

Romania: Information for stateless people and those at risk of statelessness fleeing Ukraine



European
Network on
Statelessness

ENS Focal Point: [JRS Romania](#)

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This briefing provides country-specific information for stateless people and those at risk of statelessness fleeing Ukraine. It is intended as a source of information for refugee response actors and affected individuals. The focus is on stateless people and people at risk of statelessness, including those who are undocumented. Links to more general information for refugees from Ukraine are provided throughout. We will endeavour to keep this information updated. Please contact Ukraine.crisis@statelessness.eu if you have relevant updates. Unless otherwise shown, the source of information provided is the ENS Focal Point.

1. SITUATION AT THE BORDER & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

There are four border crossing points from Ukraine to Romania (Halmeu, Sighetu Marmăției, Siret, Isaccea). People fleeing Ukraine can also enter Romania through Moldova, using the border points in Rădăuți Prut, Albita, Sculeni, Stâncă, Galați. [Frontex](#) officials are present at the border supporting registration and identity checks. UNHCR is monitoring the borders to ensure access to the territory, asylum, and reception, but is not authorised to register asylum applications nor issue documents.

There are currently no reported issues for stateless people, those at risk of statelessness, or undocumented people crossing the Romanian border, although some issues have been reported on the Ukrainian side. People fleeing the war are allowed to enter Romania even without documents by applying for asylum at the border. To date, at least one stateless person has been officially recorded as entering Romania from Ukraine since 24 February 2022. However, over 7,000 people have applied for asylum (7,002 as of 5 April 2023, according to the [Ministry of Interior](#)), of which more than 1,000 were undocumented or could not provide any documentation evidencing their identity during the asylum procedure. Some of these applicants could be stateless or at risk of statelessness. It is also reported that, in the absence of documentation, border guards register people who wish to apply for protection with a stated/declared nationality (whether Ukrainian or another nationality). Further determination of nationality can be done during the asylum procedure.

For real-time waiting times at border crossings, see: [Border Police](#). For questions about entering Romania, see: [Dopomoha](#) and [Romanian Council for Refugees \(CNRR\)](#). For more information about the situation at border crossings, see: [Ukrainian Border Guard](#). For statistics, see: [UNHCR Operational Data Portal](#).

Documents required	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Stateless persons</u>: no specific requirements; entry permitted to all those fleeing Ukraine• <u>Undocumented persons</u>: entry permitted to all those fleeing Ukraine even without documents if they apply for asylum at the border• <u>Adults</u>: biometric or simple passport, ID documents, birth certificates• <u>Children</u>: any documents (all children coming from Ukraine are permitted entry); advisable to carry identity document or birth certificate; no need for written approval by parents to cross the border
Entry and registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Stateless persons</u>: no specific provisions; if not eligible for temporary protection, permitted entry if they apply for asylum at the border; registered, fingerprinted, photographed• <u>Undocumented persons</u>: permitted entry if they apply for asylum at the border; registered, fingerprinted, photographed• <u>Beneficiaries of international protection</u>: do not need to apply for asylum, beneficiaries of refugee status in Ukraine are recognised in Romania

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Unaccompanied children</u>: all unaccompanied children, regardless of age, can cross the border and will be taken care of by the General Directorates for Social Assistance & Child Protection; “unaccompanied” is not strictly interpreted as being connected with family links; unaccompanied minors must be assigned a guardian to access protection
Documents issued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Asylum-seekers</u>: temporary identity document
Entry status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asylum-seeker, visitor, temporary protection

2. ROUTES TO INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

Stateless persons, persons at risk of statelessness and undocumented persons can apply for protection in Romania even if they are undocumented. Romania offers different forms of international protection: refugee status, subsidiary protection, and temporary protection under EU law. In [September 2022](#), the scope of temporary protection was extended to also include ‘other close relatives’ who were living as part of the family when the war broke out and who were dependent on the main applicant. The concept of ‘family members’ was also extended to include unmarried children regardless of whether they were born out of wedlock or adopted.

Romania also provides humanitarian support and assistance to foreign nationals and stateless persons fleeing the conflict in Ukraine who are undocumented and do not apply for protection. These routes to protection are summarised in the table below.

	Refugee status & subsidiary protection	Temporary protection	Humanitarian support & assistance
What is it?	<p><u>Refugee status</u>: for people eligible under the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees;</p> <p><u>Subsidiary protection</u>: for people who do not meet the conditions for refugee status but would be exposed to a serious threat to their life or integrity if returned</p>	Temporary protection for eligible people fleeing the conflict in Ukraine	Humanitarian support and assistance to foreign nationals or stateless persons in special situations who come from the area of armed conflict in Ukraine and do not apply for protection
Can stateless and/or undocumented persons apply?	Yes	Yes, if they meet eligibility criteria (i.e., beneficiaries of international protection or equivalent national protection in Ukraine, or permanent residence in Ukraine and cannot return to country of origin, and their family members; or were legally resident in Ukraine and cannot return safely to their country of origin)	Yes
Where to apply?	Border crossings (including transit areas); Immigration Office (see map); Regional Centres for Procedures and	Immigration Offices (see map) in all regions. Applications are not possible at the border	No need to apply

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	Accommodation for Asylum Seekers		
Procedure & rights	Application form (in any language); fingerprint and photograph; preliminary interview; refugee status interview (with translator); asylum-seekers receive a temporary identity document, right to housing in accommodation centre; healthcare; public health programmes; financial aid	Granted automatically to eligible persons, no application required	No need to apply
Rights upon recognition	Same rights as Romanian nationals (including work, social security, health insurance), except for electoral rights	Residence permit valid during implementation of the EU TPD (currently 4 March 2023); personal numerical code; right to work; education; social assistance; medical assistance	Temporary accommodation in camps, food, clothing, personal hygiene items, healthcare, inclusion in national public health programmes (including for COVID-19); protection granted for 60 days

For more information, see:

- [Official government website dedicated to assistance for persons coming from Ukraine](#)
- [Dopomoha Platform](#) (partnership between Romanian Government, IOM, UNHCR & CNRR)
- [Romanian legislation on temporary protection](#) (March 2022) and [update of September 2022](#)
- [Romanian National Council for Refugees \(CNRR\)](#)
- [Cooperation Procedure between the Romanian authorities for the protection of unaccompanied minors coming from Ukraine](#)
- European Union Agency for Asylum, [Information on temporary protection in Romania](#) (July 2022)
- Council of Europe, [Report of the fact-finding mission to Romania by Ms Leyla Kayacik Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees](#) (February 2023)
- European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), [Updated Information Sheet on Measures in response to the Arrival of Displaced People Fleeing the War in Ukraine](#) (March 2023)
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- European Union Agency for Asylum, [Who is Who in International Protection, Temporary Protection overview](#)
- [EU Asylum Agency, Providing Temporary Protection to Displaced Persons from Ukraine: A Year in Review \(March 2023\)](#)
- European Commission, [Information for people fleeing the war in Ukraine](#)
- [Fundamental Rights Agency, Report on Fleeing Ukraine - Fleeing Ukraine: Displaced people's experiences in the EU](#)
- [UNHCR Regional Protection Analysis #2 \(April 2023\)](#)
- [UNHCR Regional Refugee Response Plan \(January-December 2023\)](#)
- [Statelessness Index, Romania \(updated in March 2023\)](#)
- Right to Protection, [Who are stateless persons who fled Ukraine after the Russian invasion on 24 of February, 2022](#)
- KIND & Child Circle, [Note on unaccompanied children fleeing Ukraine](#)

3. STATELESSNESS DETERMINATION AND PROTECTION STATUS

For stateless people, it is important to determine both a claim for international protection and their statelessness. Each application should be assessed and both types of status should be explicitly recognised so that even if international protection ceases, the person remains entitled to protection as a stateless person. Statelessness determination should be conducted either in parallel with or following the refugee status determination, with due regard to the primacy of the asylum claim and the principle of confidentiality for refugees in statelessness determination procedures. For more information, see: [ENS briefing on statelessness determination & protection in Europe](#).

Romania does not have a dedicated Statelessness Determination Procedure, but there are other procedures in which statelessness can be identified. The rights granted to stateless people depend on their respective residence or protection status. Statelessness may be identified during asylum or border procedures if a person declares that they are stateless.

Stateless persons may be granted a tolerated stay permit in the context of return proceedings. This may be considered in the case of refused asylum-seekers who declared themselves to be stateless at the beginning of the asylum procedure and in cases where the countries of origin or former residence have failed to recognise the person's nationality.

Stateless persons are strongly advised to seek expert legal advice on their rights in Romania (e.g., from [JRS Romania](#)).

4. REQUIREMENTS FOR ONWARD TRAVEL TO THIRD COUNTRIES

People granted temporary protection are not obliged to stay in Romania. They can apply for temporary protection in another EU country. However, another EU country may grant another form of protection or residence at its discretion. Beneficiaries of temporary protection may travel to other EU Member States for 90 days within a 180-day period. Family reunification is possible if an individual has family members in another EU country. Asylum-seekers may leave the country, they have the obligation to hand over their travel documents at the time of applying for asylum, but these can be requested at any time in order to leave the territory of Romania. However, asylum-seekers must appear in person at the preliminary interview and at the refugee status interview.

5. ORGANISATIONS ASSISTING STATELESS PEOPLE

<p>JRS Romania https://www.jrsromania.org/asistenta-ucraina +40732129236 stefan.leonescu.jrsro@gmail.com</p>	<p>UNHCR https://help.unhcr.org/romania/ +40 723 653 651 / 021 201 7873 rombu@unhcr.org</p>
<p>General Inspectorate for Immigration https://igi.mai.gov.ro/en/ +4 021 414 4494 Helpline of the Romanian Border Police in Ukrainian language +4 021 9590</p>	<p>Regional Centres for Procedures and Accommodation for Asylum Seekers See location and contacts at: https://dopomoha.ro/en</p>
<p>Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) https://www.cnrr.ro/index.php/en/ +40 730 073 170 / +40 721 206 926 office@cnrr.ro</p>	<p>National Line against Trafficking in Persons 0 800 800 678 / +4021 313 31 00</p>
<p>NGO LOGS</p>	<p>Save the Children</p>

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WhatsApp Call Centre for social assistance (in English, Russian, Ukrainian): +40765861888	https://www.salvaticopiii.ro/ce-facem/protectie/protectia-copiilor-refugiati/sprijin-pentru-ucraina +40 21 316 61 76 secretariat@salvaticopiii.ro
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