



Ukraine: the accommodation of persons in need of protection

Cooperation between the Confederation, cantons, communes, citizens and NGOs

As large numbers of people flee Ukraine, the countries of Central Europe, including Switzerland, are seeing more and more refugees arrive on their territory. Our country must therefore be prepared to receive, house and provide support to several tens of thousands of people from Ukraine. This is a joint task the Confederation, the cantons and the communes need to tackle together. On 11 March 2022, the Federal Council decided all Ukrainians fleeing the conflict would be granted protection status S so that they can be provided protection in the fastest and least bureaucratic way possible. This status allows people fleeing Ukraine to quickly obtain a right of residence in Switzerland without having to deal with an ordinary asylum procedure. Once they have been granted protection status S, they are assigned to a canton and are housed either in an accommodation centre or a private home.

Since the beginning of the crisis, the Swiss population has shown great solidarity with the Ukrainian people. In a very short period of time, private citizens have provided more than 60,000 beds for Ukrainian refugees, which is a clear expression of our country's solidarity and humanitarian tradition.

The following describes how the federal government, cantons, communes and private citizens all work together to meet the challenge of accommodating people arriving from Ukraine.

Accommodation by the Confederation: **Federal Asylum Centres (FAC)**

- › In principle, FACs are the first point of contact for people who have fled Ukraine.
- › Protection seekers from Ukraine can register here – applications should be submitted in advance via the [RegisterMe](#) web portal where possible.
- › Anyone who does not have approved accommodation will be placed temporarily in a Federal Asylum Centre.
- › The length of stay is usually short. The canton or commune concerned then assumes responsibility for their care.
- › The Confederation can accommodate up to 9,000 people in its facilities.

Accommodation by the **cantons**

- › Registered persons are distributed among the cantons according to population numbers.
- › Once they have been assigned to a canton, they become this canton's responsibility, whether they are housed in an FAC, a cantonal facility or in a private home.
- › SEM compensates the cantons with a lump sum of CHF 1,500 per person per month. This lump sum covers health insurance (around CHF 400), rent (around CHF 220) and partial compensation for the professional support of refugees (around CHF 280). The rest of the lump sum is used to cover basic needs such as food, personal care, clothing, mobile phones and other personal expenses.
- › The cantons decide, based on their own legislation, how to use the lump sum to support persons in need of protection.



Accommodation by **private citizens**

- › In addition to the cantonal accommodation structures, the Swiss [Refugee Council](#) coordinates the accommodation of Ukrainian refugees with private host families together with partner organisations (Swiss Church Aid HEKS/EPER, Caritas, the Swiss Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Swiss Workers' Relief Agency SAH and Campax).
- › [Campax](#) provides and manages a database for the Swiss Refugee Council on which private citizens willing to take in refugees can register.
- › The Swiss Refugee Council and its partner organisations or, in certain cases, the cantonal or communal administrative departments are responsible for approving the host families.
- › Each canton decides independently whether to compensate private citizens for providing accommodation.
- › **Important:** Independently organised private accommodation can only be taken into account in the cantonal allocation process if the allocation key in relation to the share of the population can be observed among the cantons, or if there is a legitimate entitlement. An entitlement exists for the extended nuclear family and for vulnerable persons with close persons of reference outside the extended nuclear family. [All important information and requirements.](#)

Initiatives on other kinds of accommodation

› [HotellerieSuisse / Real estate sector](#)

At the beginning of the crisis, SEM – together with the [Federal Office for Housing](#) and the [Swiss hotel industry](#) – launched an appeal to make empty flats and hotel rooms available to people who had fled Ukraine. For this purpose, Campax set up a database where hotels and flat owners could register. The database was closed at the end of June. The offers were collected and made available to the cantons.

In March, SEM made occasional use of the hotels' services when, due to the large number of refugees arriving at the same time, it was not possible to accommodate everyone who wanted to register at a federal asylum centre.

Procedures for people seeking protection from Ukraine (S-Status)

