



Integration of Ukrainian refugees in the Nordic countries:

National differences and local perspectives

Conference “Integration through education and engagement of local actors”,
Tallinn 24 October 2023



Ukrainian refugees in the Nordic countries

Country	Date of update	Recorded in country	Applied for asylum, TP or similar national protection schemes
Denmark	27.08.2023	39 680	43 730
Finland	24.09.2023	61 520	64 375
Iceland	20.09.2023	3 250	3 385
Norway	30.08.2023	56 970	56 970
Sweden	05.10.2023	41 315	62 895



Hvorfor har Norge gått fra å være lite attraktivt til å bli ukrainernes topp tre-land?

HEIKO JUNGE / NTB

“Why has Norway gone from being rather unattractive to becoming one of Ukrainians' top three countries?”

EU's Temporary Protection Directive, or special legislation?

			
Special law	EU TP Directive	EU TP Directive	Special law

Right to work immediately after registration?

			
Yes	Yes	No	No

Settlement policy



Special rules. More private housing



Same rules as for others



Same rules as for others. Much self-settlement



Special rules apply, more flexibility

Introduction programme / language training?

			
Same rights and obligations as other refugees. Work-oriented	First year some restricted rights. After one year an integration plan.	No general rights or obligations. Some language courses offered	Same rights as other refugees (no obligations), more flexible

Opportunities / challenges for municipal actors

Cross-cutting:

- Mismatch education / work experience and job market
- Differential treatment
- Psychic health
- Language barrier

Adult education:

- Capacity (rooms, teachers)
- Motivation
- Progress

Refugee service:

- Practices vary (prolong Introduction programme)
- Long-term vs. short-term focus
- Pressure on welfare services

Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration

- Sufficient upscaling?
- Wage subsidies work well
- Job fairs successful
- Prioritising between groups
- From long-term to short term focus

Employers:

- Language barrier (too short)
- Public sector – hardest
- Recognition of education / qualifications

Volunteer organisations:

- Recruitment: Only want to work with Ukrainians
- Predictability
- Older refugees

A row of white paper cutouts of human figures holding hands, set against a green background. The figures are arranged in a line, with some in the foreground being sharper than others in the background. The text is overlaid on the middle of the image.

Opportunities / challenges for Ukrainian refugees



Access to information

Much better than last year, but:

- Little knowledge about what happens after Introduction programme
- How to establish own business
- Language barrier



Settlement: high degree of satisfaction, but ...

- Rural areas: long distances, little public transport
- Waiting time
- Labour market differences
- Differences between municipalities in support given
- Hard to find Norwegian friends



Introduction programme and language training

- Appreciated
- Practices vary between municipalities
 - Own groups for Ukrainians?
 - Language / other items
 - Prolong language training?
 - Work practice (opportunity or force)
- Amount of language training not enough
 - How flexible?
 - Progress and structure



Work integration

- Most Ukrainian refugees want to work
- Use previous education / qualifications?
- Long vs. short term perspective varies
- So far: much lower participation in Norway than in other Nordic countries

Short or long-term perspective?

