

## National EMN Conference Sweden 2022

# “The Nordic countries and the Ukrainian refugee situation”

Stockholm, 19 May 2022

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has caused one of the fastest developing, large-scale population displacements in recent history, with millions of people from Ukraine looking for protection in other countries. The Nordic countries Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark and Iceland are playing their part in receiving Ukrainian refugees and offering protection alongside other EU and non-EU countries.

The Nordic countries are looking back at a long history of cooperation on a number of matters such as economic development, the mobility of citizens, and the labour market, and there are a significant similarities between these five countries as regards the welfare state, which also includes the integration of refugees and immigrants. However, as far as migration and asylum policy is concerned, there have also been differences and the coordination of policies among the Nordic countries has had its limits. In part, this is because not all Nordic countries are Member States of the European Union, or are not covered by the EU’s legal instruments in the migration and asylum area.

With this conference, EMN Sweden aims to provide an opportunity for political decision-makers, migration experts and members of civil society in Sweden and the other Nordic countries to learn about and discuss migration and asylum policy developments in the Nordic countries with a special focus on protection for Ukrainians. The objective is to facilitate dialogue and mutual learning in a comparative and inspiring setting.

The Conference mainly consists of two panels:

In **Panel 1**, speakers will provide factual information how many refugees from Ukraine the five Nordic countries have received since the start of the Russian invasion, and under what frameworks and conditions they have been received and protected, such as the EU Temporary Protection Directive or similar national frameworks. Speakers will also present on what national policies, laws or administrative practices in the areas of migration, asylum and borders might have been changed in the various countries in response to the Ukrainian refugee situation. If relevant, they will also elaborate on actions to support a common European approach to the protection of people fleeing from Ukraine (for example, solidarity measures for other EU Member States). The aim of the presentations is to inform participants of the respective situation in each of the Nordic countries, including any specific success factors or challenges as regards a well-working reception system, to enable an exchange of experiences and mutual learning. Speakers may also elaborate on other notable national policy changes in the migration and asylum area, if considered relevant.

**Panel 2** is an interactive panel discussion aiming at exploring possible future developments and trends in the Nordic countries as regards refugees from Ukraine. This will include different perspectives, including reflections on how the reception of Ukrainians might continue to evolve and affect the Nordic countries in quantitative terms and, as regards policies and practices, what has worked well so far and what might need to be improved over the months and years to come. Policies and practices covered will include the granting of (temporary) protection, material reception conditions for Ukrainian refugees as well as their inclusion and integration in hosting societies (for example as regards accommodation/housing, schools and education, language acquisition and participation in the labour market). For example, are there any tensions between temporary protection and integration policies? While many Ukrainian refugees might want to return to Ukraine as soon as possible, others might want to stay and integrate. How can policy-makers address this possible tension? Reflecting also on the presentations in the first panel, panelists could address common challenges for the Nordic countries and lessons they could learn from each other. The panel discussion shall also include reflections on what the EU response to the Ukrainian refugee situation might mean for the ongoing development of and negotiations on a reformed Common European Asylum System.

**Date and time:** Thursday, 19 May 2022, 09:30 – 15:15

**Venue:** Piperska Muren, Central Stockholm (Kungsholmen),  
Scheelegatan 14, 112 28 Stockholm.

The Conference will be held in English. Participation including lunch and coffee is free of charge.

The number of available places is limited, please register by sending an email to [emn@migrationsverket.se](mailto:emn@migrationsverket.se) indicating your **name, job title, organisation/employer** and whether you have any specific **dietary requirements**.

Places will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis.

**Welcome!**

# Draft Programme

Moderator: **Marie Bengtsson**, Swedish Migration Agency

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<b>09:30 – 10:00</b>	<b>Arrival, registration of participants, coffee</b>
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<b>10:00 – 12:15</b>	<b>Welcome speech</b> <b>Inga Thoresson Hallgren</b> Deputy Director-General, Swedish Migration Agency
	<b>Introductory remarks</b> <b>N.N.</b> , Swedish Ministry of Justice, t.b.c.
	<b>Panel I: The reception of Ukrainian refugees in the Nordic countries and related asylum and migration policy trends</b>
<b>Finland</b>	<b>Rafael Bärlund</b> , Head of EMN Finland, Finnish Immigration Service
<b>Norway</b>	<b>Knut Holm</b> , Acting Head of International Unit, Norwegian Directorate of Immigration
<b>Denmark</b>	<b>Henrik Thomassen</b> , Deputy Director General, Danish Ministry of Immigration and Integration
<b>Iceland</b>	<b>N.N.</b> , The Icelandic Directorate of Immigration
<b>Sweden</b>	<b>Anna Lindblad</b> , Deputy Head of Legal Department, Swedish Migration Agency
	<i>Questions and answers</i>

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<b>12:15 – 13:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
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<b>13:30 – 15:00</b>	<b>Panel II: Nordic experiences and perspectives on receiving displaced people from Ukraine – Any lessons for the future?</b> <b>Gisela Thäter</b> , Senior Legal Officer, UNHCR Representation for the Nordic and Baltic Countries <b>Alexandra Segenstedt</b> , Senior Migration and Policy Adviser, Swedish Red Cross <b>Bernd Parusel</b> , Senior researcher, Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies (SIEPS) <b>Aljona Sandgren</b> , Ukrainian Alliance in Sweden <b>Olle Hammar</b> , Postdoctoral Researcher, Research Institute of Industrial Economics (IFN), Stockholm, t.b.c.
	<b><i>Additional speakers might be added</i></b>
	<i>Interactive discussion with the audience</i>

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<b>15:00 – 15:15</b>	<b>Reflections and closing</b>
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## About the EMN

The European Migration Network (EMN) is an EU funded network, set up with the aim of providing up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information on migration and asylum for Institutions of the European Union, plus authorities and institutions of the Member States of the EU, in order to inform policymaking. The EMN also serves to provide the wider public with such information. The EMN was established by the European Council Decision 2008/381/EC adopted on 14 May 2008.

EMN Sweden: [www.emnsweden.se](http://www.emnsweden.se)

EMN Europe: [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/networks/european-migration-network-emn\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/networks/european-migration-network-emn_en)

