



NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM: MANAGEMENT OF THE CRISIS OF THE RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE.

16 November 2023

- The Council of the European Union has agreed to extend the granting of temporary protection to people fleeing the Russian invasion of Ukraine until 4 March 2025. Temporary protection (EU Directive 2001/55/EC) is a mechanism of EU emergency activated in exceptional circumstances of massive influx of people to EU territory.
- In Spain, the management of the crisis derived from the Russian invasion of Ukraine is carried out within the framework of the National Security System.
- In compliance with the sanctions imposed by the European Union, Spain increases the freezing of Russian assets.
- According to UNHCR, on 7 November, 26 195 015 people have fled Ukraine due to the Russian invasion, although 18 944 820 have returned to the country.
- 190 889 people affected by the conflict in Ukraine have been granted temporary protection in Spain: fifth EU country by number of grants, with 4.4% of the total grants given in the EU.
- 36 816 displaced Ukrainian students are attending school in Spain: the fifth EU country by number of enrolments.
- 85 406 people from Ukraine have been issued the Individual Health Card (TSI) for Temporary Protection (title 58).
- More than 20 256 people have been registered in the labour market, 55% of whom are women.

631 days ago, on 24 February 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Before the final military offensive took place, during the month of January 2022, the threat of a possible military action by Russia over Ukraine began to cause concern in the international arena. 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, who directs 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, 2022, the NSD established a Coordination Cell (CELCOR), to monitor and assess the situation in Eastern Europe, as well as the consequences it could have at the global level, and especially the repercussion in Spain in many different aspects. Since then, this cell —headed by the Director of the NSD— brought together on a daily basis all ministries and institutions involved in order to assess the situation and its effects in Europe and, more specifically, in Spain, as well as to coordinate the national response. At present, and one year after its establishment, CELCOR holds weekly meetings and issues a periodic 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. All of this is being coordinated by the Department of National Security.

On February 2, the Situation Committee was established, and weeks later —on February 24— the Russian invasion of Ukraine took place, of which more than 365 days have passed. 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 October 03 2023

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 six 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. In 2022 it has met 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. In 2023, it has met on 14 February and on 12 April, also chaired by the President of the Government.



Meeting of the National Security Council 14 April 2023

For its part, the Situation Committee —the highest level of coordination, chaired by the Minister of the Presidency— has met up to 24 times since its first meeting on February 2. During its last meeting, held on 3 October 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 Russian assets —owned, held or controlled— by those sanctioned by the European Union:

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

Reception and Temporary Protection Working Group

On 4 March 2022, the Reception and Temporary Protection Working Group—an inter-ministerial coordination group, chaired by the Undersecretary of 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 EU temporary protection mechanism was activated on March 4, 2022 and was automatically extended for one year, until March 2024. On September 28, 2023, [the Council of the European Union agreed to extend](#) the temporary protection of people fleeing the conflict between Russia and Ukraine from March 4, 2024 to March 4, 2025. The acting Minister of the Interior of Spain has assured that «EU will support the Ukrainian people for as long as necessary».



Reunión del Grupo de Trabajo de Recepción y Protección Temporal 27/06/2023.

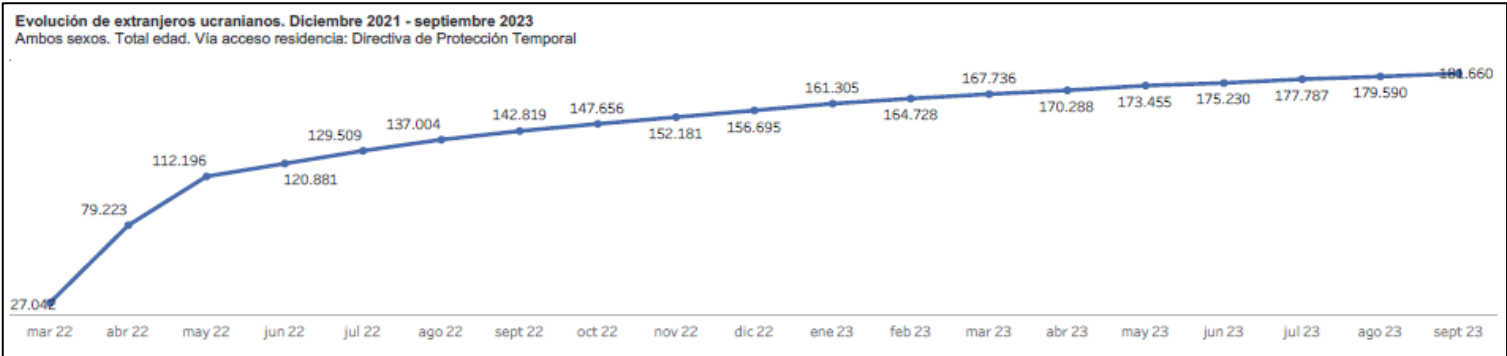
The Working Group is made up of different ministries responsible for managing the reception, hosting and granting of temporary protection, together with the Secretary of State for Communication, under the coordination of the Department of National Security. Since its establishment, it has met 24 times. 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 7 November 2023, and [according to UNHCR](#), 26 195 015 persons have fled Ukraine following the Russian military invasion, and 18 944 820 have returned to Ukraine. In Europe, as of 14 November, there are **4 257 098 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 12 November, 190 889 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, 60 817 (31,86%) are under the age of 18.



Source: [Ministry for the inclusion, Social security and migration](#)

- In March 2022, four Reception, Reception and Referral Centers (CREADE) opened progressively in Madrid, Barcelona, Alicante and Malaga, where comprehensive care is provided to people coming from Ukraine.

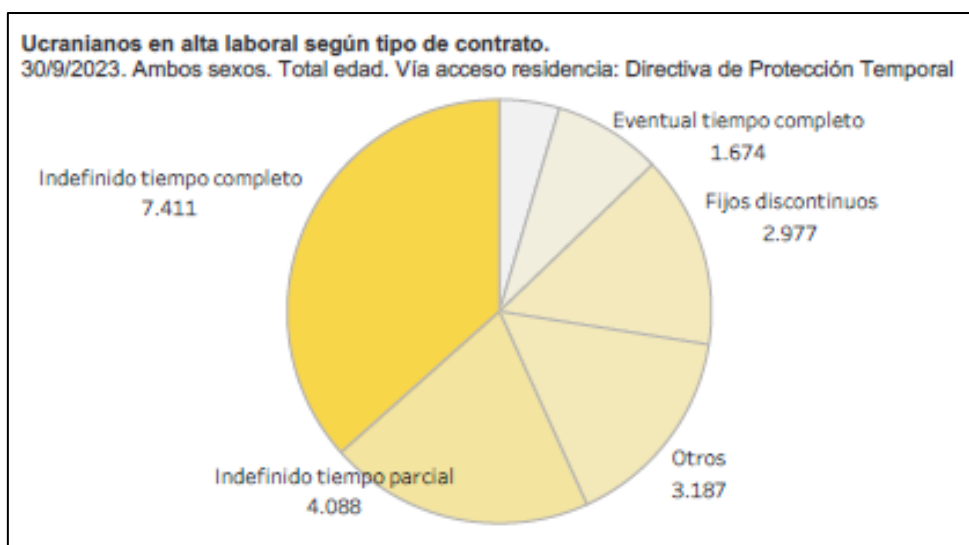
- At present, temporary protection grants are managed in two Reception, Reception and Referral Centers (CREADE): Madrid and Malaga, as well as in delegations of the National Police in all Spanish provinces.

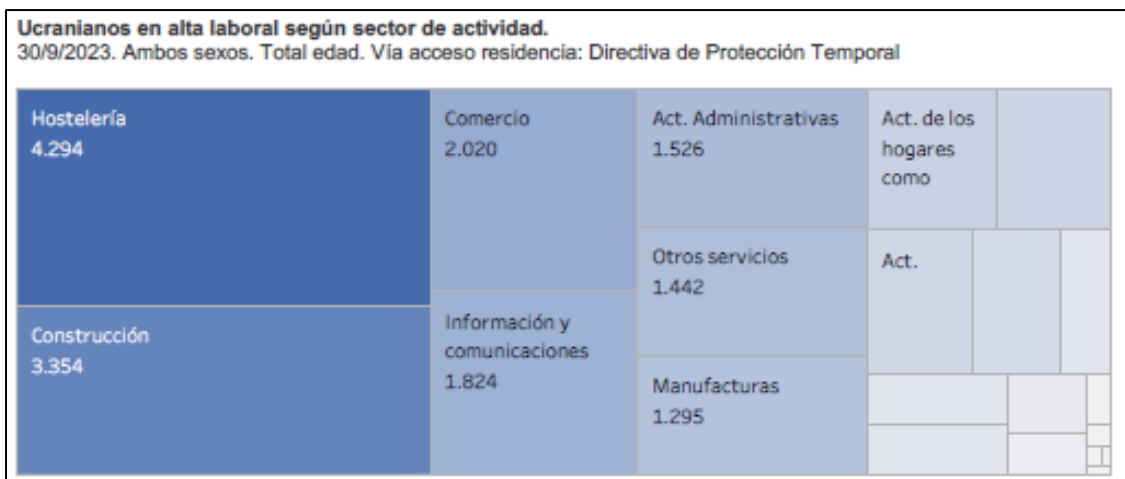
<p>Ucrania Urgente. Protección Temporal Información: +34 91 399 00 09 📞 Cita Protección Temporal / Acceso Sistema de Acogida Málaga: +34 628 216 478 📞 Madrid: +34 666 800 194 📞</p>	<p>Cita Acceso al Sistema de Acogida Barcelona: +34 93 238 21 99 📞 Torreveija: +34 96 522 47 89 📞</p>
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- [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 30 September, 2023, more than 20 256 people have been registered in the labour market, 55% of whom are women.





Source: Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations

- In Spain, at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, 36 816 displaced Ukrainian students were enrolled in Spanish educational institutions thanks to the joint work of the Ministry of Education and the Autonomous Communities. Of all of them, 29 112 are minors and 7 704 adults enrolled in Official Language Schools and Adult Education Centres. Overall, Spain is the fifth country in the EU by number of school enrolments: 34% of enrolments correspond to the Primary Education level, 22% to the Compulsory Secondary Education (ESO) level, 14% to the Early Childhood Education level and 21% 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.
- As of 31 October, 2023, 2 830 displaced Ukrainian students have applied for admission to a Spanish university.
- Regarding healthcare, as of 16 October 2023, 85 406 displaced persons from Ukraine have received an individual health card (TSI), 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).
- As of 10 November 2023, 244 patients have been transferred to and treated in Spain. Regarding repatriations, of the total number of patients transferred, 120 people have returned to Ukraine.

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, 2022 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).