

Rights and duties in case of temporary protection

You have received or applied for protection in the Federal Republic of Germany because of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Under European Union and federal law, we are required to inform you about the principal rights and duties associated with this. This information does not replace comprehensive information on all aspects which are important for new immigrants in Germany. This information is available in various languages, including Ukrainian, on the Internet at <https://handbookgermany.de/>.

This information sheet is only intended for persons covered by Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 of 4 March 2022 establishing the existence of a mass influx of displaced persons from Ukraine within the meaning of Article 5 of Directive 2001/55/EC and having the effect of introducing temporary protection (OJ L 71, 4.3.2022, p. 1) and residing in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Your right of residence

You may stay in Germany without any restrictions, i.e. also without a residence title, at least until the end of May 2022. Please go to the foreigners authority responsible for your place of residence if you have not already done so. After applying to the local foreigners authority, presenting your identity documents and registering your personal details, you will receive a provisional certificate of your right of residence in the Federal Republic of Germany. Furthermore, the issuance of a card certifying your right of residence in a uniform European Union format will be prepared.

With the provisional certificate, and later with the card, you can prove your right of residence in the Federal Republic of Germany. These documents also show you how long the protection lasts. The protection will also be extended beyond that if necessary.

If you meet the requirements for a residence title for another reason, you can apply for this residence title - also at a later date. The residence title for temporary protection does not prevent this.

Passport and travel document

If you do not have a valid passport, but your identity has nevertheless been clarified, you will possibly receive a “travel document for foreigners”, which replaces your passport.

Gainful employment

As soon as you have received a document with the words

“Erwerbstätigkeit erlaubt” (Gainful employment permitted)

you are allowed to pursue any gainful activity (self-employment or dependent employment) in Germany. However, before receiving such a document, this is not allowed. Please inform yourself about your related tax and social security obligations.

You may also engage in self-employment. Please inform yourself as to which further permits or notifications you need to obtain from the relevant authorities (e.g. trade authority, tax office). For this, you can contact a suitable advice centre, such as a chamber of commerce and industry.

Special nature of a residence allocation and its cancellation or amendment

People who are permitted to stay in Germany, like you, can fundamentally move freely within Germany. However, as long as you are still receiving social benefits to secure your livelihood, you may be required to live in a certain place. This is so that the costs of securing livelihoods are distributed equally throughout the country. If you are subject to such a requirement, you will have been informed. So if you start securing your own livelihood again or have to change your place of residence in order to secure your livelihood, the residence requirement is lifted. This may also happen for humanitarian reasons, for example to reunite a family that has been torn apart. The same applies if you intend to start training or studying and have to change your place of residence for this.

You can also apply for a transfer of residence to another Member State of the European Union. If this application is granted, you will receive a “certificate of transfer of residence”. This certificate then also specifies where you have to register - with this certificate - in the other Member State in order to clarify all further matters.

Please contact the foreigners authority with any questions regarding the residence requirement and the transfer of residence, not the registration office.

Travel within the Schengen area

Once you have received the card certifying your residence title (not the provisional certificate), you may also use it - together with a valid passport or travel document for foreigners - to travel to other Schengen states for a period of up to 90 days within a period of 180 days, if you can finance this journey. However, with the exception of typical business travel activities (for example, visiting trade fairs or conducting business negotiations for your German employer), you may not work there without the permission of the other state.

Expiry of the residence status and its prevention

If you remain outside of Germany for longer than six months, your residence status will expire if the foreigners authority has not previously granted you a longer period of absence. Therefore, if you wish to stay outside of Germany for longer than six months

and only for a temporary purpose, such as a long visit to relatives abroad or a professional secondment, have this period extended beforehand at the foreigners authority.

Additional information

This information sheet is only about your right of residence itself. During the initial period of your residence, you will need information that goes beyond what we are able present in this short information sheet.

In particular, you will be interested to know

- that if you are in need of assistance and require social benefits, you can find further information on this on the homepage of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
- that in connection with your documents and tax and social law issues, you will receive several letters and also numbers that you will need in the future,
- how exactly you can access services in case of illness, as well as other services,
- how to arrange your first contracts (opening a bank account, mobile phone, Internet, rent, possibly electricity), and that there are a few things you need to bear in mind here,
- how to change a driving licence to an EU driving licence,
- how to inform people who may be looking for you of how you can be contacted and that you have found protection, and
- how the registration system (registering where you live) works.

You will find initial guidance on this in <https://handbookgermany.de/> and also in other correspondence and information sheets. Please also make full use of the many advisory services available for new immigrants.