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Ad-Hoc Query on 2023.51 Fostering self-reliance of the beneficiaries of temporary protection

Requested by the Czech Republic on 11 December 2023

Compilation produced on 8 February 2024

Responses from EMN NCP Austria, EMN NCP Belgium, EMN NCP Bulgaria, EMN NCP Croatia, EMN NCP Cyprus, EMN NCP Czech Republic, EMN NCP Estonia, EMN NCP Finland, EMN NCP France, EMN NCP Greece, EMN NCP Hungary, EMN NCP Italy, EMN NCP Latvia, EMN NCP Lithuania, EMN NCP Luxembourg, EMN NCP Netherlands, EMN NCP Poland, EMN NCP Portugal, EMN NCP Slovakia, EMN NCP Slovenia, EMN NCP Spain, EMN NCP Sweden
(22 in Total)

Exported for: Wider Dissemination

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1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic is considering ways to encourage self-reliance of the beneficiaries of temporary protection who rely on temporary collective housing (e.g. reception facilities). Following the recommendations of experts and other stakeholder groups, there should be wider support for the transition of refugees into private housing, including providing assistance with the initial rental costs as well as rental deposit (e.g. PAQ Research study [Integration of refugees in the labour market and housing](#)).

One possible approach that the Ministry of the Interior is considering is in the form of a one-off lump sum payment to cover the initial costs associated with the transition of the beneficiaries of temporary protection from the temporary collective housing to regular private housing.

Additionally from the financial help described above, it could also include additional social services related to this transition in order to foster long-term self-reliance and integration into society (such as (such as language courses, career counselling, intercultural training courses etc.).

The main challenge is that the Czech authorities do not have the sufficient capacity to implement directly such measures. Therefore, in order to implement they are considering to involve non-governmental organisations.

As there will be an interdepartmental meeting on the topic and they are planning to involve in the discussion the non-governmental sector in the first half of January 2024 we will appreciate if you can provide answers by the 8th of January 2024 in order to be able to process the information.

Seeing the urgency of the collection of the information and the fact that there are only two questions, the chair of the Ad-hoc query working group has approved this request taking into consideration the holiday season.

EMN Czechia and the chair of the Ad-hoc Query Working Group thank you in advance for your comprehension and collaboration in this issue wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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We would like to ask the following questions:

- 1. Have your Member State had any experience/or is planning a similar type of measure that includes one-off lump sum payment to cover the costs associated with transitioning from collective to private accommodation incurred by beneficiaries of temporary protection or any other target group in a similar situation? YES/NO. If you answer yes, can you please explain.**
- 2. If you answer yes, which control mechanisms had been implemented/or will be implemented to prevent misuse of the system on the one hand and ensure the efficiency of the measure on the other?**

We would very much appreciate your responses by **8 January 2024**.

2. RESPONSES




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		Wider Dissem ination <small>2</small>	
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² A default "Yes" is given for your response to be circulated further (e.g. to other EMN NCPs and their national network members). A "No" should be added here if you do not wish your response to be disseminated beyond other EMN NCPs. In case of "No" and wider dissemination beyond other EMN NCPs, then for the Compilation for Wider Dissemination the response should be removed

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	EMN NCP Austria	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There has been no such initiative in Austria to date. 2. N/a
	EMN NCP Belgium	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes. A beneficiary can benefit from an 'installation bonus' in case they are homeless and find a home that serves as the main residence for the duration of the temporary protection. The Public Social Welfare Centre allocates the installation bonus, equivalent to the monthly allowance of the living wage category 'person with family burden', regardless of their actual category and can only be allocated once. 2. Control by the Public Social Welfare Centre.
	EMN NCP Bulgaria	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No. There is no such measure in practice and it is not planned. 2. N/A

and the following statement should be added in the relevant response box: "This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further."


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	EMN NCP Croatia	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No, but in the Republic of Croatia, cost for rental of private accommodation for displaced people from Ukraine, is paid from state budget to owners of private accommodation units. On 23rd of March 2022 Croatian Government passed the Decision on financing cost of accommodation for displaced persons from Ukraine in individual accommodation. According to this Decision, Ministry of Interior - Directorate of Civil Protection, as a lessee, with the owners who assigned their real estate for the use of displaced persons from Ukraine, concluded contracts for the rental of residential units for a period of six months with the possibility of extension for a maximum of one year (this deadline is prolonged until 4th of March 2024.). The amount of rent depends on the number of members of the household, and is calculated per day, with the maximum amount being 500 euros per month. The amount of rent includes the cost of rent and the cost of utilities. 2. n/a
	EMN NCP Cyprus	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes. Where accommodation is identified which meets the needs of vulnerable persons or families with children, Social Welfare Officers submit a recommendation letter for exceptional approval of a deposit and first and/or second rent for the purpose of their immediate transfer to rented accommodation. 2. In order to prevent misuse of the system and ensure the efficiency of the measures, the following criteria and conditions are applied:


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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The choice of rental accommodation is required to be more economical than hotel accommodation based on the composition of the family and its needs. - The rented accommodation should be close to important services (e.g. schools, work, hospitals, public transport, etc.). - Selection of rented accommodation at the lowest possible cost so that the persons can cover the amount of rent afterwards. - Grouping and segregating applicants for international protection according to nationality, vulnerability, age and gender for the purpose of clustering them in more affordable rental shelters/housing (especially single vulnerable persons). - Re-exceptional rental approval will be proposed only in specific cases and for a period of 3 months. A thorough and reasoned recommendation will be prepared and submitted with all the evidence for approval (e.g. actions taken by the Applicants themselves to find employment, certificates on health, disability, incapacity to work, family data etc.). - Cooperation with the Labour Department to refer able and available for work Applicants for International Protection to jobs and to record the results so that they gradually take over all or part of the payment of the rent. - Cooperation with the Asylum Service to accelerate the processing of applications for Applicants of International Protection.
	<p>EMN NCP</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. No. However, the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic is considering ways to encourage self-reliance of the beneficiaries of temporary protection who rely on temporary collective housing. It is</p>

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	Czech Republic		<p>recommended to support transitions of refugees into commercial housing, including assistance with the initial rental costs as well as rental deposits.</p> <p>2. No. Currently, we are discussing the potential implementation of control mechanisms based on the various solutions at hand.</p>
	EMN NCP Estonia	Yes	<p>1. Yes. In Estonia, the Social Insurance Board (hereinafter SIB) ensures short-term accommodation for individuals during their temporary protection proceedings. As a principle, the SIB states that when individuals possess residence permits, there are typically no barriers to them pursuing independent living. Therefore, SIB has focused on supporting the transition from short-term accommodations to more permanent solutions, such as rental apartments or similar arrangements. This support included counselling and empowerment provided by professionals at the short-term accommodation sites to help individuals find permanent residences.</p> <p>In April 2022, SIB sent administrative contract proposals to all local governments in Estonia to provide beneficiaries of temporary protection the possibility to apply for compensation of housing costs. Those who initially stayed in state-provided temporary housing were entitled, when transferring to more permanent accommodation arrangement, to coverage of one-time expenses related to entering into a rental contract for a dwelling granted for use to a beneficiary of temporary protection. Local governments started to pay compensation in the amount of 900 euros until 1st of June 2022 and continued with the sum of six times the subsistence level of a family i.e., 1200 euros thereof.</p> <p>This lump-sum benefit is provided to a beneficiary of temporary protection, lessor or another person (e.g., a volunteer who assisted the war refugee) who has made expenses related to the living space of the</p>


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			<p>refugee (e.g., purchasing furniture or household appliances, repair works etc.) in order to ease finding a long-term place of residence for beneficiaries of temporary protection.</p> <p>2. Only a war refugee/beneficiary of temporary protection can apply for the compensation. Compensation is paid to a war refugee/beneficiary of temporary protection, a landlord, or someone else (for example, a volunteer who helped the war refugee) who has incurred expenses related to the war refugee's dwelling (e.g., purchase of furniture or household appliances, repair work). The decision as to whom the costs are compensated is made by the local government. In order to apply for compensation, the relevant person must have received temporary protection and registered their place of residence in the local government. To receive it, an application must be submitted to the local government where the refugee/beneficiary of temporary protection lives. When applying for compensation, a rental agreement and expense documents must be submitted if expenses related to the dwelling have been incurred (e.g., broker's fee, advance payment, purchase of accessories necessary for repairs or furnishings).</p>
+	EMN NCP Finland	Yes	<p>1. NO.</p> <p>2. N/A</p>
■	EMN NCP France	Yes	<p>1. such a flat-rate financial contribution does not exist for France, but there is a possibility of additional rent for rental intermediation up to a maximum of EUR 200</p>

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			2. n/a
	EMN NCP Greece	Yes	<p>1.</p> <p>Support for the access to autonomous housing (through rent subsidy, grant for move-in costs, networking with apartment owners etc.) is provided to beneficiaries of international and temporary protection in the framework of the integration programme “HELIOS” (Hellenic Integration Support for Beneficiaries of International Protection and Temporary Protection), implemented since June 2019 by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), initially funded by the Emergency Assistance of Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund (EMAS AMIF) and, since the end of 2021, through direct fund from the Ministry of Migration and Asylum. The aim for 2024 is for the programme to be integrated and funded by the European Social Fund+ (ESF+) in the framework of the programming period 2021-2027.</p> <p>The access to autonomous housing (in apartments rented on their name) is provided to beneficiaries of international and temporary protection in the framework of the programme “HELIOS”, along with other provided services (integration courses, employability support, integration monitoring and sensitization of the host community). The accommodation support includes contributions to rental and move-in costs, but also support to the beneficiaries while looking for an apartment, such as: accommodation workshops; access to the HELIOS apartment pool (a database with available apartments); interpretation and translation support (by intercultural mediators) for the issuance of an AFM number/passkey and for the opening of a bank account (both necessary to rent an apartment); interpretation and translation support during the initial contact with a property owner/real estate agent and during house visits; and matchmaking sessions (for the beneficiaries looking for a roommate). All beneficiaries are entitled to receive a total of twelve (12) months of rental subsidies.</p>



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			<p>According to data provided by IOM to the Social Integration Directorate of Ministry of Migration and Asylum for the year 2022, the number of beneficiaries of international protection who received financial / or in-kind support to access autonomous housing (through the HELIOS programme) is 1,860 persons.</p> <p>2. The responsible central authority for the support of beneficiaries of international protection (BIP's) to have access to autonomous housing is Ministry of Migration and Asylum, through the Secretariat General for Migration Policy and, more precisely, through the Social Integration Directorate. Supporting the access to autonomous housing of the overall population falls under the competence also of the Ministry for Social Cohesion and Family, as well as through the Organization of Welfare Benefits and Social Solidarity OPEKA (includes benefits for third country nationals and BIP's) and under the competences of the Ministry of Labour (through the Public Employment Service/DYPA). At the regional and the local level, regional and local authorities may also take relevant initiatives and proceed to the design and the implementation of projects aiming at the access to autonomous housing.</p> <p>Furthermore, in the framework of the HELIOS programme, special attention is being given to the verification of the adequacy of the houses rented by the beneficiaries. Criteria for the adequacy of the houses are the existence of the following: title of ownership; an energy performance certificate; a certificate of the suitability of the electrical system; a shower/tub; hot water; toilet; adequate number of sockets, electrical connection; adequate hygiene standards (fresh air, natural ventilation, natural light); accessibility to services; access for persons with limited mobility; and also the ratio between the size (sqft) and the number of occupants. The adequacy is evaluated in two stages. Firstly, the project's staff finds houses which could be rented to the beneficiaries and visits some of those houses, in order to evaluate their adequacy, according to the abovementioned criteria. Then, the Apartment Verification Department verifies the adequacy of all the houses, in person or -usually- through videocalls.</p>
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	EMN NCP Hungary	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No 2. N/A
	EMN NCP Italy	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Temporary protection beneficiaries, like international protection beneficiaries, are entitled to a housing contribution, which consists of an economic support granted to the beneficiary exiting reception facilities, in order to facilitate the socioeconomic-housing integration process. The contribution is intended to cover certain expenses such as: the deposit; agency costs; contract registration costs; first monthly payments; first flat complex expenses; first utility expenses. On the other hand, the extraordinary exiting contribution is a one-time contribution in support of beneficiaries exiting a territorial reception project and with an integration path of which the various steps and details are not known or not easily identifiable. The maximum amount of the contribution cannot exceed €250 per person. This is calculated on a modular basis with respect to the family unit, unless exceptions are granted by the Central Service following the submission of a report, in which the reasons for the request are accurately presented. The contribution is usually used to cover travel, board and lodging costs in the days immediately following the exit from the project, as well as all those expenses that may support the socio-economic integration process. 2. The housing project reports the allocation of contributions in the reception and integration system (SAI) database.



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			<p>In order to account for the housing contribution for monthly rent payments, it is necessary to produce the rental contract attached to any declaration of permanent residence by the municipality, and the receipt of the monthly rent payments deposited signed by the landlord. For other expenses incurred, the relevant payment receipts must be produced.</p> <p>For the reporting of the extraordinary exiting contribution, on the other hand, it is sufficient to produce a receipt signed by the beneficiary. Although, it is preferable for the credit to be traced by the transfer to a current account or prepaid card.</p>
	EMN NCP Latvia	Yes	<p>1. No, there is no such one-off lump sum payment. At the same time we would like to mention - a person who accommodates free of charge one or several Ukrainian civilians in a dwelling owned by this person (hereinafter - the accommodator) is entitled to receive compensation to cover the additional costs related to the accommodation. The accommodator has the right to receive compensation in the amount of EUR 100 per month for the first accommodated person and EUR 50 per month for each next accommodated person, but not more than EUR 300 per month for all the persons accommodated at one dwelling, and not longer than for 120 days.</p> <p>2. N/a</p>
	EMN NCP Lithuania	Yes	<p>1. YES. Beneficiaries of temporary protection in Lithuania who are employed or are registered with the Employment Service, as well as students, pensioners, single pregnant women, and single parents</p>

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			<p>raising children under 2 years of age, have the right to apply to their municipality and receive a one-time settlement allowance.</p> <p>The size of the allowance depends on the number of beneficiaries of temporary protection living together and the government-approved amount of state-supported income. For example, in 2023, a household of 1-2 persons would receive 628 euros and a household of 3-4 persons would receive 942 euros, while in 2024, they would receive 704 euros and 1056 euros respectively.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>As part of the application for the one-time settlement allowance, the applicant must submit a rental contract that is valid for at least six months, that has been recorded with the Center of Registers, and that indicates the number of temporary protection beneficiaries living on the premises.</p>
	EMN NCP Luxemb ourg	Yes	<p>1. No.</p> <p>2. N/A.</p>
	EMN NCP Netherla nds	Yes	<p>1. No.</p> <p>2. N/A.</p>

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<p>EMN NCP Poland</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Poland currently has 2 types of state-funded accommodation for war refugees from Ukraine:</p> <p>(a) Subsidized provision of accommodation with food in private facilities</p> <p>A monetary benefit of PLN 40 per person per day is paid for each entity, in particular an individual, running a household, which will provide at its own expense accommodation and food for a citizen of Ukraine for a period not exceeding 120 days from the date of arrival on the territory of the Republic of Poland. The benefit is paid from the Assistance Fund. The municipality may extend the period of payment of the benefit beyond 120 days in the case of providing accommodation and meals to a citizen of Ukraine who, due to special personal conditions, such as disability, old age, raising at least 3 children alone, pregnancy, cannot become independent.</p> <p>(b) Collective boarding accommodation points</p> <p>The provincial governor /voivode/shall set up temporary collective accommodation points with food. Such points are also prepared on the basis of orders issued by the governors by state legal entities, local government bodies, local government legal entities and local government organizational units without legal personality. They are financed from state budget funds.</p> <p>On 1 March, 2023, the Act of 12 March, 2022 on Assistance to Citizens of Ukraine in Connection with the Armed Conflict on the Territory of Ukraine was amended to supplement the regulation of the rules of assistance provided by governors, local government units and other public entities under the so-called collective accommodation with regulations introducing the participation of Ukrainian citizens in the costs of food and accommodation.</p> <p>The provincial governor /voivode/ and the entities specified in Article 12 (3) and (4) of the Assistance Act may provide assistance consisting of accommodation and food for no longer than 120 days from the date of the first entry of a citizen of Ukraine into the territory of the Republic of Poland. After 120 days</p>
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from the date of the first entry of a citizen of Ukraine into the territory of the Republic of Poland, the provincial governor and the entities specified in paragraphs 3 and 4 may provide the aforementioned assistance, if the citizen of Ukraine has a PESEL number and covers, in advance, 50% of the cost of this assistance, not more than PLN 40 per person per day. The equivalent of 50% of the cost of the assistance shall be paid by the citizen of Ukraine to the entities implementing the services of collective accommodation and all-day boarding for citizens of Ukraine on behalf of the provincial governor /voivodes/and the entities specified in paragraphs 3 and 4. On the other hand, after 180 days from the date of the first entry of a citizen of Ukraine into the territory of the Republic of Poland, the voivode and the

entities specified in paragraphs 3 and 4 may provide the above-mentioned assistance, if the citizen of Ukraine has a PESEL number and pays, in advance, 75% of the cost of this assistance, not more than PLN 60 per person per day.

Taking into account the fact that there are groups of people, requiring special support, who may not be able to participate in the cost of assistance, the legislator has exempted Ukrainian citizens who meet at least one of the following conditions:

- 1) possession of a certificate of disability or degree of disability or a certificate referred to in Article 5 of the Act of 27 August, 1997 on Professional and Social Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities;
- 2) caring for a disabled person with a Polish disability certificate or degree of disability or a certificate referred to in Article 5 of the Act of 27 August, 1997 on Vocational and Social Rehabilitation and Employment of the Disabled;
- 3) reaching the age of 60 (for women), or 65 (for men);




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			<p>4) being pregnant;</p> <p>5) being a person raising a child up to 12 months of age;</p> <p>6) being a single person in the territory of the Republic of Poland taking care of three or more children;</p> <p>7) being a minor;</p> <p>8) being in a difficult life situation that makes it impossible to contribute to the costs of assistance,</p> <p>9) being a temporary guardian established for a minor referred to in Article 25a (1) of the Act on Assistance to Citizens of Ukraine.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>The municipality may condition the granting or payment of the benefit described in paragraph 1a on verification of the conditions of accommodation and meals. The verification shall be carried out by authorized employees of the municipality. The benefit shall not be granted if the conditions of accommodation and meals endanger the life or health of people, or if untruths are given in the application referred to in Article 13, paragraph 1 of the Law.</p> <p>The provincial governors supervise all publicly funded collective accommodation facilities for Ukrainian refugees regardless of who directly runs them.</p>
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	EMN NCP Portugal	Yes	1. NO. 2.
	EMN NCP Slovakia	Yes	1. No. 2. NA
	EMN NCP Slovenia	Yes	1. No. Slovenia does not have measures that include one-off lump sum payments to beneficiaries of temporary protection who wish to transition from collective to private accommodation and there are no such measures planned. As per Article 26 of the Temporary Protection of Displaced Persons Act, persons with temporary protection who are accommodated in accommodation centres that are partially or fully closed at the time of their stay, or who otherwise opt for private accommodation shall be granted financial assistance for private accommodation. As per the Decree amending the Decree on the methods for ensuring rights of persons enjoying temporary protection, the private housing allowance is paid monthly and is granted for six months, or for the duration of the rental contract or the agreement on the use of the property, if this is shorter than six months. 2. /

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	EMN NCP Spain	Yes	<p>1.</p> <p>Our reception system is structured through an itinerary oriented towards the acquisition of autonomy and is divided into three phases: Assessment and Derivation Phase, Host Phase and Autonomy Phase. The transition to the Autonomy Phase is only granted to those who obtain a favorable resolution of International and Temporary Protection, in the latter case, applicants of Ukrainian origin, are granted directly.</p> <p>In this second phase, the social entities (NGOs) that collaborate with the reception system have greater responsibility in supporting the search for housing of the beneficiaries, considering the real options in the free market, and always, supported and accompanied by the social worker and the housing mediator. In addition, they manage the financial benefits received, on a monthly basis, by family units. This is aid for rent, bail, rental insurance or agency management. The maximum amounts of this aid are determined by the number of members that make up the unit of coexistence. The rent of shared housing for family units less than three people is prioritised, with the exception of justified cases, with the aim of making the expenditure of housing acceptable by the recipients.</p> <p>In the self-reliance phase, the beneficiaries of the system continue to be guaranteed the coverage of their basic needs, by making available certain resources, based mainly on economic aid and social intervention actions. The transversal actions provided for in the itinerary will be complemented by permanent support. These activities are: intensive language learning and access to employment and training programmes, psychological care, legal assistance, and translation and interpretation.</p>

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			<p>2. Aid relating to the self-reliance phase received by the recipients of the reception system through the entities (NGOs) comes from public funds. The Secretariat of State for Migration therefore establishes a system of justification, monitoring and control. With regard to the justification of expenditure, the entities will present supporting documentation on the delivery of the financial aid. The Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and the International Protection Reception System evaluates the actions of the entities and verifies the expenditure of financial aid prior to the control of the Secretariat of State for Migration. As regards the monitoring and control of costs, add that a series of administrative and financial controls have been stipulated in order to verify that public funds have been correctly applied to the provision of the activity. Once all supporting documents have been checked, the Secretariat of State for Migration will issue an annual certificate of conformity that will attest to the verification of the accounting records, their corresponding audit and compliance with the eligibility requirement. In the event of non-compliance with obligations, the system of assessed penalties and its corresponding penalty will be carried out.</p>
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	EMN NCP Sweden	Yes	1. No. 2.
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