

# Conference 'Building Knowledge: Temporary Protection in Europe' - European Academic Refugee Interdisciplinary Network (EARIN)

**Wednesday 20 November - 09:00 - 16:00**  
**Press Club Brussels Europe, rue Froissart 95, 1040 Brussels, Belgium**

Note that the agenda may still be adapted ahead of the conference (version 15 November).

## Agenda

### 09:15 - Welcome and introduction

By Lilian Tsourdi, Chair of EARIN and Jean Monnet Chair in EU Migration Law and Governance, Maastricht University, and Frederik Smets, Education Officer, UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe

### 09:30 - Session I: Temporary Protection: Current situation and future perspectives

*Chaired by Lilian Tsourdi*

The European Union has activated the [Temporary Protection Directive \(TP\)](#) in Europe for a number of categories of persons displaced from Ukraine following the start of the full-scale armed conflict in Ukraine 2022. Under TP, the protected groups gained immediate access to territory in EU host countries, as well as access to fundamental rights and services (cf. access to work, housing, education and medical services).

The current period of TP activation will expire in March 2026 and discussions are underway at the EU and host country levels as to what comes next.

This segment of the EARIN conference aims to take stock of what Temporary Protection has meant for those fleeing Ukraine until now, how it has been implemented, and how it will evolve as the current expiry date is nearing.

**Presentation I: Setting the stage: Temporary Protection in Europe**

How does TP work? Where do TP holders come from? Which countries and regions did they go to? What is the profile of TP holders in the region?

Speaker: Frederik Smets, Education Officer, UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe.

**Presentation II: Temporary Protection in Europe, a view from the NGO community**

The European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) will provide its view on Temporary Protection and its operation in Europe.

Speaker: Josephine Liebl, Head of Advocacy, ECRE.

**Presentation III: A student's perspective**

Temporary Protection has been broadly applied throughout the EU, but what has the effect been for people benefiting from it? Liudmyla Danilochkina will share her experience as a student from Ukraine in Slovakia.

Speaker: Liudmyla Danilochkina, student from Ukraine at Slovak University of Agriculture, Nitra, Slovakia, DAFI scholarship grantee in Slovakia.

**Presentation IV: The future of Temporary Protection**

The current period of Temporary Protection expires in March 2026. What will come after for refugees from Ukraine? What measures will the EU propose to extend protection of refugees from Ukraine beyond that date and how will this link to the existing asylum system in the EU?

Speaker: Elena Gobbetti, DG HOME, European Commission.

**Questions and answers****11:15 - Coffee break****11:30 - Session II: Temporary Protection: building knowledge**

*Chaired by Lilian Tsourdi*

Gathering and sourcing precise data on refugees, asylum-seekers and other displaced populations is often a challenge in Europe. In some cases, data is not sufficiently disaggregated, and there are often restrictions related to privacy regulations and other limitations. This situation has somewhat improved since the Temporary Protection mechanism were triggered for Ukrainians. Policy makers, humanitarian organisations, States, and other stakeholders, however, struggle to get the precise data that would allow them to very precisely plan and implement support and aid for refugees. At the same time academic research has also been critical of the legal design and policy of TP and has documented available data to analyse the implementation of TP at EU and national levels.

This segment of the EARIN event aims to discuss the major data challenges presented by Temporary Protection and will invite participants to discuss and think about challenges and initiatives to improve knowledge on Temporary Protection in Europe.

**Presentation I (online): An overarching critique of academic research on the design and implementation of TP in the EU**

What has academic research on temporary protection in the EU focused, both in terms of design and its implementation? What contributions have been influential? What gaps remain, and where should future research focus?

Dr. Meltem İneli Çiğer, Associate Professor, Suleyman Demirel University

**Presentation II: Implementing TP in the Netherlands: The role of academia**

What role has academia played in discussion on the implementation and aftermath of Temporary Protection for third country nationals? How can we critically approach relevant national and EU case law? How can academia help build knowledge around access to the national labour market?

Speaker: Karen Geertsema, Assistant Professor, Radboud University

**Presentation II (online): The role of the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) in TP data collection and analysis**

What has been the role of the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) in collecting and analysing data on the situational picture of TP implementation in the Member States? What has been the role of the agency in collecting and analyzing data on case law relevant to TP?

Speaker: Ana Isabela Trifescu, Information and Analysis Sector, European Union Agency on Asylum

**Presentation IV: Data gathering on TP beneficiaries by humanitarian response organizations**

United Nations agencies, NGOs and other humanitarian response organizations have been gathering a large and growing collection of data on refugees from Ukraine since the start of the full-scale war, to better inform emergency response programmes. This has yielded interesting insights, but has also not been without challenges.

Speaker: Frederik Smets, Education Officer, UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe.

**Questions and answers**

**13:15 - Light lunch and networking opportunity**

**14:15 - Session III: How does Temporary Protection affect the education of refugees from Ukraine in Europe?**

*Chaired by Frederik Smets, UNHCR*

The segment will focus on the educational challenges Temporary Protection beneficiaries are facing with regard to their education as a result of forced displacement. Is access to education guaranteed in all hosting countries? What are the major barriers to enrolment and studying? How many TP holders are entering school education and higher education? And what are universities doing to address the challenges?

### **Presentation I: Actions taken by universities in support of refugees**

EUA's member universities have been providing continuous support to refugee students from Ukraine. EUA will present some data on the universities' support measures, recommendations on these support measures, the experiences with the MSCA4Ukraine programme and future initiatives.

Speaker: Henriette Stöber, Policy Analyst, European University Association

### **Presentation II: A view from Comenius University Bratislava**

As a neighbouring country of Ukraine, Slovakia has been at the forefront of the refugee emergency response. The country's largest university, Comenius University in the capital Bratislava, has seen many refugee students from Ukraine arrive at its campuses and took a broad range of actions to support the displaced population. The university's vice-rector for international affairs will present the actions taken and speak to what the experience has been like.

Speaker: Jozef Tancer, vice-rector for international affairs, Comenius University Bratislava

### **Presentation III: A student's perspective**

Many young people who have fled Ukraine saw their studies interrupted, or were unable to access higher education. Daria Fuzil, a student from Ukraine in Czech Republic, will speak to her experience and she will also shed light on the actions she has taken to support refugees in her current country of residence.

Speaker: Daria Fuzil, student from Ukraine at Technical University of Liberec, Pedagogy, Liberec, Czech Republic

### **Questions and answers**

## **16:00- End of conference and networking opportunity over drinks**



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