protection in Austria if there are serious reasons for considering that, the person committed a crime against peace, a war crime, or a crime against humanity, or the person has committed a serious non-political crime outside Austria prior to his admission as a person enjoying temporary protection, or the person has been guilty of acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations. Furthermore, a person is excluded from temporary protection if he constitutes a danger to the security of Austria or, having been convicted by a final judgment of a particularly serious crime, constitutes a danger to the community.

Exclusion must be based solely on personal conduct, adhering to the principle of proportionality.

The substantive review is conducted in the same manner as in asylum or revocation proceedings. If any of these grounds for denial exist, the right of residence as a displaced person does not exist or, if they arise later, ceases to exist. It therefore expires automatically.

Admission to the territory

Ukrainian nationals can enter Austria without a visa and stay visa-free for up to 90 days within 180 days.

The personal data is recorded by the police (LPD), who carries out the initial registration of Ukrainian refugees and, among other things, verifies whether the residence is legal. Displaced persons should take a passport, birth certificate,

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marriage certificate, other civil status documents and other identity documents with them for registration The registration is not intended for those who are only passing through, whereas the time limit is three days. If the displaced person did not bring all the documents and additional information or documents are still needed, the BFA will inform them accordingly. As part of the registration process, the LPD collects, among other things, information regarding identity and travel routes, and requires all documentation proving fulfillment of military obligations in Ukraine.

With the ID card for displaced persons and the passport, displaced persons can generally travel visa-free within the Schengen Area for up to 90 days within any 180-day period for tourist purposes. They may re-enter Austria at any time with the valid ID card for displaced persons. It is important to note that displaced persons from Ukraine may leave Austria only for a short period of time. If they leave Austria not just for a short period but for a longer period of time, they may lose their right of residence in Austria as displaced persons. The submitted documents will then be forwarded to the competent authority, BFA, for further review.

According to Section 1(2) of the Displaced Persons Ordinance (VertriebenenVO), other third-country nationals or stateless persons who, under Ukrainian law, had been granted international protection status or a comparable national protection status before 24 February 2022 and who were displaced from Ukraine due to the armed conflict are also entitled to temporary residence in Austria after entering the country. They receive an ID card for displaced persons after registration.

Provision of information

Austria has established a comprehensive system for providing information to applicants for and beneficiaries of temporary protection. While Article 9 of the Temporary Protection Directive requires Member States to provide beneficiaries with information on temporary protection in a language, they are likely to understand, no specific national legislative provisions are transposing this obligation. In practice, however, the Austrian authorities provide extensive multilingual information through dedicated websites, publications and support services.
The Austrian authorities have developed several national initiatives to ensure that displaced persons from Ukraine receive timely and accessible information on their rights, procedures and available support. These initiatives are coordinated

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by the Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI), the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum (BFA), the Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services (BBU) and the Austrian Integration Fund (ÖIF). The information covers topics such as registration, residence rights, accommodation, education, healthcare, employment, social benefits and integration measures.

Official information is provided through several dedicated channels:

Websites of the competent authorities

- The Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI) has a dedicated Information webpage on Ukraine providing guidance for displaced persons arriving in Austria and a dedicated FAQ webpage addressing key questions related to temporary protection procedures
- The Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum (BFA) has a dedicated webpage with Information on the extension of the right of residence as Factsheets, Posters and Q&A's.
- The Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services (BBU) webpage presents practical information on accommodation, residence registration, education and other reception-related matters as well as information on transitioning out of temporary protection. The BBU website also includes a multilingual FAQ section available in English, German, Ukrainian and Russian.
- The Austrian Integration Fund (ÖIF) maintains a dedicated webpage for displaced persons from Ukraine with information and Q&A's on integration services, language courses and everyday life in Austria. The website is available in German and Ukrainian.
- Information can also be found on the cross-authority platform (Oesterreich.gv.at) of the Federal Chancellery, which also includes information of the nine federal provinces in German, English and Ukrainian on arrival centres, registration, accommodation, counselling etc.

Dedicated hotline

The BBU operates a dedicated telephone hotline (+43 1 2676 870 9460). Assistance is available in Ukrainian, Russian, German and English every weekday except public holidays. The hotline provides assistance and practical guidance on reception, accommodation, registration procedures and access to public services as well as to legal questions.

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Publicly available information materials

- Q&A prepared by the Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI).
- Information sheet for persons arriving from Ukraine, available in English, German, Ukrainian and Russian.
- Information sheet on general information and registration and Information sheet on re-registration after re-entry for displaced persons from Ukraine prepared by the BFA.
- Information leaflet , a Q&A and a Poster on the extension of residence rights for displaced persons from Ukraine prepared by the BFA, available in German, English, Ukrainian and Russian.
- An accompanying letter on the personal identity document (ID card) for displaced persons from Ukraine, also available in all four languages.
- A brochure on the Austrian education system in Ukrainian can be found on the ÖIF webpage.

Contact points to receive information for supporting the integration of unaccompanied minors:

- SOS-Kinderdorf: Theresia Verweyen, theresia.verweyen@sos-kinderdorf.at, +43 676 88 144918
- For host family applications in Vienna: Magdalena Minich, magdalena.minich@sos-kinderdorf.at

Procedural aspects

Procedure to register and be granted temporary protection

Austria has a decentralised registration system in which applications for temporary protection are lodged directly with the police at designated police stations or reception and registration centres. There is no separate pre-registration stage, as applicants complete the initial registration upon presenting themselves to the police. During registration, applicants submit the application form and provide any available supporting documents, such as a passport, birth certificate, marriage certificate, identity card, driving licence, residence permit or

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other documents establishing their identity. The police collect fingerprints from applicants aged 14 years or older as part of the identification process. Applicants who do not possess valid identity or travel documents are expected to present any other available documentation capable of establishing their identity. No administrative or registration fees are charged for lodging an application for temporary protection or completing the registration procedure. Registration with the police is a requirement for the issuance of an ID for displaced persons as well as for applying for basic care.

After the application is submitted and biometric data are recorded, the application will be forwarded to the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum (BFA) for further review. The Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum (BFA) processes the application and issues an identity card for displaced persons as a residence permit, attesting the status of the applicant for temporary protection, if the requirements for the granting of displaced person status are met. The ID card is delivered to the displaced persons registered residence. If data is missing, BFA will carry out an interview to collect the missing data.

The processing of an application and decision is usually issued withina few weeks.). If further investigations are required, the process may take longer, potentially several months.
Residence permits for eligible beneficiaries are automatically renewed when the validity of temporary protection is extended by the national authority. The residence permits for displaced persons from Ukraine are currently valid at least until 4 March 2028. If an renewal does not occur automatically—for whatever reason—the case will be assigned to a case worker for manual processing.

According to Section 4(3) of the displaced Persons Ordinance the right of residence for displaced persons expires automatically, without the need for a formal notice, if the person concerned leaves the Austrian federal territory for more than a short period of time. This is the case for instance if the centre of life has been moved outside Austria, e.g. relocation to another country, or in case of permanent return to Ukraine.

Residence permit

The Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum (BFA) is the authority responsible to issue residence permits. Following registration and if the conditions for granting temporary protection are met, eligible persons receive a registration

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confirmation, which serves as the basis for the issuance of an ID card (Blue Card) for displaced persons from Ukraine (*Ausweis für Vertriebene*) by the BFA. The identity card for displaced persons documents the temporary right of residence for displaced persons from Ukraine.
Temporary protection in Austria constitutes an *ex lege* right of legal residence under the EU Temporary Protection Directive and exists independently of the issuance or validity date of the ID card. The ID card for displaced persons (blue card) is automatically reissued when the right of residence is extended. Registration of residence is compulsory in Austria and takes places at the municipal offices. The identity card of a beneficiary for temporary protection will be sent to the delivery address of residence of the beneficiary.

The validity of temporary protection has been extended until 4 March 2028. Updated ID cards reflecting the extended validity period are issued automatically based on the information recorded in the Central Register of Residents. Thus, the identity cards with the extended expiry date of March 2028 are expected to be sent automatically in January 2027 to the addresses of displaced persons held on the Central Register (ZMR), without the holders having to submit an application.

Transition out of Temporary Protection: Preparation and measures

Beneficiaries of temporary protection may apply for other residence permits under Austrian legislation when relevant conditions are met. Since 1 October 2024, eligible holders of the Blue ID Card have been able to transition to a Red-White-Red Card Plus (RWR+ Card). The "Red-White-Red Card Plus" is a temporary, renewable residence and work permit for third-country nationals and is not tied to a specific employer. It allows the holder to reside and work in Austria either as a self-employed or employed individual. No additional work permit is required. The residence permit is valid for a limited period - generally one year - but can be extended upon application. After two years of legal residence and successful completion of Module 1 of the Integration Agreement, it can be renewed with a validity of up to three years. Holders of a Red-White-Red Card Plus may obtain a Permanent Residence (EU permit) after five years of residence, provided that they fulfil the requirements of Module 2 of the Integration Agreement.

Displaced persons who wish to change to a RWR+ Card must have been in full-insurance covered employment for at least 12 months within the past 24 months, at the time the RWR+ Card is granted have a realistic prospect of earning income

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at least equal to the statutory minimum subsistence level, which is EUR 1,308.93,- net per month for a single person, and EUR 2,064.12,- net per month for married couples combined, plus EUR 201.88,- net per month per child. A further criterion is to have at least an A1 level German skill, which must be certified by an authorised institution. The transition possibility also applies to self-employed persons, provided they were insured under the Commercial Social Security Act. The transition is also possible for spouses, registered partners, children, as well as adopted and stepchildren.

Legal aid

The national legislation does not explicitly specify provisions for legal aid for displaced persons.

Several non-governmental organisations offer free legal counselling for displaced persons from Ukraine, such as the Diakonie or Caritas in Vienna. Caritas Vienna provides legal advice on immigration and residence matters, while Diakonie offers legal counselling specifically for displaced persons from Ukraine. The Advice Centre for Migrants provides legal and social counselling on migration-related issues, including residence rights and access to services. Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services (BBU) provides free legal advice during the appeals process.

Furthermore, the Austrian Bar Association coordinates free legal advice services, enabling beneficiaries to obtain legal assistance on matters related to their stay and rights in Austria.

Appeal

There are no specific legal provisions on appeal against a decision on temporary protection for displaced persons from Ukraine. Appeals in temporary protection cases follow the same procedure as appeals in the regular asylum procedure.

If the displaced person does not meet the requirements for obtaining temporary protection, the BFA issues a decision stating that the concerned person does not have a temporary right of residence for displaced persons according to Section 62(1) Asylum Act in connection with the Displaced Persons Ordinance (VetriebenenVO) and rejects the application for a Card for displaced persons.

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The decision of the BFA can be appealed within four weeks once the decision has been served before the Federal Administrative Court (BVwG). The BVwG can itself determine that the person is entitled, *ex lege*, to temporary protection as a displaced person. An appeal may be filled against the decision of the Federal Administrative Court before the Higher Administrative Court (VwGH) and a complaint may be filled before the Constitutional Court (VfGH).

Extension and duration of temporary protection:

Section 4(2) of the Displaced Persons Ordinance (VertriebenenVO) states that if the Council adopts a decision pursuant to Article 6(1)(b) or Article 4(2) of Directive 2001/55/EC, the right of residence shall end on the date specified in that decision. The provision is marked with a note stating that the temporary right of residence continues until 4 March 2028 with reference to the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2026/1912.

Thus, temporary protection for Ukrainians has been extended for the fifth time until 4 March 2028.

The temporary protection status constitutes a right of residence by operation of law, which exists independently of the issue of an ID card for displaced persons. Thus, the right of residence will continue to apply regardless of the expiry date stated on the ID card. The new identity cards with the extended expiry date (March 2028) – are expected to be sent automatically starting in January 2027 to the addresses of the displaced persons held on the Central Register. The beneficiaries of temporary protection do not need to submit an application.

Exclusion, withdrawal or cessation in individual cases:
The legal grounds for exclusion from temporary protection are set out in Section 1 of the Displaced Persons Ordinance (VertriebenenVO), which refers directly to Article 28(1) of Council Directive 2001/55/EC.

A person is excluded from temporary protection in Austria if there are serious reasons for considering that, the person committed a crime against peace, a war crime, or a crime against humanity, or the person has committed a serious non-political crime outside Austria prior to his admission as a person enjoying temporary protection, or the person has been guilty of acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations. Furthermore, a person is excluded from temporary protection if he constitutes a danger to the security of Austria or,

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having been convicted by a final judgment of a particularly serious crime, constitutes a danger to the community. Exclusion must be based solely on personal conduct, adhering to the principle of proportionality.

According to Section 4(3) of the Displaced Persons Ordinance (VertriebenenVO) the right of residence pursuant to Articles 1 or 3 of the VertriebenenVO expires if the person concerned leaves the federal territory for more than a short period of time. This is for instance the case if the centre of life has been moved to outside Austria or if the displaced person permanently returns to Ukraine. In this case, the displaced person must inform the relevant regional office of the BFA in the province the concerned person had his main residence and return the ID card in person or by post. If the person received basic care, he must notify the relevant basic care authority and social services timely. If the displaced person decides to enter Austria again, he may be reinstated to his status as a displaced person.

In addition, the right of residence will expire if there are reasons for exclusion, which includes convictions for a particularly serious crime.

Reception and accommodation

Overview

The mandatory insurance coverage for displaced persons from Ukraine, established by a Federal Government regulation dated February 24, 2022 (Section 21, incorporating § 9 ASVG), was not extended. As a result, the mandatory insurance coverage expired on May 31, 2025. As a result, the affected individuals (including children) lost their entitlement to benefits under the statutory health insurance system (medical services, hospitalization, medications, etc.).

Displaced persons, who are not gainfully employed, have a low income or are generally in need of assistance, receive reception support and services under basic care, if they are enrolled in basic health insurance (*Grundversorgung*). It includes the provision of accommodation, food and health insurance, if assistance

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is required. Health insurance entitles the displaced person to benefits such as medical assistance, medication and medical aids. If the displaced person has private accommodation, he may receive reception support in form of accommodation and meal allowances. To be eligible for basic care, displaced persons must register with a registration office of the police station.

Depending on the federal province, application for basic care must be submitted either to an NGO, like Diakonie for organized housing in Burgenland, or Caritas or Volkshilfe for private housing in Upper Austria, or directly at the government office of the federal province. For instance, in Styria, applying for organized and private housing is only possible at Caritas.

The Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services (BBU) is responsible for accommodation and material reception conditions at initial arrival centres in federal states or federal accommodation facilities. The BBU provides shelters for those who do not have the financial means to organise accommodation. Temporary housing, food and non-food items are provided in the shelters. The police is also a first contact point and they will get in touch with the coordination office of the BBU after an initial clarification of the accommodation situation.

Organisation of reception and accommodation

Initial reception: The federal states have established initial reception facilities for displaced persons arriving from the Ukraine. These facilities serve as an first contact point and provide orientation and guidance. Further information on existing reception centres can be obtained from the Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services (BBU) website or from the basic welfare support offices of the federal provinces.

Accommodation: Accommodation under the basic care system is provided in organized accommodation facilities operated by the basic care authorities (federal or provincial) or through private accommodation. There are specific benefits and corresponding maximum cost rates that apply to accommodation, although different regulations or amounts may apply in the federal provinces. Organized accommodation means that meals are included. If the displaced person is accommodated privately, he may receive basic care support benefits such as rent and food allowance. The special arrangements are handled by the

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basic care support office of the respective federal province.

Provision for means to obtain housing: Basic services and means to obtain private or individual housing are determined in accordance with regulations from the respective federal states and different amounts may apply.

In the context of private or individual accommodation, the following maximum rates apply (since July 2023):

- Rent (individual): Up to EUR 165.00/per person/per month
- Rent (families of more than 2 people in total): Up to EUR 330.00/per family/per month
- Subsistence (food) for adults: Up to EUR 260.00/per person/per month
- Subsistence (food) for minors: Up to EUR 145.00/per person/per month

In cases of private or individual housing, displaced persons receive the support payment for rent and food directly, unlike in organized accommodation.
Since 1 January 2025, Ukrainian cars are included in the means test for basic care. Generally, it is not possible to own a car and receive basic care, as the car is considered an asset. Thus, if a displaced person has a Ukrainian car, an individual assessment will be carried out to determine whether the person is classified as in need of assistance an whether basic care benefits can continue to be received.

Rights of people granted temporary protection

- **Access to the labour market**

Persons granted temporary protection in Austria and holding an ID card for displaced persons (Blue Card) have free access to the Austrian labour market and do not require a work permit.

They are entitled to work under the same conditions as other individuals with unrestricted access to the labour market under Austrian law. Since April 2023, holders of the displaced person's ID card have been exempting from the requirement to obtain an employment permit before starting work.

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If the displaced person receives basic care and starts working, he must immediately inform the regional basic care authority/landlord or regional coordinator.
Displaced persons are recommended to register with the Public Employment Service (AMS) or to declare themselves as a jobseeker. AMS registration is required in Vienna and Upper Austria in order to receive basic care, which is only possible after obtaining the ID for displaced persons. AMS offers job placement, training as well as advisory services.

AMS may pay financial assistance to cover living expenses (DLU), if the displaced person participates in a course or labor market policy measure. The DLU is deducted from the basic care benefits, as basic care is subsidiary.

Displaced persons can also work temporary, if they have an ID for displaced persons.

Transition out of temporary protection: Preparation and measures

Since 1 October 2024, eligible holders of the Blue ID Card have been able to transition to a Red-White-Red Card Plus (RWR+ Card). The "Red-White-Red Card Plus" is a temporary, renewable residence and work permit for third-country nationals and is not tied to a specific employer. It allows the holder to reside and work in Austria either as a self-employed or employed individual. No additional work permit is required.

- **Access to medical care**

Persons granted temporary protection in Austria have the right to access necessary medical care through the Austrian healthcare system. However, the special statutory health insurance scheme introduced for displaced persons from Ukraine ended on 31 May 2025, when the mandatory insurance coverage expired. Individuals who were covered under this scheme benefit from a six-week grace period, during which health insurance benefits continue to be provided if a claim arises. After this period, beneficiaries of temporary protection must obtain health insurance through one of the regular insurance pathways available under Austrian law. These include:

- compulsory health insurance through employment;
- voluntary self-insurance in the statutory health insurance system;

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- co-insurance as a family member of an insured person; or
- health insurance through the basic welfare support system where the person qualifies on the basis of need.

For displaced persons who were already insured through the basic welfare support system, health insurance coverage remains unchanged.

A plastic e-card is only issued to displaced persons who are co-insured or self-insured. Displaced persons who have health insurance in the framework of basic care receive a replacement e-card.
Displaced persons who, due to their current need for assistance, fall within the target group for basic benefits and are already receiving benefits are covered by health insurance in accordance with Section 19 of the Inclusion Regulation pursuant to Section 9 of the ASVG. For this group of individuals—unlike the insured persons referred to in Section 21—insurance coverage will continue unchanged even after May 31, 2025.

Transition out of temporary protection: Preparation and measures

Since 1 October 2024, eligible holders of the Blue ID Card have been able to transition to a Red-White-Red Card Plus (RWR+ Card). The "Red-White-Red Card Plus" is a temporary, renewable residence and work permit for third-country nationals and is not tied to a specific employer. It allows the holder to reside and work in Austria either as a self-employed or employed individual. No additional work permit is required.

- **Social welfare assistance and means of subsistence**

Since 1 November 2025, displaced persons from Ukraine are entitled to family allowance and childcare allowance for their children if they are either employed or self-employed or are registered with the Public Employment Service (AMS). Exceptions to this rule apply to persons under the age of 18 or over the age of 65, parents with care responsibilities for their severely disabled children, and persons with particularly compelling reasons.

The entitlement for family allowance and childcare allowance for displaced people from Ukraine was limited until 30 June 2026. From 1 July 2026, only displaced persons who do not receive basic care will be entitled to family and childcare allowance. An exception is planned for recipients of the increased family allowance who care for and support children with significant disabilities. These persons may continue to receive basic care and family allowance,

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simultaneously. In addition, displaced persons are no longe required to submit proof of registration with the AMS or proof of employment as part of their family allowance application. Entitlement to family allowance remains in place till March 2028, provided all eligibility requirements continue to be met.

Family allowance is granted per child and month, ranging between EUR 138.40 to 200.40, depending on age. An additional monthly amount is paid to families with two or more children.

Furthermore, a school start allowance of EUR 121.40 is paid automatically for each child aged between 6 to 15 years every September together with the family allowance.
Childcare allowance is, unlike the family allowance, considered income within the basic care system and may lead to a reduction, suspension or repayment of basic care benefits. Displaced persons from Ukraine may receive childcare allowance if they live in the same household as the child, receive family allowance in Austria for the child and not earn more than EUR 18,000 gross per year in additional income.

Transition out of temporary protection: Preparation and measures

Since 1 October 2024, eligible holders of the Blue ID Card have been able to transition to a Red-White-Red Card Plus (RWR+ Card). The "Red-White-Red Card Plus" is a temporary, renewable residence and work permit for third-country nationals and is not tied to a specific employer. It allows the holder to reside and work in Austria either as a self-employed or employed individual. No additional work permit is required.

- **Education and vocation training**

Compulsory education of nine years applies to all children who are permanent residents of Austria. All children who have reached the age of five by 1 September of the relevant calendar year are obliged to attend kindergarten for a period of one year.

Children can go to the school of the city where they are residing. Parents can contact special information services desks for schooling and registration in the different federal states. The Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) has initiatives in many areas and initial support services are listed on its website with information about validation of qualifications, universities, support

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services for families, students, etc.

Students are covered by an accident insurance, regardless of their health insurance coverage.

Since 1 July 2024, compulsory education until the age of 18 also applies to displaced persons from Ukraine. The requirement is fulfilled by attending a secondary school, school or training in the social and health sector, vocational training or participation in recognized courses, such as AMS or German courses. In addition, attending a Ukrainian secondary school in online format, is recognized as part of education until the age of 18.

Displaced persons from Ukraine from the age of 15 are entitled to free German courses provided by the Austrian Integration Fund (ÖIF).

For the admission to study in Austria, displaced persons must submit a Ukrainian school graduation certificate. Displaced persons were exempt from tuition fees including for the 2025/26 winter semester.

Professional qualifications obtained outside Austria may need to be recognised in order to work in regulated professions, such as healthcare, teaching, law or architecture. Although recognition is generally not required for non-regulated professions, it may improve employment opportunities. Foreign academic degrees and university qualifications may also require recognition by the competent authorities, particularly for employment in the public sector or other regulated occupations.

Vocational qualifications obtained abroad may be recognised by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs, Energy and Tourism (BMWET) as equivalent to an Austrian apprenticeship qualification. In addition, a simplified qualification assessment procedure under Section 6 of the Recognition and Assessment Act is available to support labour market integration, particularly for displaced persons from Ukraine, by helping employers and job seekers assess foreign professional qualifications.

- **Family Reunification**

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According to the Section 1 of the Displaced Persons Ordinance | VertriebenenVO the temporary right of residence applies to family members of a Ukrainian citizen or a third-country national with asylum or a comparable protection status in the Ukraine, provided that they were already living with them in Ukraine prior to 24 February 2022. Family members include spouse or registered partner, unmarried minor children (including those belonging to the spouse or registered partner) and other close relatives who lived in the same household prior and who were dependent.

Transition out of temporary protection: Preparation and measures

Since 1 October 2024, eligible holders of the Blue ID Card have been able to transition to a Red-White-Red Card Plus (RWR+ Card). The "Red-White-Red Card Plus" is a temporary, renewable residence and work permit for third-country nationals and is not tied to a specific employer. It allows the holder to reside and work in Austria either as a self-employed or employed individual. No additional work permit is required. Family members may also receive a Red-White-Red Card Plus if the primary cardholder has one.

- **Freedom of movement**

Displaced persons from Ukraine with a displaced persons ID and their passport, can generally travel visa-free within the Schengen Area for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. They can re-enter Austria at any time with a valid Displaced Persons ID. If the displaced person leaves Austria for more than a short period of time, the temporary protection right expires (Section 4(3) of the VertriebenenVO).

Transition out of temporary protection: Preparation and measures

Displaced persons from Ukraine with a Red-White-Red Card Plus and their passport, can generally travel visa-free within the Schengen Area for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. They can re-enter Austria at any time with a valid Red-White-Red Card plus.

- **Integration initiatives**

The Austrian Integration Fund (ÖIF) provides Ukrainian beneficiaries of temporary protection from the age of 15 with a ID for displaced persons with free German language courses at proficiency levels A1 to C1 throughout Austria. The courses

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provide a state-recognised certificate. Courses are available at more than 80 locations. Courses may also be offered with accompanying childcare.

In addition, the ÖIF offers free online German courses and self-learning resources, enabling participants to study independently regardless of their location. Individuals wishing to enrol receive further information during a consultation appointment at an ÖIF integration centre and are required to present their displaced persons identity card and registration form.
German courses from level A2 onwards concluded with an exam, which is upon successful completion recognized as an official language certificate.

The ÖIF also provides contact points in each federal state for information on German courses and other integration services and has an information hotline with Ukrainian-speaking staff (+43 1 715 10 51-120).

The Women's Centre of the ÖIF offers a range of specific counselling and information services, as well as networking an exchange meetings for Ukrainian women to support them with their integration process.

- **Other initiatives**

Displaced persons from Ukraine have the possibility to have free return counselling provided by the BBU.
Furthermore, they are permanently exempt from having to re-register their vehicles with Ukrainian registration, provided they have an ID card for displaced person. Thus, these vehicles do not have to be registered in Austria, nor do they have to travel outside Austria with the vehicle once a year, as long as vehicles with Ukrainian registration are used by displaced persons from Ukraine with a right of residence.

Assistance to unaccompanied minors

The national legal framework governing measures related to temporary protection for unaccompanied children is governed by the Austrian Basic Care Act (Grundversorgungsgesetz – Bund) and the Regulation on Temporary Protection for Displaced Persons from Ukraine (Vertriebenen-Verordnung), adopted under

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the Austrian Asylum Act.
Unaccompanied minors from Ukraine seeking temporary protection must be registered as displaced persons and issued an ID card (Blue Card). The registration and documentation process for persons seeking temporary protection is carried out by the competent Austrian authorities, including the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum (*Bundesamt für Fremdenwesen und Asyl , BFA*). Child and youth welfare authorities are involved in ensuring the protection and care of unaccompanied minors.

Unaccompanied children (UMF) are entitled to appropriate representation and guardianship. If custody cannot be transferred to relatives or other particularly suitable persons in Austria, the guardianship court transfers the custody to the responsible child and youth welfare agency (*Kinder und Jugendhilfe*).

Child and youth welfare agencies act as guardians and ensure that the best interest of children is protected, including representation in administrative procedures and access to necessary services. Registrations and procedures involving unaccompanied minors are handled with priority due to their vulnerability.

Reception and accommodation of unaccompanied children seeking or under temporary protection, are organised through the child and youth welfare system of the Austrian federal provinces (*Kinder- und Jugendhilfe*). Accommodation options include specialised facilities for unaccompanied minors, support to living arrangements, foster care, or placement with suitable relatives or host families.

The responsible child and youth welfare authorities (*Kinder- und Jugendhilfe*) are allocated in nine regions of Austria including: the city of Vienna, Lower Austria, Burgenland, Styria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Carinthia, Tyrol and Vorarlberg.

Additional support is provided by organisations such as SOS Children’s Villages (*SOS-Kinderdorf*), including host family programmes and emergency support services for children and families.

Unaccompanied children receive information on their rights, procedures, accommodation, education, healthcare, and available support services. Interpretation and language assistance are provided where necessary to ensure that children can understand information and participate effectively in procedures.

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Support services include child-focused counselling and information services (*Rat auf Draht*) provide advice and support for children, young people, and families, including information on how to discuss war and crisis situations with children.

Unaccompanied children who are granted temporary protection have access to education in Austria under the same general conditions as other children residing in Austria. They may attend compulsory schooling and can enrol in language courses to facilitate integration into the education system.

Municipalities, particularly the City of Vienna and local authorities in the federal provinces, support the implementation of child and youth welfare measures, including accommodation arrangements, access to local services, and coordination with schools, healthcare providers, and social support organisations.

Additional initiatives support the integration and wellbeing of unaccompanied minors, include:

- SOS-Kinderdorf host family programme, which supports families willing to host unaccompanied minors. The process includes an application, an initial interview, an assessment by Vienna Child and Youth Welfare Services, and matching with a young person based on suitability and mutual interests.
- SOS emergency aid for children and families, providing support to children and families in need.
- Buddy programmes, which provide social support and assistance with integration.
- Rat auf Draht, offering confidential advice and information for children and young people.

Contact points:

- SOS-Kinderdorf: Theresia Verweyen, theresia.verweyen@sos-kinderdorf.at, +43 676 88 144918
- For host family applications in Vienna: Magdalena Minich, magdalena.minich@sos-kinderdorf.at

Assistance to people with special needs

Human trafficking is criminalised under the Austrian Criminal Code (Strafgesetzbuch, StGB), and Austria implements the relevant EU and international legal framework on preventing trafficking, protecting victims, and

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prosecuting offenders. Victims of violence are protected under the Violence Protection Act (*Gewaltschutzgesetz*), which includes protection measures and access to specialised support services. Victims of trafficking and violence are entitled to protection, assistance, counselling, and access to justice regardless of whether they participate in criminal proceedings.

Austria implements special procedures to identify persons with special protection or support needs including trafficking, exploitation, violence, trauma, disabilities, as well as age or health-related needs. Vulnerabilities are identified during registration, reception, accommodation, or through contact with competent authorities and specialised organisations. Identified persons may be referred to appropriate protection and assistance services.

Victims of human trafficking, gender-based violence, and other forms of exploitation have access to specialised assistance, including counselling, legal information, psychosocial support, assistance in administrative proceedings, and support in accessing accommodation and other services. Specialised organisations, including LEFÖ for women and girls, MEN VIA for male victims, the Criminal Intelligence Service Austria (*Bundeskriminalamt*), and Violence Protection Centres, provide tailored support and protection throughout Austria. In every federal province there are violence protection centres, which offer professional and confidential counselling for victims and, upon request, provide support with next steps. Furthermore, there are specialized counselling centres for women experiencing violence.

Solidarity (relocation of people who are eligible for temporary protection)

Austria does not implement any solidarity measures or scheme for relocation of people who are eligible for temporary protection.

Impact of simultaneous application for international protection

Applicants or beneficiaries of temporary protection have the right to apply for international protection at any time. Section 22(4) of the Asylum Act 2005 states that if the Directive 2001/55/EC on temporary protection in the event of a mass

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influx of displaced persons applies to the Member State, or an ordinance is issued under Section 62 Asylum Act (here the Displaced Person Ordinance – VertriebenenVO), the deadlines in proceedings under this Asylum Act are suspended for the entire duration of the temporary protection. Thus, if a beneficiary of temporary protection applies for international protection, the application will be hindered for the duration of the right of residence of a displaced person and will not be processed. The BFA only registers the application but does not further process it while the temporary residence status is active. The asylum procedure will be reactivated and processed if the temporary protection regime ends or if the individual loses their status.

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