



SPAIN AHEAD OF THE RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE: CRISIS MANAGEMENT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM.

24 January 2023

- According to UNHCR, 17,688,845 people have fled Ukraine due to the Russian invasion, although 9,585,700 have returned to the country.
- 164,023 people affected by the conflict in Ukraine have been granted temporary protection in Spain: fifth EU country by number of grants, with 4.1% of the total grants given in the EU.
- 37,198 displaced Ukrainian students are attending school in Spain: the fourth EU country by number of enrolments.
- 74,733 people from Ukraine have been issued the Individual Health Card (TSI) for Temporary Protection (title 58).
- More than 13,695 people have been employed, 58% of whom are women.

In January 2022, the threat of a possible military action by Russia over Ukraine became a certain reality. For this reason, and within the framework of the National Security System, the National Security Department (NSD) began an exhaustive monitoring and analysis of the situation generated by the growing tension on the border between Russia and Ukraine, worsened with the massive deployment of Russian troops in the border region, backed by Belarus. In addition, different scenarios that could generate an escalation of the crisis were analyzed, with the aim of providing appropriate advice to the President of the Government, as director of the National Security policy and the National Security System, according to Law 36/2015, of 28 September, 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, the Situation Committee was established. On February 24, 335 days ago, the Russian invasion of Ukraine started. This Committee —chaired by the Minister for the Presidency, Parliamentary Relations and Democratic Memory— is a support body for the National Security Council (NSC) and is unique for the whole National Security System in crisis management matters. In the performance of its tasks, the Situation Committee acts in accordance with the political and strategic guidelines issued by the NSC in those crises in which its action is required.

In order to address this crisis —which has a profound impact in Europe and in Spain— the Situation Committee has set up five 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.
5. To collaborate from Spain, inside the European Union, in the reconstruction of Ukraine.



Meeting of the Situation Committee 10 October 2022

Ever since their establishment, these working groups include the participation of duly designated ministerial 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 four times to analyze the situation caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, as well as its repercussions in Spain and in everything that affects the daily life of citizens: on February 24 —chaired by His Majesty the King —; and on March 4, June 21 and October 11, chaired by the President of the Government.



Meeting of the National Security Council 11 October 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 20 times. During its last meeting, held on 12 January 2023, the Committee analyzed the status of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, as well as its repercussions in different areas at the national and international level.

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:

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

Reception and Temporary Protection Working Group

On March 4, the Reception and Temporary Protection Working Group —an inter-ministerial coordination group, chaired by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of the Presidency—, was set up; following the decision to implement [Council Directive 2001/55/EC](#). The directive includes the minimum standards for granting temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons as well as promotes a balance of efforts between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences of receiving them. At that time, the mass exodus from Ukraine after the Russian invasion was already a reality and, with this decision, Spain —together with the rest of the countries of the European Union— prepared itself to receive all the people from Ukraine who decided to move to our country.

The Working Group is made up of different ministries responsible for managing the reception, hosting and granting of temporary protection, together with the Secretary of State for Communication, under the coordination of the Department of National Security. Since its establishment, it has met 20 times. In its working meetings, it analyses all aspects related to the reception, hosting and granting of temporary protection to the people affected by the conflict. Likewise, it keeps the European Union and NATO informed on all matters concerning the management of this crisis in Spain, within its sphere of competence.

As of January 17, and [according to UNHCR](#), 17,688,845 persons have fled Ukraine following the Russian military invasion, and 9,585,700 have returned to Ukraine. In Europe, as of January 17, there are 4,940,057 people affected by the Russian invasion registered under EU Temporary Protection or under similar national protection schemes.

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


- As of January 22, 164,023 persons affected by the invasion of Ukraine have received temporary protection in Spain. Spain is the fifth 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, 54,802 (33.45%) 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.



¿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 January 19, the Call Center —established by the Ministry of Inclusion at the beginning of March— had taken 154,576 calls.
- [The website Ucrania Urgente](#) —managed and coordinated by the Ministry of Inclusion— provides comprehensive information (Ukrainian and Spanish) 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 December 31, 2022, more than 13,695 people have been registered as working, 58% of whom are women.
- As of December 30, 2022, 37,198 displaced Ukrainian students were enrolled in Spanish educational institutions, 30,082 of whom are minors and 7,116 adults enrolled in Official Language Schools and Adult Education Centres. Overall, Spain is the fourth country in the EU by number of school enrolments: 36% of enrolments correspond to the Primary Education level, 23% to the Compulsory Secondary Education (ESO) level, 15% to the Early Childhood Education level and 19% to language and adult education. Regarding their distribution by territory, they are in line with the current distribution of the Ukrainian population in Spain.
- In December 2022, the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training gave green light to the distribution of 13.5 million euros among the Autonomous Communities to finance the expenses derived from the schooling of minors displaced by the conflict in Ukraine. These funds are aimed at hiring reinforcement teaching staff, labor staff and conversation assistants; school transport and canteen; purchase of school material and school furniture; and adaptation or conditioning of spaces for ordinary classrooms, among others.
- On the other hand, the Ministry of Education maintained, between March and December 2022, a program for Ukrainian language assistants. The purpose of the program was fulfilled after its 8-month duration, as it was an initiative for support and reception in the arrival and adaptation stage. To date, it is considered that the adaptation process has been fulfilled and that the students have developed ties in the community and have settled in Spain.
- 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. In order to implement this Plan, Royal Decree 985/2022 was adopted in November for the direct granting of subsidies to public universities and to the CRUE.

- Regarding healthcare, as of January 16, 77,808 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