

## **THE ROAD AHEAD FOR UKRAINIAN REFUGEES IN EUROPE AND BULGARIA**

### HYBRID DISCUSSION

live in Europe House, 124 G.S. Rakovski str., Sofia  
webstreamed live on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eplosofia>  
and YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/epiosofia>

29 April 2022, Friday  
11.00 – 13.00 EET

### PROGRAMME

- 11.00-11.10 Welcome addresses  
Teodor Stoychev, Head of the European Parliament Liaison Office Sofia  
Kalina Konstantinova, Deputy Prime Minister for Good Governance
- 11.10-11.45 First panel: European policies and instruments in support of Ukrainian refugees
- How does Europe adapt the mechanisms for temporary protection to the crisis in Ukraine? What lessons has it drawn from previous refugee crises?
  - How do the countries that are most affected by the wave of refugees cope? What are the best practices and where are the weak spots?
  - How will the solidarity happen in practise between EU member states that are less affected and the countries in the front line (such as Poland and Hungary) in the context of the rule of law mechanism?
  - Are there any discussions held on an EU level on mid-term solutions on the future of Ukrainian citizens who would have to restart their lives in the EU?
  - What kind of support can Bulgaria rely on?
- Panellists: Elena Yoncheva, MEP (BG/S&D)  
Petya Karayaneva, Protection Officer, UNHCR Bulgaria
- 11.45-12.20 Second panel: The challenges before Ukrainian refugees in Bulgaria and the non-profit sector
- What are the main imminent legislative and administrative problems for the Ukrainian refugees and the organizations, which support them?
  - How can the non-profit sector help foster a faster and more adequate response to refugees' needs in terms of access to social support, healthcare, employment, housing and schooling?
  - How are the planned mechanisms for support applied in practice?
  - What measures are needed on the mid-term?
- Panellists:
- Dr. Nadezhda Todorovska, Deputy Director General and Head of Social Welfare and Operational Activities Division of the Bulgarian Red Cross
  - Kina Sabeva, Chairperson at the Bulgarian Council on Refugees and Migrants,
  - Olena Shopova, activist of the Association of Ukrainian Organizations in Bulgaria, "Mati Ukraina"

- 12.20-13.00 Third panel: The response of the institutions
- What has been achieved so far in the legislative framework created to support refugees?
  - What are the mid-term challenges before institutions? How can they respond to Ukrainian refugees' needs in terms of access to services?
  - Is there any analysis of the seeking of asylum from Russian citizens? What is the policy towards them after 24 February 2022?

Panellists: Andrey Novakov, MEP (BG/EPP)  
Stoyan Temelakiev, Deputy Minister of Interior  
Krassimira Velichkova, member of the National Crisis Task Force  
Mariana Tosheva, Head of the National Agency on Refugees

Moderator: Nadezhda Tsekulova, Director of Communication and Campaigns, Bulgarian Helsinki Committee