

**Basic rules on available forms of support in the Republic of Poland
under the 'Act on assistance to Ukrainian citizens in connection with military
conflict on the Ukrainian territory'**

On the 12th March 2022 the special legal act 'On Assistance to Ukrainian Citizens in Connection with Military Conflict on Ukrainian Territory' (the "**Act**" or "**Special Act**") entered into force. The Special Act provides for specific rules of legalization and forms of support for Ukrainian citizens who have legally arrived on the territory of the Republic of Poland directly from the territory of Ukraine in connection with military activities conducted on the territory of this country, as well as their spouses and the citizens of Ukraine holding the Card of the Pole, who arrived on the territory of the Republic of Poland due to these military activities.

The Act includes, for instance, solutions relating to working / performing economic activity in Poland, receiving medical care and social benefits (financial assistance), education and organization of institutional childcare for children.

The Special Act provides aid for:

1. **citizens of Ukraine** who **legally** entered the territory of the Republic of Poland **directly** from the territory of Ukraine in connection with military operations conducted on the territory of this country in the period **beginning on the 24th February 2022** (and terminating on the day indicated by the Council of Ministers in a regulation which is not yet in force) – and declare their intention to stay on the territory of the Republic of Poland;
2. **spouses of Ukrainian citizens** (not being Ukrainian citizens themselves) who **legally** entered the territory of the Republic of Poland **directly** from the territory of Ukraine in connection with military operations conducted on the territory of this country in the period **beginning on the 24th February 2022** (and terminating on the day indicated by the Council of Ministers in a regulation which is not yet in force) and declare their intention to stay on the territory of the Republic of Poland;
3. **children of Ukrainian citizens** meeting the conditions from the point 1 above – who were born on the territory of the Republic of Poland;
4. **citizens of Ukraine having the Card of Pole**, who left Ukraine in connection with military operations conducted on the territory of that country and then legally arrived on the territory of the Republic of Poland in the period **beginning on the 24th February 2022** (and terminating on the day indicated by the Council of Ministers in a regulation which is not yet in force) and declare their intention to stay on the territory of the Republic of Poland.

The stay of the above-mentioned subjects is considered **legal for the period of 18 months, counting each time from the 24th February 2022**.

The entry to the territory of the Republic of Poland should be registered by the Commander of the Border Guard Post during the boarder control. In cases where an entry of Ukrainian citizen has not been registered, it is possible to register it during the procedure of granting a personal 'PESEL' number.

Those Ukrainian citizens who do not belong to the above-mentioned groups **may legalize** their stay in Poland in a way stipulated by the Polish Act on Foreigners, for example by submitting an **application for a temporary residence and work permit**.

Ukrainian citizens are also entitled to submit an application for **international protection, such as refugee status** – but this path limits the right to work in Poland until an application is recognized; it also may include the necessity to stay in a refugee center until the refugee status is granted.

The Special Act regulates the following issues and benefits:

[Staying in Poland] Ukrainian citizens entering Poland (and meeting the conditions of the Special Act) are allowed to stay in Poland **for 18 months counting from the 24th February 2022**, with an option to extend the stay **for another 3 years**. Ukrainian citizens who already stayed in Poland and whose last day of legal stay in Poland (last day of validity of a visa or last day of temporary stay permit) is/was after 24th February 2022, may legally stay in Poland until **31st December 2022**.

[Employment] Ukrainian citizens covered by the Special Act **are entitled to work legally in Poland**; Ukrainian citizens who cannot find an employment are eligible to **apply for unemployment benefits** according to the same rules which apply to Polish citizens.

[Conducting business activity] Ukrainian citizens **whose stay in Poland is legal** either under the Special Act or under the Polish Act on Foreigners – who have obtained a Polish PESEL (social security number) – **may conduct business activity in Poland** on the same terms as Polish citizens.

[Access to healthcare] Ukrainian citizens covered by the Special Act are entitled to receive the same **healthcare benefits** which are available to Polish persons covered by Poland's social insurance scheme.

[Education] The Special Act provides Ukrainian children covered by the Special Act with **free access to educational institutions**, including nurseries, kindergartens, schools and colleges.

[Tax exemptions and tax incentives] The Special Act provides certain **tax incentives** to Ukrainian citizens covered by the Special Act and to Polish families providing them with housing, financial and/or material support.

[Benefits and other assistance] Ukrainian citizens covered by the Special Act are entitled to receive:

1. **low income allowances**, including: family allowance, single child benefits, nursing allowance, care allowance, special care benefit, parental allowance, and municipal allowances;
2. **allowances for children living in Poland**, including: child benefits (500 PLN for each child per month), a good start allowance, family care funds, and a nursery allowance;
3. **allowances connected with certain personal, family, and property situations**;
4. **social financial assistance provided under the Act on the Education System**;
5. **food aid**;
6. **special aid for people with disabilities**.

Additionally, Ukrainian citizens whose stay in Poland is legal under the Special Act **and** who have been entered into the PESEL database are entitled to receive a **one-time payment of 300 PLN per person to cover basic expenses** (food, clothing, accommodation).

Ukrainian citizens whose stay in Poland is legal under the Special Act are also entitled to receive **free psychological aid**.

What is more, according to the Special Act the governor (voivode) of each province, as well as local governmental units, may provide **additional assistance** for accommodations, food, and public transportation.