

Personal and Household Services' support for Ukrainian refugees' integration

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The European Federation for Services to Individuals and its members condemn the Russian military invasion of Ukraine and support the Ukrainian people. In times like these, showing solidarity and providing assistance to all people and workers is paramount.

In the EU, over 5.9 million¹ people were displaced from their homes and forced to take refuge outside Ukraine. As they arrive to EU Member States, the Ukrainian people under the temporary protection are entitled – for a 12-months period – to residence permits, access to the labour market, education for children, housing, and medical assistance.

Correspondingly, and considering the job potential and social inclusion's mission of Personal and Household Services (PHS), the sector recalls its willingness to welcome the Ukrainian refugees into stable and qualitative employment. For that to be properly operationalised, diploma equivalences and skills recognition between Ukraine and the EU Member States is needed, as PHS include both indirect support and direct, care services. Also, EFSI firmly

¹ UNHCR, last updated on May 10, 2022. For more information:
<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/92724>

believes that the Ukrainian people have the right to access affordable and high-quality care services as much as any other human being and should be guaranteed for their children's education and care.

EFSI and its members are fully committed to welcome the people from Ukraine in the sector. In fact, some of its members are already involved and dedicated to the integration of the Ukrainian people into their host countries. For example, in the service voucher system in Belgium, a budget of €85.000 was allocated – through the Flemish government's subsidies – to welcome the Ukrainian refugees within the service voucher system amongst other sectors. These funds cover multiple actions – from translation of training materials to social media campaign – coordinated by the Sectoral training funds² (*Form TS/Vorm DC*). In France, the FESP³ centralises the demands of Ukrainian refugees that wish to integrate the PHS sector. So far, FESP was able to relocate around thirteen people.

In Italy where 15% of domestic workers come from Ukraine, DOMINA and the signatories of the collective bargaining agreement on PHS aim to support Ukrainian refugees through two initiatives:

- *CASSACOLF*, allocated €1 Million to guarantee that all domestic workers that host Ukrainian refugees, benefit to the amount of €300 to cover their supplementary expenses⁴.
- *EBINCOLF*, organised free training courses for the Ukrainian refugees in the PHS. In this context, DOMINA in collaboration with UNHCR is organising 3 training courses aimed for the refugees and 10 other courses will be added for the domestic workers with a regular contract. This will allow for integration and working opportunities for the PHS sector.

EFSI's members are committed to continue in their long-term and active support towards the accommodation and integration of Ukrainian refugees.

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² <https://form-ts.be/>

³ <https://www.fesp.fr/fesp>

⁴ <https://www.cassacolf.it/files/allegati/Regolamento%20Ucraina.pdf>