

EMN Finland Conference 2024

Between integration and return:

The future of Ukrainian beneficiaries of temporary protection in Europe and Finland

27th of November 2024

Helsinki, Hotel Arthur (Vuorikatu 19)

Programme

Conference languages: Finnish and English (interpretation Finnish–English and English–Finnish)

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| 9.00 – 9.30 | Registration and morning coffee |
| 9.30 – 9.50 | Welcome remarks, Mr. Rafael Bärlund , Head of EMN Finland |
| | Opening of the conference, Mr. Arto Satonen , Minister of Employment |
| 9.50 – 10.40 | Keynote: <i>The future of Temporary Protection Beneficiaries in Finland and the EU</i> , Dr. Meltem Ineli Cığır , Associate Professor of International Law, Suleyman Demirel University |
| 10.40 – 11.00 | Comment: Ms Csilla Völgyi , European Commission, Directorate-General Migration & Home Affairs |
| 11.00 – 11.30 | Findings from recent EMN outputs on temporary protection |
- EMN Study: *The application of the Temporary Protection Directive*, **Ms Jutta Saastamoinen**, Senior Specialist, EMN Finland
 - EMN/OECD Inform: *Labour market integration of beneficiaries of temporary protection from Ukraine*, **Dr. Ave Lauren**, Migration Policy Expert, OECD

- 11.30 – 11.50 Comment: **Dr. Arseniy Svynarenko**, Researcher, Finnish Youth Research Society
- 11.50 – 12.00 Q&A Discussion on the topics of the morning
- 12.00 – 13.00 **Lunch**
- 13.00 – 13.20 Reception of Ukrainians and moving to municipalities, **Ms Elina Nurmi**, Director, Reception Unit, Finnish Immigration Service
- 13.20 – 13.40 *Action Plan to Help People Who Have Fled Ukraine 2024-2027*, **Ms Susanna Piepponen**, Senior Specialist, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment
- 13.40 – 14.00 Comment: **Ms Tanja Mustonen**, Lead Coordinator of Help Centers for Ukrainians, Ukrainian Association in Finland
- 14.00 – 14.30 **Coffee break**
- 14.30 – 16.00 Panel discussion: The integration and employment of Ukrainians in Finland, moderated by **Ms Anniina Luotonen**, Editor, Yle
- Panelists:
- **Dr. Arseniy Svynarenko**, Researcher, Finnish Youth Research Society
 - **Ms Ruslana Kuisma**, CEO, RVK Palvelut Oy
 - **Ms Susanna Piepponen**, Senior Specialist, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment
 - **Ms Olga Silfver**, Account Manager, Employment Espoo, City of Espoo
- 16.00 – 16.15 Closing words, **Mr. Rafael Bärlund**, Head of EMN Finland

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Ukrainian mobility in the EU has always been active, but the war of aggression launched by Russia on 26 February 2022 changed the relationship of many Ukrainians with their home country and the rest of Europe. At the beginning of September 2024, there were around 4.4 million beneficiaries of temporary protection from Ukraine in the EU. In Finland, Ukrainians have submitted a total of around 75 000 applications for temporary protection. There are currently around 46 000 beneficiaries of temporary protection from Ukraine in Finland, the rest are estimated to have either returned to Ukraine or moved elsewhere in the EU. As the war drags on, some Ukrainians are beginning to find new homes in EU countries, including Finland. It is possible that Ukrainians will become one of the largest minorities in Finland and many other EU countries in the near future. EU countries should therefore already start to consider the transition of those granted temporary protection to other longer-term legal statuses and to look at integration in a broader context. On the other hand, at the same time, Member States must consider, that some may still return to Ukraine even after integrating to a member state.

According to a survey commissioned by the Finnish Ministry of the Interior, Ukrainians who arrived in Finland as refugees after February 2022 are generally satisfied with their life in Finland and increasingly interested in staying. However, some of the open responses to the survey revealed that uncertainty about the future of their stay causes concern among respondents and affects their willingness to apply for a municipality and integrate into Finland. Elsewhere in Europe, the willingness to integrate has also been affected by the general belief of beneficiaries of temporary protection that their situation is only temporary and their wish to return to Ukraine when conditions allow.

Many Ukrainians find themselves in a limbo of sorts, with integration efforts in the host country aimed at integrating them to the host society. For example, according to the Finnish Government Action Plan 2024, Finland actively supports the integration of Ukrainians into Finnish society and their transition to residents of

Finnish municipalities. At the same time, however, Ukraine itself expects its citizens to participate in the activities of its own society and hopes that its citizens will return eventually. For example, many children in different EU countries have had to attend school both in the host country and in Ukraine at a distance. In addition, the motivation of Ukrainian pupils to learn Finnish has been undermined by the expectation of a quick return home.

Challenges in integration are intrinsically linked to the experience of temporary protection: In the European Migration Network study “*The application of the Temporary Protection Directive: challenges and good practices in 2023*”, EMN member states reported that it has been difficult to find longer-term solutions for beneficiaries of temporary protection, such as housing, labour market opportunities or education. In addition, linguistic and cultural differences were the most frequently cited barriers to the provision of services to Ukrainians by EMN member states.

Labour market integration challenges are also an integral part of the feeling of temporariness: According to the European Migration Network’s report *Labour market integration of beneficiaries of temporary protection from Ukraine*, beneficiaries of temporary protection have worked in the host countries mainly in the following sectors: accommodation and food service activities, administrative and support service activities, industry, wholesale and retail trade and construction. However, these sectors do not necessarily correspond to the previous expertise or educational profile of beneficiaries of temporary protection.

Skills mismatches are therefore a major challenge for integration in the Member States. According to the EMN-report, a high proportion of beneficiaries of temporary protection are highly educated (some host countries report that more than 60% have completed tertiary education). However, in many cases, the jobs in the host countries do not match their level of education and previous experience.

The 2024 National Conference of the European Migration Network Finland Contact Point shall examine the state of play as well as the future prospects of the situation of Ukrainians in Finland and in EU countries. The conference aims to address the challenges of integration in a situation where a refugee finds himself between two countries. The conference seeks to promote dialogue between different actors and to find new perspectives on how to support refugees in the limbo between integration and return.



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The conference will feature presentations based on the publications *Labour market integration of beneficiaries of temporary protection from Ukraine* and *The application of the Temporary Protection Directive: challenges and good practices in 2023* by the European Migration Network, as well as comments on the reports by national and international experts and Ukrainians themselves.

The second half of the conference will consist of a panel discussion on how Finland (and Europe) should in the near future organise the transition of Ukrainians into permanent residents of European countries, and on the other hand, assist those willing to return to Ukraine for the reconstruction process.

About EMN

The European Migration Network (EMN) was established by a Council of the European Union decision on 14 May 2008. EMN is funded by the European Union. The purpose of EMN is to provide up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information on migration and asylum issues in its member countries to support policy-making in the European Union. The EMN disseminates the comparative data it collects and analyses not only to policy makers and public authorities, but also to the general public.

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Speaker biographies



Mr. Rafael Bärlund, Head of EMN Finland

Rafael Bärlund has worked at the EMN Finland from its inception in 2008, first as a Senior Adviser, and from January 2021 as the Head of EMN Finland. He is also the co-chair of the EMN Working Group on Communication and Dissemination. Previously, he has worked at the Finnish Immigration Service as a Planning Officer and at the Embassy of India for Finland and Estonia as a Visa Officer. Prior to that, he has been employed by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva. Mr. Bärlund holds an MA in Political Science.



Mr. Arto Satonen, Minister of Employment

Arto Satonen is the head of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment. He has been a Member of the Parliament since 2003. Previously Mr. Satonen has served as a Deputy Speaker of Parliament and the Chair of the National Coalition Party's parliamentary group. He has also chaired the Grand Committee, the Employment and Equality Committee and the Transport and Communications Committee. Prior to being a Member of the Parliament, Mr. Satonen was an entrepreneur in the restaurant sector and teacher in social sciences at several universities of applied sciences. He holds an MA in Social Sciences.



Dr. Meltem İneli Ciğer, Associate Professor of International Law

Dr. Meltem İneli Ciğer, Associate Professor of International Law at Suleyman Demirel University, specializes in refugee and migration law. She authored *Temporary Protection in International Law and Practice* and co-edited *EU Responses to the Refugee Displacement from Ukraine*. Dr. İneli Ciğer collaborates with the EUI Migration Policy Centre, has acted as a consultant for the Council of Europe, EMN, ICMPD and IOM, and serves on *the International Journal of Refugee Law* Editorial Board. Recently, she has been working on the future of temporary protection; mass influx governance and the EU Crisis Regulation.



Ms Csilla Völgyi, European Commission, Directorate-General Migration & Home Affairs

Csilla Völgyi works in the Migration Management Unit of the European Commission where she supports the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive and the operationalisation of the “10-Point Plan for stronger European coordination on welcoming people fleeing the war against Ukraine”. Ms Völgyi is also involved in the implementation of the “Pact on Migration and Asylum” as a country team coordinator for Hungary. She holds an MA in Immigration Management and a BA both in international relations and in communications.



Ms Jutta Saastamoinen, Senior Specialist, EMN Finland

Jutta Saastamoinen has been working for EMN Finland as a Senior Specialist since 2014. She has previously worked as a senior adviser at the Asylum Unit of the Finnish Immigration Service and as a researcher at the Country of Origin Information Unit of the Finnish Immigration Service. Ms Saastamoinen holds an MA in Russian and East European Studies from the University of Oxford and an MA in International Relations from the University of St Andrews.



Dr. Ave Lauren, Migration Policy Expert, OECD

Dr. Ave Lauren is a Migration Policy Expert at the OECD, focusing on the Ukrainian Refugee Crisis within the Directorate for Employment, Labour, and Social Affairs. Her recent work addresses issues related to socio-economic integration of displaced Ukrainians, dual intent initiatives, diaspora engagement, and strategies for planning sustainable returns and reintegration in Ukraine. Previously, Dr. Lauren held leadership roles within the European Migration Network. She specialises in labour migration, integration, talent attraction, and return migration. Dr. Lauren earned her PhD in Geography from the University of Cambridge.



Dr. Arseniy Svynarenko, Sociologist and Researcher at the Finnish Youth Research Society

Dr. Arseniy Svynarenko is a Researcher at the Finnish Youth Research Society. He earned his PhD from Shevchenko University of Kyiv. The central themes of his research are youth identities and youth cultures. Dr. Svynarenko is currently working in the project *The Democratic Epistemic Capacities in the Age of Algorithms* funded by the Council for Strategic Research, where he examines the availability, reception and production of information from the perspective of young people of Ukrainian and Russian background who have recently arrived in Finland.



Ms Elina Nurmi, Director of Reception Unit, Finnish Immigration Service

Elina Nurmi is the Director of Reception Unit at the Finnish Immigration Service. The Reception Unit is responsible for the directing, planning and supervising of reception centres for beneficiaries of international protection, the assistance system for victims of trafficking in human beings as well as detention units. The Reception Unit also maintains the system of voluntary return. Previously Ms Nurmi has worked as a researcher and at the municipal sector as the Head of Immigration and Chief Specialist at the city of Helsinki.



Ms Susanna Piepponen, Senior Specialist, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment

Susanna Piepponen works with the promotion of employment of job seekers with immigrant background at the Labour Migration and Integration Unit of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment. Previously, Ms Piepponen was involved in improving cooperation among civil servants in the development of services for the long-term unemployed. When Finland joined the EU, she was involved in the planning, monitoring and evaluation of projects co-financed by the European Social Fund. Ms Piepponen holds an MA in Social Sciences.



Ms Tanja Mustonen, Lead Coordinator of Help Centers for Ukrainians, Ukrainian Association in Finland

Tanja Mustonen is the Lead Coordinator of Ukraine Help Centers in Finland. The help centers in Helsinki and Espoo, founded by the Ukrainian Association in Finland, offer multifaceted help for Ukrainians who have had to flee from Ukraine due to Russia's war of aggression.



Ms Anniina Luotonen, Editor, Yle

Anniina Luotonen is the Editor of the newsroom of Politics and Society at the media outlet Yle. Ms Luotonen has been involved in journalism throughout her career and has been working at Yle since 2021. Previously, she was the head of the newsroom at the Finnish News Agency STT and has also been working as a correspondent to the EU in Brussels. During her correspondence years in 2017–2019 she covered stories on e.g. the negotiations on the Common European Asylum System and on Brexit. Luotonen holds an MA on Political Sciences and a BA in Media and Arts.



Ms Ruslana Kuisma, CEO at RVK Palvelut Oy

Ruslana Kuisma, born in Lviv, Ukraine, moved to Finland at 17 years old in 1997 and began working in the cleaning industry in 1999. After a few years of working as a cleaner she was promoted to Job Manager. In 2017 Ms Kuisma became a private trader, but expanded the business to RVK Palvelut Oy just two months later due to high demand. Nowadays Ms Kuisma works as the CEO of her own company. RVK Palvelut Oy has 65 employees, most of whom are Ukrainians.



Ms Olga Silfver, Account Manager, Employment Espoo

Olga Silfver leads the development of services for international clients as an Account Manager at the Employment Espoo. She is experienced in municipal integration policy, community dialogue, adult education and immigrant employment. Ms Silfver has created service concepts such as the immigrant NGO forum, NGO development subsidy, orientation for stay-at-home parents, Competence Centre for Highly educated Immigrants and Finnish Integration fair. She is the Chair of the Board of Multicultural Women's Association Monika. Ms Silfver holds an MA in Social Sciences with specialization in integration of immigrants.