



## **THE SPANISH NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM: RESPONSIVENESS AND COORDINATION AHEAD OF THE UKRAINIAN CRISIS**

*22 September 2022*

In January 2022, the National Security Department (NSD) —concerned by the rising tension on the Russian-Ukrainian border— initiated an exhaustive monitoring and analysis of the situation and anticipated possible scenarios in which the crisis could escalate. All this aiming at providing appropriate advice to the President of the Government, as director of the National Security policy and the National Security System, as provided by Law 36/2015, of September 28, on National Security.

To this effect, on January 24, the NSD established a Coordination Cell (CELCOR), headed by the Director of the NSD, to follow and assess these events. Since then, this cell brings together on a regular basis all ministries and institutions involved in order to assess the situation and coordinate the national response. CELCOR issues a daily report compiling information provided by each of the ministries that conform this working group within their respective spheres of competence, as well as a description of the impact of this crisis in Spain.

Subsequently, on February 2, once the Russian invasion of Ukraine started, the Situation Committee was established. This Committee is a support body for the National Security Council (NSC) and is unique for the whole National Security System in crisis management matters. It acts in accordance with the political and strategic guidelines issued by the NSC in those crises in which its action is required; and it is chaired by the Minister of the Presidency, Parliamentary Relations and Democratic Memory.

In the context of this crisis —which has a profound impact in Europe and in Spain— the Committee has set up four specific working groups, to carry out the following tasks:

1. To establish a cybersecurity action plan at the national level;
2. To coordinate the implementation of the sanctions approved by the European Union and Spain;

3. To coordinate and follow-up the management of the reception of temporarily displaced persons from Ukraine.
4. To collaborate in the establishment of a contingency plan in the energy field.



*Situation Committee Meeting on 02/02/2022*

Ever since their establishment, these working groups include the participation of duly designated departments and agencies. They are organized to ensure an active coordination, monitoring and management of the crisis, as well as to verify and increase the effectiveness of the measures approved.

### **Meetings**

The National Security Council has met three times to analyze and assess the threat posed by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and its further impact in Spain and their citizens daily life: on February 24, chaired by His Majesty the King; and on March 4 and June 21, chaired by the President of the Government.



*Meeting of the National Security Council 24/02/2022*

Since its first meeting on February 2, the Situation Committee (the highest level of coordination chaired by the Ministry of the Presidency) has met up to sixteen times. During its last meeting, held on July 26, the Committee set up a new Working Group to coordinate all matters related to the energy crisis caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

In addition, the CELCOR —chaired by the Director of the NSD— continues its regular meetings, where the different ministries and agencies discuss the situation in Ukraine, as well as the impact of the Russian invasion on the different security sectors in Spain.

### **Working Group to monitor the implementation of sanctions**

The Spanish authorities, in application of the European regulations adopted in relation to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, have frozen the following assets —owned, held or controlled— by those sanctioned by the European Union and the United States:

- 59 funds (current accounts, shares, etc.);
- 27 real estate assets;
- 5 vessels; and
- 4 aircrafts;

## Reception and Temporary Protection Working Group

As for the Reception and Temporary Protection Working Group —an inter-ministerial coordination group, chaired by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of the Presidency—, it has met on 17 occasions since the Russian invasion of Ukraine began. During its meetings, the working group analyses all aspects related to the reception, attention and granting of temporary protection to people affected by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In addition, the working group keeps the European Union and NATO informed on all matters, within their sphere of competence, concerning the management of this crisis in Spain.

As of September 20, and [according to UNHCR](#), 13,081,621 persons have fled Ukraine following the Russian military invasion, and 6,088,016 have returned to Ukraine.

In this context, some of the highlights in Spain are:

- As of September 19, more than 146,000 persons have been assisted by third sector entities that collaborate with the national reception system.
- As of September 19, 143,653 persons affected by the invasion of Ukraine have received temporary protection in Spain. Spain is the 5<sup>th</sup> country in the European Union with the highest number of persons with temporary protection, after Poland, Germany, the Czech Republic and Italy. From this total, 50,560 (35,20%) are under the age of 18.
- All temporary protections are granted in the four Reception, Attention and Referral Centers (CREADE) established in Madrid, Barcelona, Alicante and Málaga, where people coming from Ukraine receive comprehensive care. Additionally, more than ninety departments of the National Police throughout the Spanish territory can also handle temporary protections.

**Ucrania Urgente**  
Información para desplazados ucranianos  
**+34 910 474 444**

### ¿Dónde hay un Centro de Recepción, Atención y Derivación?

Actualmente hay 4 Centros de Recepción, Atención y Derivación, (CREADE):

- CREADE Pozuelo de Alarcón (Madrid): P.º de la Casa de Campo, 1, 28223 Pozuelo de Alarcón, Madrid.
- CREADE Barcelona: Avenida de la Reina Maria Cristina, s/n, 08004 Barcelona.
- CREADE Alicante: Avenida de Jean Claude Combaldieu s/n, Ciudad de la Luz, 03008 Alicante.
- CREADE Málaga: Av de José Ortega y Gasset, número 20, 29006 Málaga.

Teléfono de información y cita previa: [+34\) 910 474 444](tel:+34910474444)

- As of September 19, the Call Center —established by the Ministry of Inclusion at the beginning of March— had taken 120,706 calls.
- [The website Ucrania Urgente](#) —managed and coordinated by the Ministry of Inclusion— provides comprehensive information to displaced persons in Spain affected by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, as well as to the Spanish citizens themselves. All ministries involved in the different areas affecting displaced persons actively participate in this webpage.



- As of September 14, after the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year in Spain and thanks to the joint work of the Ministry of Education and the Autonomous Communities, 29,864 displaced Ukrainian students were enrolled in Spanish educational institutions, 27,432 of whom minors. All in all, Spain is the fourth country in the EU by number of school enrolments. Spain is now preparing for the new school year with a program that will facilitate, encourage and increase enrolments in the different educational levels, especially those corresponding to compulsory education.
- In 2022, Spanish Universities developed different actions to welcome displaced students, professors and researchers, as well as administrative staff affected by the conflict to help their integration in the Spanish university community. Furthermore, the Spanish Ministry of Universities, in collaboration with the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE) and the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration, launched the "[University-Refuge Action Plan](#)" aimed at welcoming students, researchers and administrative staff with temporary protection. The main actions included in the plan are: linguistic and cultural support; academic orientation; accommodation in university residences; and access to academic activities and university social services.
- Regarding healthcare, as of September 14, 65,156 displaced persons from Ukraine have received an individual health card, which allows them full access

to the national healthcare system. In comparison to other EU countries, Spain stands out for its important contribution to the mechanism for the transfer, reception and treatment of patients through Spain's National Center for Emergencies (CENEM) and the EU CECIS platform (Common Emergency Communication and Information System).

### *Child protection*

In addition, since the beginning of this crisis Spain has strengthened its system to ensure the protection of minors who had fled the Ukrainian conflict. Thus, on 29 March and within the framework of this coordinating working group, the Ministry of Social Rights issued recommendations regarding the protection of children and adolescents displaced by the conflict in Ukraine.

On 8 June 2022, the public coordinating prosecutor for minors agreed on a series of instructions from the Unit for Minors of the State General Prosecutor Office on the protection of Ukrainian minors at risk. This instruction was then distributed to the all Deputy Regional Prosecutors for Minors in the Autonomous Communities.

### *Support for Ukrainian athletes*

On June 22, at the headquarters of the Superior Sports Council, a Protocol to facilitate federated sports practice for Ukrainian children and adolescents was officially presented. This protocol aims to facilitate federated sports to displaced minors and adolescents from Ukraine forced to interrupt their practice, with a double inclusion itinerary depending on whether they are high-level athletes or not. The event gathered all organizations involved in the development of the protocol: the High Commissioner for the Fight against Child Poverty (ACPI), the Superior Sports Council (CSD) of the Ministry of Culture and Sports, the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP) and the Spanish Sports Association (ADESP).



PROTOCOLO DE ACTUACIÓN PARA LA PRÁCTICA DEPORTIVA FEDERADA DE NIÑOS, NIÑAS Y ADOLESCENTES UCRANIANOS