

# Current Intelligence Report Circular

**CLASSIFICATION: DECLASSIFIED AND APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE**

**Report Topic:** Response to war in Poland, Slovakia, Romania, and Hungary

**Production Date:** 01 March 2022

**CMC Director:** Kevin Joyce

**Report Author(s):** Casey Mazzone and Kevin Joyce

## Ukrainian refugees flee to NATO frontline states

Several days after President Vladimir Putin announced the invasion of Ukraine, an estimated 500,000 Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian civilians evacuated towns and cities towards border checkpoints in Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, and Romania. Most refugees have consisted of women, children and elderly people. The lines of vehicles at the border checkpoints of NATO member states have an estimated 20-60 hour-long wait. NATO allies have made known their openness and readiness to welcome Ukrainian refugees, and are providing them with humanitarian support. The European Union (EU) is set to meet on 03 MAR, in order to approve a temporary directive that allows EU countries to omit regular refugee procedures in the case of Ukraine. The directive is designed to provide Ukrainian refugees with temporary residential access, employment, and social welfare for up to 3 years in all EU states. For the measure to be approved in the EU, it must receive a majority vote. If it does, it will be the first since creation of the EU that a temporary refugee directive will have been implemented. Despite the assistance from allied countries, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees warned that the war in Ukraine will become the largest refugee crisis in Europe “for the century,” if the Russian aggression continues.

### CMCD Note

Poland has currently experienced the greatest number of Ukrainian refugees of all NATO states since the beginning of the Russo-Ukrainian War. Germany has stated its willingness and readiness to take in refugees from Poland, in order to alleviate some of the pressure Poland is increasingly facing. Two weeks prior to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki joined Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, and far-right French presidential candidate Marine Le Pen to critique the EU’s attitudes and policies towards immigration. As of 02 MAR, Poland has taken in approximately 450,000 Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian refugees. This is the largest migrant movement in Europe since the 2015 migration of 1.3 million Syrians. The migration from Ukraine to EU countries is growing by approximately 100,000 people per day. Poland and Slovakia’s appeal to fast-track Ukraine’s acceptance into the EU could alleviate the mounting pressure of the refugee crisis, as EU membership would allow Ukraine to adopt the euro and unitary visa/passport program. This would make Ukrainian citizen movement throughout the EU less costly on these countries.

### Sources

At the Polish Border, Tens of Thousands of Ukrainian Refugees

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/25/world/europe/ukrainian-refugees-poland.html>

The Largest Refugee Crises to Know in 2022

<https://www.concernusa.org/story/largest-refugee-crises/>

Putin’s War to Bring Ukraine to Heel Unites Eastern Europe in Alarm

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/02/world/europe/ukraine-russia-eastern-europe.html>

Ukrainian refugees’ stream into Hungary amid Russian assault

**[DNGTS]** <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/3/1/refugees-stream-into-hungary-as-russian-offensive-continues>

EU plans to grant Ukrainians right to stay for up to 3 years

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/eu-plans-grant-ukrainians-right-stay-up-3-years-2022-02-28/>