Welcome to Estonia!

Estonia is a safe stopping point for Ukrainian citizens and their family members who have fled here from the war. While the information in this brochure is correct at the time of publication, it may change in time. For the most up-to-date information, please visit dopomoga.ee.

EMPLOYMENT

Once you have received temporary protection, you may begin working immediately. The Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund will help you find a job. If you register as unemployed at the Unemployment Insurance Fund, you are entitled to labour market services and benefits. Details of the Unemployment Insurance Fund: 15010 (372-425-4971). If you become employed, your employer must pay your minimum wage, which is EUR 654 in 2022.

Without applying for temporary protection, you cannot apply to work in Estonia. For the short term, i.e., up to one year. For short-term employment, your employer must register you as a short-term employee with the Police and Border Guard Board. If the employer registers your short-term employment, you will also receive an Estonian personal identification code. The employer must pay a short-term employee EUR 1.54 per hour. Short-term employment does not entitle you to allowance and benefits, such as family allowances, subsistence benefit, etc.

CHILDREN

If you have children and decide to stay in Estonia, you can apply for a kindergarten or school spot directly from the local government or school. You can also apply for the residence permit, but you do not have a personal identification code, temporary protection, or permanent residence.

Children residing in Estonia are required to attend school from the age of 7 until they obtain basic education or until they reach the age of 17.

Learning generally takes place in Estonia, with some basic schools also teaching in Russian. You can find Uzbek children studying online that will enable your child to partially continue learning in Uzbekistan. Kindergarten is not mandatory in Estonia.

In some local governments, you must register all children aged 7 and half to seven, whose parents wish for their children to attend kindergarten. In kindergarten, children will have that opportunity.

All around children need to protect them from violence and physical violence, injustice, neglect, exploitation, sexual abuse, and other dangers.

Report an abused child or the suspicion thereof to the local government, the police by calling 112 or by calling the around-the-clock child hotline 116-056 (372-600-4343 when calling from a foreign number).

Say hello to the Estonian language!

As a Ukrainian citizen, you have the right to stay in Estonia without a visa. If you wish to stay in Estonia for more than one year, you can apply for temporary protection. You can do this at the customer service of the Police and Border Guard Board in Tallinn, Tartu, Jõhvi, Rakvere, Narva or Põlva. Book an appointment before going to a service point. (https://www.ettevotavaband.ee/en).

If the customer service points of the Police and Border Guard Board are closed at the time of your arrival in Estonia, go to the nearest information point in Tallinn, Tartu, Põlva. You can find contacts at dopomoga.ee.

If you are transiting through Estonia and need temporary accommodation, go to refugee information point in Tallinn, Tartu, Põlva, or Jõhvi. You can find contacts at dopomoga.ee. To help you reach the Jõhvi information point, you can get information from the Narva border crossing point.

You can find information that is important to Ukrainian citizens by calling the helpline 1247 (If you call from a Ukrainian number, dial +372-600-1247). The helpline is open from Monday to Friday 8:00-20:00.

For the most up-to-date information, please visit dopomoga.ee.

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PLACE OF STAY

Registration of residence

After receiving temporary protection and a residence permit, you must register the data concerning your place of residence in the Estonian population register. Residence information is the basic for applying for various services or applications. In a kindergarten, free public transport, social assistance, family physician, etc. You can register your Estonian residence information with the local government where you are living.

You can apply for temporary protection at the customer service of the Police and Border Guard Board. Book an appointment in advance and bring the following documents: residence permit or international passport (also other document certifying a family event, e.g., marriage or divorce). At the customer service of the Police and Border Guard Board, you will learn how you will be able to receive temporary protection and a residence permit. Should the war continue, it will be possible to extend the temporary protection.

For more information on temporary protection, see: dopomoga.ee

TEMPORARY PROTECTION

Temporary protection is a residence permit that is valid for one year, with which you can obtain the same rights as people in Estonia, such as getting a job, obtaining and benefiting, and the right to social services.

Applying for temporary protection is not mandatory.

You can apply for temporary protection at the customer service of the Police and Border Guard Board.

If you wish to stay in Estonia for a longer period, you can apply for temporary protection. You can do this at the customer service of the Police and Border Guard Board in Tallinn, Tartu, Jõhvi, Rakvere, Narva or Põlva. Book an appointment before going to a service point. (https://www.ettevotavaband.ee/en).

For the most up-to-date information, please visit dopomoga.ee.

Create an Estonian bank account before you work or apply to allow you to benefit. Salary allowances and benefits are paid into your bank account.

In many banks, opening an account is free of charge. More information about opening an account, professional and specialized medical care under the same conditions as local people with health insurance.

You are entitled to health insurance if your employment contract is longer than one month or if you have been registered as unemployed at the Unemployment Insurance Fund. Children, pregnant women, pensioners, students, university students and other people who have registered the place of residence in Estonia to have health insurance. More information: dopomoga.ee

ALLOWSANCE AND BENEFITS

Upon receiving temporary protection, you are entitled to subsistence benefits, family benefits, social benefits, and labour market services and labour market benefits.

To apply for the subsistence benefit, please visit the local government of your place of residence. From 1 June 2022, the subsistence level for a person living alone or the first member of the family is EUR 235 per month and EUR 160 for the second and each additional member of the family. The subsistence level for each minor member of the family is EUR 240 per month. In the case of health insurance, the family will be entitled to an additional social benefit of EUR 15 together with the subsistence benefit.

As a refugee, you have the right to apply for reimbursement of costs related to leaving a dwelling. To apply for the benefits, submit the house rent contract and or cost documents to the local authority of your place of residence. The compensation paid once and the maximum reimbursement for expenses incurred is up to EUR 1200. The payment will be made to you or to the person who has signed the contract and is moving the dwelling to you. The local authority is allowed to deduct from the amount of the compensation up to EUR 50 for the costs of the proceedings and the costs of translation services.

WELCOMING PROGRAMME

The state offers recipients of temporary protection in the Estonian state the opportunity to apply for the following in the Estonian state: the opportunity to apply for state legal aid in the Estonian language, the opportunity to apply for the subsistence benefit, the opportunity to apply for the family benefits,

The UN Refugee Agency provides information on help for refugees (https://europe.unhcr.org/russia)

An independent non-governmental human rights advocacy organisation in Estonia is Estonian Human Rights Centre

Simpler legal issues covered include questions about the legal bases for staying in Estonia. You can contact the Border Guard Board if you have any questions about the legal bases for staying in Estonia.

The retirement age in Estonia is 64 years old. The pension will be paid to you or to the person who has signed the contract and is moving the dwelling to you. The local authority is allowed to deduct from the amount of the compensation up to EUR 50 for the costs of the proceedings and the costs of translation services.

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From temporary protection to independent living

**START**

- **Temporary protection and personal identification code**
  - To gain access to education, social benefits, and the labour market, apply for temporary protection and an Estonian personal identification code.
  - You can get temporary protection and a personal identification code at the reception centre or from the service offices of the Police and Border Guard Board. Bring an identity document.
- **Until your arrival in Estonia, go to the service offices of the Police and Border Guard Board.**
  - If the customer service points of the Police and Border Guard Board are closed at the time of your arrival in Estonia, go to the refugee information point in Tallinn, Tartu, Pärnu, or Jõgeva.

**Bank account**

- Before you apply for benefits and allowances, open an Estonian bank account.
  - To open a bank account, go to the nearest bank.
  - Bring your identity document and the decision on temporary protection.

**General health examination**

- The purpose of the general health examination is to obtain an overview of the state of health of the war refugees to ensure the same high-quality and solidarity-based medical care for them as is available for all other residents of Estonia.
  - Based on the medical history, it is also possible to determine the degree of disability of a disabled war refugee or refer a person to a family doctor/medical specialist for an additional appointment to determine the degree of disability.
  - You can book a general health examination independently. Read more from the website of the Estonian Health Insurance Fund

**Pension**

- If you are of Estonian retirement age, i.e. born in 1958 or earlier, you can apply for an old-age pension.
  - This will also give you health insurance.
  - To apply, go to the nearest service office of the Estonian National Social Insurance Board.
  - Bring your identity document and the decision on temporary protection.

- If you came to Estonia with a minor child but you are not their mother or father, you must become their guardian to represent the child.
- To become their guardian, contact the local government.
- Bring your identity document and any other documents you have for the child and their parents. In addition, bring the decision on temporary protection.
- Please inform the Embassy of Ukraine in Estonia that the children are in Estonia.

**Nursery school and school places**

- You can get information about available nursery school and school places from the local government of your place of residence.
- You can apply for a nursery school place or school place directly from the local government or school even if you do not yet have a personal identification code, temporary protection, or permanent residence.
- Bring your identity document and the identity document of the child. Read more about the educational system from www.hm.ee/kool.

**Guardianship**

- If you came to Estonia with a minor child but you are not their mother or father, you must become their guardian to represent the child.
- To become their guardian, contact the local government.
- Bring your identity document and any other documents you have for the child and their parents. In addition, bring the decision on temporary protection.
- Please inform the Embassy of Ukraine in Estonia that the children are in Estonia.

**Family allowances**

- If you came to Estonia with a child, you have the right to receive family allowances. To apply for family allowances, go to the nearest service office of the Estonian National Social Insurance Board.
- Bring your identity document and the decision on temporary protection. If you are the guardian of the child, also bring the court order proving it.
- If you have a child under the age of three, you will also receive health insurance along with family allowances.

**Work**

- Once you have received temporary protection, you can start working immediately.
  - The Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund helps to find a job.
  - Once you register as unemployed, you will be entitled to labor market services and benefits and receive health insurance. To do this, go to the nearest Unemployment Insurance Fund department.
  - Bring your identity document and the decision on temporary protection.

**Subsistence benefit**

- If you have received temporary protection, you are entitled to a subsistence benefit.
  - If you need a subsistence benefit, you can apply for it from the local government of your place of residence.
  - Bring your identity document and the decision on temporary protection.

**Pension for war refugees**

- As a war refugee, you have the right to apply for reimbursement of costs related to leasing a dwelling.
  - To apply for the benefit, submit the lease contract and/or cost documents to the local authority of your place of residence.
  - The compensation is paid once and the maximum reimbursement for expenses incurred is up to EUR 1230.

**Adaptation programme**

- To make it easier to adapt to living in Estonia, you need to participate in an adaptation programme and take a basic Estonian language course.
- Information about the start and registration of the adaptation programme and language course will be sent to you by e-mail.

**FINISH**