



Ukraine and the Swedish labour market

Since Russia invaded Ukraine on 24 February, the number of people leaving Ukraine has increased rapidly. At a press briefing on 21 March, Minister for Employment Eva Nordmark and Minister for Integration and Migration Anders Ygeman reported on what applies on the Swedish labour market for people covered by the Temporary Protection Directive.

The Temporary Protection Directive adopted by the EU means that people who have fled from Ukraine can be granted a residence permit with temporary protection. Residence permits will initially be valid until 4 March 2023, with the possibility to extend them for another two years.

“Many people coming now want to start working. The basic premise is that they should be able to support themselves through work or private savings. A person who is granted a residence permit with temporary protection under the Temporary Protection Directive will also be granted a work permit,” says Ms Nordmark.

People who have a residence permit with temporary protection who are entitled to work in Sweden are also allowed to register as a jobseeker with Arbetsförmedlingen. The agency can provide tips, advice and support in various languages about the labour market and applying for jobs in Sweden. There are currently many temporary job vacancies that can be applied for.

“We have already seen examples of employers who are interested in hiring people from Ukraine. This is very welcome. I would like to encourage all employers in need of workers who have not already contacted Arbetsförmedlingen to do so,” says Ms Nordmark.



Government Offices of Sweden

Government calls for a Russian sporting boycott

The EU has imposed sanctions on Russia in response to its invasion of Ukraine. The Government is now calling for a boycott of sporting exchanges with Russia.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is unprovoked, illegal and unjustifiable. It threatens international peace and security and is a flagrant violation of international law and a serious challenge to the European security order. The Russian political leadership bears full responsibility for this.

The Government will push for the EU to make a joint recommendation of a boycott of sporting exchanges with Russia for as long as Russia's military aggression against Ukraine continues.

“The most important thing is that Russia's aggression ends. If the EU decides on a sporting boycott, this may play a contributing role,” says Minister for Sport Anders Ygeman.

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Increased crisis support for culture and sport

On 18 January, the Government will submit an initial additional amending budget for 2022 to the Riksdag. The budget includes, among other things, increased crisis support to culture and sport. In addition to the proposals presented earlier, an additional SEK 100 million is now being allocated to culture and sport.

To mitigate the effects of the new restrictions and the new general guidelines, the Government previously proposed that SEK 200 million be allocated to culture and sport. This is now being increased by an additional SEK 100 million, of which SEK 60 million will be allocated to culture and SEK 40 million to sport. The Government will provide information on the precise allocation of the support following its adoption by the Riksdag.

“As more infection control measures are introduced, continued crisis support is needed for Sweden’s cultural life. A diversity of activities and actors have been severely affected, and the consequences are likely to persist for a long time to come. We know that the need is great and urgent, and that is why the Government is now proposing additional funds,” says Minister for Culture Jeanette Gustafsdotter.

In addition, actors in the field of culture and sport can also benefit from extended turnover support in the form of reorientation support and event support. See separate press release.

“The pandemic has caused great difficulties for the sports movement. Conditions have been very tough and I have great respect for all those involved in adapting their activities to the situation in which we find ourselves. It has been a difficult time – not least financially. The Government is therefore now proposing to provide sport with more resources,” says Anders Ygeman, Minister for Integration and Migration,

with responsibility for sport.

The Riksdag previously adopted a SEK 940 million stimulatory package for culture in the budget for 2022. In 2020, the cultural sector received various crisis support packages, totalling more than SEK 2.5 billion. In 2021, SEK 3.9 billion in crisis support was distributed.

Earlier in the pandemic, the Government added SEK 1.5 billion to the additional amending budget for 2020, SEK 1.955 billion to the additional amending budget for 2021, and SEK 400 million to the Budget Bill for 2022.

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The Government intends to tighten and improve regulations on labour migration

The Government has decided to refer a proposal to the Council on Legislation on tightening and improving the current regulations on labour migration. These are the first of several coming proposed amendments to regulations on labour migration. The proposal referred to the Council on Legislation is intended to counter exploitation of labour migrants and to attract and retain international expertise and counter the expulsion of skilled workers.

It is important to address the problem of foreign workers being exploited in the Swedish labour market. The legitimacy of labour migration can only be maintained if fraud and injustice are prevented. At the same time, labour migration to Sweden is important to growing and developing businesses.

To prevent labour migrants being exploited, it is proposed that an employment contract be required in order for a work permit to be granted, and that the Swedish Migration Agency is to be able to require an employer to provide information about the labour migrant's employment conditions or risk paying a fine. In addition, it is proposed that a maintenance requirement for family member immigration linked to foreign labour be introduced, and that the offence 'organising of human smuggling' be expanded so that it also includes permits issued on the basis of false information.

“The regulations on labour migration must be tightened and improved. We must address the problem of foreign workers being exploited in the Swedish labour market. The fact that people are given poorer working conditions with lower wages, longer working days or a poorer working environment just

because they come from another country goes against our most fundamental values and harms the Swedish model,” says Minister for Integration and Migration Anders Ygeman.

In its referral to the Council on Legislation, the Government also proposes introducing a new residence permit for certain highly qualified people so that they can apply for work or look at the possibilities of starting a business in Sweden. Measures are also proposed against the expulsion of skilled workers. For example, it will not be necessary to revoke a work permit in the event of minor cases of deviations from employment conditions or if it appears unreasonable in light of the circumstances.

The proposals referred to the Council on Legislation are based on the inquiry report (SOU 2021:5) presented to the Government earlier this year. Additional proposals for tighter and improved regulations for labour migration are currently being circulated for comment and will be presented in 2022.

It is proposed that the legislative amendments enter into force on 1 June 2022.

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Government Offices of Sweden

Change of government, 30 November 2021

Today in the Riksdag, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson announced the ministers who will serve in the Government. The change of government takes place at a Council of State at the Royal Palace presided over by His Majesty the King. The Council of State begins at 13.00.

Sweden's new Government consists of the Prime Minister and 22 ministers.

Prime Minister's Office

Magdalena Andersson, Prime Minister

Hans Dahlgren, Minister for EU Affairs

Ministry of Employment

Eva Nordmark, Minister for Employment and Gender Equality

Johan Danielsson, Minister for Housing and Deputy Minister for Employment

Ministry of Finance

Mikael Damberg, Minister for Finance

Max Elger, Minister for Financial Markets

Ida Karkiainen, Minister for Public Administration

Ministry of Defence

Peter Hultqvist, Minister for Defence

Ministry of Infrastructure

Tomas Eneroth, Minister for Infrastructure

Khashayar Farmanbar, Minister for Energy and Digital Development

Ministry of Justice

Morgan Johansson, Minister for Justice and Home Affairs

Anders Ygeman, Minister for Integration and Migration

Ministry of Culture

Jeanette Gustafsdotter, Minister for Culture

Ministry of the Environment

Annika Strandhäll, Minister for Climate and the Environment

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson, Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation

Anna-Caren Säterberg, Minister for Rural Affairs

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Lena Hallengren, Minister for Health and Social Affairs

Ardalan Shekarabi, Minister for Social Security

Ministry of Education and Research

Anna Ekström, Minister for Education

Lina Axelsson Kihlblom, Minister for Schools

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ann Linde, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Anna Hallberg, Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs

Matilda Ernkrans, Minister for International Development Cooperation

Press contacts:

Linda Romanus, Press Secretary to Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson

Tel: +46 73 543 61 59

Johan Ekström, Press Secretary to Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson

Tel: +46 73 086 32 01

Tove Kullenberg, Press Secretary to Minister for EU Affairs Hans Dahlgren

Tel: +46 73 842 50 59

Nadja Yusuf, Press Secretary to Minister for Employment and Gender
Equality Eva Nordmark

Tel: +46 73 085 00 49

Fredrik Persson, Press Secretary to Minister for Housing and Deputy
Minister for Employment Johan Danielsson

Tel: +46 73 072 81 36

Mirjam Kontio, Press Secretary to Minister for Finance Mikael Damberg

Tel: +46 73 074 05 57

Simon Sätherberg, Press Secretary to Minister for Financial Markets Max
Elger

Tel: +46 73 086 23 07

Mikael Lindström, Press Secretary to Minister for Public Administration Ida
Karkiainen

Tel: +46 73 078 52 60

Toni Eriksson, Press Secretary to Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist

Tel: +46 73 072 83 16

Jennie Zetterström, Press Secretary to Minister for Infrastructure Tomas Eneroth

Tel: +46 73 053 92 70

Sofia Brändström, Press Secretary to Minister for Energy and Digital Development Khashayar Farmanbar

Tel: +46 73 065 16 12

Sofie Rudh, Press Secretary to Minister for Justice and Home Affairs Morgan Johansson

Tel: +46 72 545 74 21

Per Strängberg, Press Secretary to Minister for Integration and Migration Anders Ygeman

Tel: +46 73 093 90 56

Tora Heckscher, Press Secretary to Minister for Culture Jeanette Gustafsdotter

Tel: +46 73 093 50 83

Håkan Gestrin, Press Secretary to Minister for Climate and the Environment Annika Strandhäll

Tel: +46 73 038 20 42

Kajsa Loord, Press Secretary to Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson

Tel: +46 73 075 97 31

Max Ney, Press Secretary to Minister for Rural Affairs Anna-Caren Säterberg

Tel: +46 73 094 25 40

Elin Aarflot, Press Secretary to Minister for Health and Social Affairs Lena Hallengren

Tel: +46 73 274 23 53

Hanna Kretz, Press Secretary to Minister for Social Security Ardan Shekarabi

Tel: +46 73 064 96 04

Anja Lindberg Sundberg, Press Secretary to Minister for Education Anna Ekström

Tel: +46 76 116 77 45

Maria Soläng, Press Secretary to Minister for Schools Lina Axelsson Kihlblom

Tel: +46 72 206 19 47

Andreas Enbuske, Press Secretary to Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde

Tel: +46 76 130 58 86

Vidar Jakobinson Lindgren, Acting Press Secretary to Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs Anna Hallberg

Tel: +46 73 840 33 12

Darina Agha, Press Secretary to Minister for International Development
Cooperation Matilda Ernkrans

Tel: +46 73 592 85 48

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