

## **Frequently asked questions and answers for citizens of Ukraine with temporary refuge status**

### **Questions – employment:**

#### **When can I be employed?**

*Citizens of Ukraine can be employed in Slovakia after being granted temporary refuge.*

#### **What documents and papers do I need to get a job?**

*Proof of temporary refuge, passport, or proof of highest level of education. In some cases it is also necessary to present other documents, such as a health card, hygiene minimum, driving licence. The employer shall inform the employee of the need for additional documents.*

#### **How to search for vacancies?**

*Citizens of Ukraine can view all available vacancies on the portal [www.sluzbyzamestnanosti.gov.sk](http://www.sluzbyzamestnanosti.gov.sk). The offers are also translated into Ukrainian. There are also job offers on the portal that are suitable for foreigners. These can be filtered.*

#### **Where can I be employed?**

*It is possible to get a job with employers who offer vacancies. Their overview can be found on the portal [www.sluzbyzamestnanosti.gov.sk](http://www.sluzbyzamestnanosti.gov.sk). The offers are also translated into Ukrainian. There are also job offers on the portal that are suitable for foreigners.*

#### **Are retraining and education opportunities available?**

*The responsible institutions are preparing a project under which Ukrainian citizens will be able to retrain and receive retraining and education. The project could be launched during May. For more information, contact the relevant Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office.*

#### **Is there a special project for employment of Ukrainians?**

*The responsible institutions are preparing a project under which Ukrainian citizens will have easier access to employment. The project is expected to start in May 2022. For more information, contact the relevant Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office.*

## **Questions – material need assistance:**

### **When do I qualify for material need assistance?**

*Citizens of Ukraine who have been granted temporary refuge status can apply for material need assistance. Material need assistance includes a material need benefit and a dependent child allowance if the child is of compulsory school age. Entitlement to the protection allowance, if any, is triggered by the fulfilment of the statutory conditions.*

### **How to fill in the application form for material need assistance?**

*An application for an assessment of entitlement to material need assistance can be submitted at the large-capacity centres in Bratislava, Nitra, Žilina, Humenne and Michalovce or at all Labour, Social Affairs and Family Offices. Bilingual Slovak-Ukrainian forms for applying for material need assistance are available, and the Office staff are available to assist Ukrainian citizens in filling out the form.*

### **Who all to include in the application for material need assistance?**

*The application for material need assistance must indicate the members of the household who are with the applicant in Slovakia. It can be a spouse, own children, children entrusted to the applicant's care, children for whom the applicant is appointed by the court as a guardian.*

### **How do I find out that I have been granted material need assistance?**

*A decision granting material need assistance is not issued. The benefit, i.e. the payment of material need assistance, is provided straight away, of which the applicant is informed by post or by crediting the assistance to a bank account.*

### **What is the amount of the material need benefit?**

*Citizens of Ukraine are entitled to material need benefits in the same amount and under the same conditions as citizens of the Slovak Republic.*

*The amount of the material need benefit:*

- *EUR 68.80 per month for an individual,*
- *EUR 119.60 per month for a couple without children,*
- *EUR 130.90 per month for an individual with a child or up to four children,*
- *EUR 179 per month for a couple with a child or up to four children,*
- *EUR 191.20 per month for an individual with more than four children,*
- *EUR 241.30 per month for a couple with more than four children.*

**When will the benefit be paid?**

*Material need assistance is paid in the calendar month following the calendar month in which the application for material need assistance was submitted.*

*Material need assistance is paid on the following dates:*

- a) by postal circuit - in the second half of the calendar month (18th day of the month at the earliest)*
- b) by bank transfer - in the middle of the calendar month (around the 15th day of the month)*

**How often will my assistance be paid and when?**

*Material need assistance is paid monthly.*

**How can the benefit be paid?**

*Material need assistance is paid by post or to a bank account opened in the territory of the Slovak Republic.*

**Can the assistance be paid to a Ukrainian account number?**

*No.*

**Can the assistance be paid to the account number of the municipality or another person?**

*No, but it can be paid to the account of the jointly assessed person named in the application.*

**Can assistance be paid to more than one family to one account number?**

*No.*

**Is it possible to change the way the assistance is paid? If so, how?**

*Yes, you must report the change of payment method to the relevant Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office.*

**If I am moving across the country and I have a payroll address, what do I do in this case?**

*The applicant for material need assistance has the possibility to open a bank account and ask the Office to change the payment to an account in Slovakia.*

**How will my benefit be paid if I leave the Slovak Republic?**

*The benefit will not be paid. According to the Act on Assistance in Material Need, material need assistance is not provided abroad.*

### **When does entitlement to material need assistance cease?**

Material need assistance may be provided until the income or property circumstances of the applicant and the jointly assessed persons have changed. If the amount of income is higher than the amount of entitlement to material need assistance, the benefit is withdrawn. If the applicant and the jointly assessed persons move out of the Slovak Republic, they cease to be entitled to receive material need assistance.

### **Will the assistance automatically stop when I start work?**

*The recipient of material need assistance must report any change within eight days to the Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office. The recipient must submit an employment contract or agreement and a certificate of income. The provision of material need benefits may continue even if you enter employment. The amount of the benefit will be reduced by an amount equal to 75% of the income.*

### **As a pregnant woman, am I entitled to pregnancy allowances and benefits?**

*On the part of the Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office, a pregnant female citizen of Ukraine is entitled to a protection allowance if she meets the conditions set out in the Act on Assistance in Material Need, i.e. if she provides a certificate issued by a doctor in the territory of Slovakia.*

### **Will I be entitled to the childbirth allowance and other allowances and benefits in connection with caring for a newborn child after the birth?**

*No. A condition for entitlement to the childbirth allowance is, among other things, permanent residence in Slovakia.*

*In the case of child benefit and parental allowance, among other things, permanent residence or temporary residence in the territory of Slovakia is a condition for granting the benefit.*

### **Is it possible to get a housing allowance?**

*No, if you are staying under an accommodation contract.*

### **What other allowances and benefits can I get besides the material need assistance?**

*- childcare allowance for children up to three years of age or up to six years of age of a child with a long-term adverse health condition (in gainful employment),*

*- allowances by which the state supports substitute care for the child - a one-off allowance to the child on entrustment, a recurrent allowance to the child, a*

*recurrent allowance to the parent. A parent is entitled to the recurrent allowance if the surrogate parent is a Slovak citizen. If the surrogate parent is a citizen of Ukraine, he/she is entitled if he/she has temporary residence in the territory of the Slovak Republic.*

- children from Ukraine who take part in the educational process in kindergarten or primary school and receive meals are entitled to a food subsidy,*
- citizens of Ukraine are entitled to a protection allowance if they meet the conditions set by law.*

### **Questions - food subsidy:**

#### **Which children are eligible for a food subsidy?**

*Children from Ukraine who meet the following conditions are eligible for a food subsidy:*

- are from a household receiving material need assistance or attend a kindergarten or primary school where at least 50% of the children are from households receiving material need assistance*
- if the children attend primary school or the last year of kindergarten, the previous condition does not have to be met, but the child's representative must submit a statutory declaration to the school's founder stating that no member of the household is claiming the so-called increased tax bonus for that child.*
- participate in the educational process in kindergarten or primary school*
- take their meals at the school.*

#### **How do I apply for a child food subsidy?**

*No application is required for the food subsidy. When enrolling a child at school, it is sufficient to inform that the household receives material need assistance.*

*If the household does not receive material need assistance and no member of the household can claim the so-called increased tax bonus for a child at primary school or in the last year of kindergarten, the school founder has a model statutory declaration in which the child's representative confirms this fact.*

*All other steps will be ensured by the school founder in cooperation with the Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office. The parent simply informs the school founder about the provision of material need assistance, or signs a statutory declaration of non-claiming of the increased tax bonus.*

#### **What is required to qualify for a child food subsidy?**

*A child of a foreigner legally residing in Slovakia who attends a kindergarten or primary school and takes lunch is entitled to a food subsidy. At the same time,*

*the child must meet the condition that the household receives material need assistance or no member of the household can claim the so-called increased tax bonus for a child at primary school or in the last year of kindergarten.*

### **Since when do children qualify for a food subsidy?**

*The food subsidy can only be provided for a child from the 1st day of the calendar month in which the household receives material need assistance. This means that if a family with a child arrived in Slovakia in March 2022 and applies for material need assistance in that month, the child will not be eligible for a food subsidy until April 2022, when the household's material need assistance is paid.*

*If a child starts attending school before the condition for the provision of material need assistance is met, a child at primary school and in the last year of kindergarten may be eligible for a food subsidy from the time the child starts attending school if no member of the household is claiming the so-called increased tax bonus for that child.*

## **Questions - services to minors:**

### **How to proceed with the guardianship arrangement?**

*The person to whom the parent has given guardianship of the child is advised to file a motion with the court in the child's current place of residence for appointment as a guardian. Only a court-appointed guardian will be able to arrange temporary refuge, health care, schooling and other services for the child. The guardian can represent the child in matters necessary for the temporary stay in Slovakia.*

*The staff of the Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office in the place of the child's current place of residence will provide assistance in drafting the motion for appointment as a guardian.*

### **What are the steps involved in arranging guardianship?**

*A motion for appointment as a guardian must be filed with the court in the place where the child currently resides. The staff of the Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office will provide assistance in drafting the motion for appointment as a guardian.*

### **How long does it take to process a guardianship?**

*The court decides on the appointment of the guardian. You are advised to contact the relevant court regarding the time limits for processing.*

**What if I am a person close to the child but I do not get guardianship? In this case, will the child be placed in a children's home?**

*If the child is in the care of relatives or close persons, there is no reason to place the child in a centre for children and families. The centres accommodate children who find themselves alone in the territory of the Slovak Republic, unaccompanied by a parent or a person close to the child.*

*It is the responsibility of the Office of the Border and Aliens Police to verify the identity and relationship of the child to the person with whom he or she has arrived.*

*It is important to know that it is necessary to appoint a guardian for the child in order to ensure acts in the child's interest that cannot currently be carried out by the parents. He or she will stand in for absent parents, for example, when arranging health care for a child, visiting a school or kindergarten, or requesting temporary refuge.*

**Can the refugee status be arranged for a child before guardianship is arranged, or does guardianship need to be arranged first?**

*Only a parent, as the child's legal representative, or a court-appointed guardian may apply for temporary refuge for a child. The appointment of a guardian is necessary if the child is not in Slovakia with a legal representative.*

**What are the rights and obligations of the appointed guardian towards minor children?**

*The court shall determine the scope of the rights and obligations of the guardian in representing absent parents in the exercise of parental rights and obligations.*

**How does a child from Ukraine get into a children's home?**

*A child who finds himself or herself in Slovakia without parents and is not in the care of a relative or a person to whom the child has a close relationship shall be placed in a centre for children and families by the Central Office for Labour, Social Affairs and Family in cooperation with the Office of Border and Alien Police. The centre provides vocational assistance and child care, housing, meals, health care, compulsory schooling and vocational training.*

**How long can a child stay in a children's home?**

*The child stays in the centre for children and families until a parent, relative or person close to the child can take care of the child.*

**Can children in a children's home phone their family?**

*The child is encouraged to maintain contacts with the family and can make phone calls to the family.*

**What is the daily routine of the children in the children's home?**

*The daily routine of the children in the centre for children and families is adapted to their age, intellect and interests in order to provide for their needs, school and educational obligations and leisure interests. Children participate in the organisation and planning of the day's activities and help with simple household chores. Each centre has a detailed daily routine in its programme. The programme is publicly available on the Centre's website.*