

Information for those who have applied for temporary protection in Finland

You can get temporary protection if you are fleeing the war in Ukraine. The purpose of temporary protection is to provide you temporary protection quickly.

The processing of applications for temporary protection

1. When you have applied for temporary protection by contacting a police or a border control official in Finland, the police or the border control official registers your application.
2. After the registration, the Finnish Immigration Service makes a decision on your application.
 - The Finnish Immigration Service will interview you before making the decision only if there is a special reason for it.
3. You will be informed of the decision.
 - The decision will be sent by post to the reception centre where you are staying. If you are living in private accommodation, the decision will be sent to the address that you have given as your address in Finland. Therefore, if your address in Finland changes, you should immediately report your new address to the reception centre in Finland where you are registered as a client.
 - If you do not receive the decision by post, you will be informed of the decision at the Finnish Immigration Service or at the police station.
4. If you are granted temporary protection,
 - you will receive a residence permit card together with the decision.
 - If you have also applied for asylum, the Finnish Immigration Service suspends the processing of your asylum application for the validity period of your residence permit on the basis of temporary protection.

For how long is a residence permit on the basis of temporary protection valid?

The Finnish Immigration Service can grant a residence permit on the basis of temporary protection for a maximum of one year at a time.

By virtue of the decision of the Council of the European Union, residence permits granted on the basis of temporary protection are valid until 4 March 2023, but extended permits can be granted even after that, unless the Council of the European Union annuls its decision on temporary protection.

Can the decision on temporary protection be appealed?

If you are granted temporary protection, you may not appeal the positive decision, if

- you have applied for asylum **and**
- the processing of your asylum application is not yet ready.

If you are not granted temporary protection, you may appeal the decision to an administrative court. Instructions on how to appeal against the decision will be attached to the decision. These instructions are called instructions for appeal. If necessary, your reception centre will help you to get a counsel who can assist you with the appeal.

For more information, see migri.fi/en/temporary-protection

Rights and services

If you apply for asylum or temporary protection, you can stay at a reception centre and receive reception services.

Accommodation

Private accommodation

If you wish, you may arrange your own accommodation outside the reception centre, for example stay with friends or relatives. Report your address to the reception centre where you are registered as a client. Notify the reception centre if your address changes.

You must be able to pay for your accommodation yourself. Living in private accommodation cannot be financially supported by reception centres. If your situation changes and you need accommodation, you will be arranged a place at a reception centre that has room.

Reception centre

If you need accommodation, you will be accommodated at a reception centre that has room. Families are accommodated at an apartment or a room of their own. Others are offered communal accommodation where women and men live in their own rooms or apartments.

You will be informed about the reception centre rules at the reception centre.

Reception allowance

If necessary, you can apply for and be granted reception allowance. The possible funds and income you have at your disposal will affect whether you will be granted reception allowance and the amount of the allowance.

You can make an application for reception allowance at your reception centre. You must report in the application all the funds and income that you have at your disposal. You will get more information and advice on how to fill in the application at your reception centre.

The reception allowance is usually paid to a prepaid card. In exceptional cases, it can also be paid in cash. If you have a personal Finnish bank account, the reception allowance can be paid to your bank account.

Social and health care services

Your reception centre offers you social services and health care services.

After you have been granted temporary protection, you can use health care services in the same way as permanent residents in Finland.

School attendance and early childhood education

All children between the age of 6 and 17 in Finland have the right to go to comprehensive school. Your reception centre will help you to get a school place for your child. Going to school is free of charge.

If you have children under 6 years of age, you can apply for a place in early childhood education for them from the municipality. However, the municipality does not necessarily offer your children a place in early childhood education. You can get help from your reception centre when you want to apply for a place in early childhood education.

Work and study activities at reception centres

If you are accommodated at a reception centre and granted reception allowance, you are required to take part in the work and study activities arranged by the reception centre. Work activities involve, for example, cleaning and repair work on the reception centre premises and maintaining the yard. Study activities include studying Finnish or Swedish.

You also have the possibility to study or work in paid employment outside the reception centre. In that case, you do not necessarily need to take part in the work and study activities. If you study outside the reception centre, you can apply for supplementary reception allowance to cover your study expenses.

Working and studying

You will have the right to work and study as soon as you register your application for temporary protection with the police or a border control authority.

Your salary can be paid to your prepaid card if you do not have a bank account. In that case, ask your reception centre to provide your employer with instructions on this.

Assistance for finding work

If you want to work in Finland, your reception centre can direct you to an Employment and Economic Development Office (TE Office) that assists job seekers (te-palvelut.fi). TE Offices can give you advice on how to look for work and offer you services that will help you find employment. The services of TE Offices include, for example, language courses in Finnish or Swedish. TE Offices also have a lot of information about jobs available.

You can find available jobs in Finland via the online services Jobs in Finland (jobsinfinland.fi) and Töitä Suomesta (www.toitäsuomesta.fi).

Remember your rights

If you are, for example, provided accommodation or other help on condition that you must

- work under poor terms of employment
- sell sex
- beg, or commit crimes against your will,

you may be a victim of human trafficking.

You can ask your reception centre or other authorities to help you. If you are a victim of human trafficking, the Assistance system for victims of human trafficking can help you. However, in an emergency you should always call the emergency number 112.

More information about human trafficking

- in Ukrainian: ihmiskauppa.fi/ukr
- in Russian: ihmiskauppa.fi/rus
- in English: humantrafficking.fi

In Finland, everyone has the right to report a crime to the police

The police is tasked with ensuring the safety of people and the environment in all situations and at all times. The police works to prevent and investigate crimes. Cases investigated by the police are transferred to the prosecutor, who decides whether to bring charges.

A police report can be filed at any police station, regardless of where the crime took place. For more information on filing a police report, see poliisi.fi/en.

Interpretation

At appointments with authorities, you have the right to interpretation into your native language or a language that you understand. However, it may sometimes be difficult to find interpreters of rarer languages.

Travelling

When you have been granted temporary protection, you are allowed to travel in the EU Member States if you have a valid travel document. If you have also applied for asylum, the Finnish Immigration Service will make an expiry decision on the asylum application if you leave Finland.

Return to your home country

You cannot receive assistance for voluntary return for as long as there is war in Ukraine. However, you may return to your home country without assistance.

Information about asylum applications

- You have the right to apply for asylum at any time, even after you have been granted temporary protection. You can also apply for asylum after your residence permit on the basis of temporary protection has expired.
- If you want to apply for asylum, contact the police or the border control authorities in person and tell them that you want to apply for asylum.
- For more information about applying for asylum, see <https://migri.fi/en/applying-for-asylum>

Information about other residence permits

- If you can be granted a residence permit on other grounds, such as your work or family ties, you should make a separate application for a residence permit.
- For more information, see the page migri.fi/en/residence-permit