

Protection Sector Legal update

20 Mar 2025

Number of asylum applications

Last year, 17,000 foreigners filed applications for international protection in Poland. The two largest groups of applicants were citizens of **Ukraine and Belarus**. In 2024, the Office for Foreigners issued decisions for 12,000 people.

The number of applications for international protection submitted in Poland was 79% higher compared to 2023. Last year, the largest number of refugee applications came from citizens of:

- Ukraine – 7 thousand people,
- Belarus – 3.9 thousand people,
- Russia – 1 thousand people,
- Somalia – 0.6 thousand people,
- Eritrea – 0.6 thousand people.

Applications involving children and young people under the age of 18 accounted for 16% of all cases.

➤ International Protection in 2024 Stats

Number of positive decisions

Last year, 7,000 foreigners met the conditions for granting international protection. They were mainly citizens of:

- Ukraine – 3.9 thousand people,
- Belarus – 2.6 thousand people,
- Russia – 0.2 thousand people.

Number of negative decisions

Negative decisions were received by 1.6 thousand foreigners. The largest groups in this respect were citizens of:

- Russia – 660 people,
- Belarus – 150 people,
- India – 90 people.

Discontinued proceedings

Proceedings concerning 3.4 thousand people ended in discontinuation. This concerned primarily citizens:

- Eritrea – 460 people,
- Somalia – 440 people,
- Syria – 390 people.



Amendments to the Law on Granting Protection

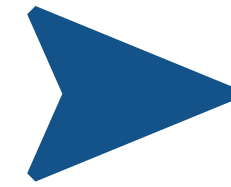
Suspension of the right to asylum

The Act introduces a new term into the legal order: **“instrumentalisation of migration”**

and allows for temporary territorial suspension of the right to apply for international protection.

The adoption of the Act does not mean automatic suspension of the right to asylum – the Act allows for the possibility of declaring suspension by means of a regulation of the Ministry of the Interior and Administration.

Current state of the bill:



On March 13, 2025, the Senate adopted a law that allows the government to suspend the right to submit applications for international protection. On 17 March the bill was submitted to the President for signature..

The regulation will define the area of application of the restriction and the time (no longer than 60 days). After this time, the suspension can be extended, but with the consent of the Sejm. The act lists sensitive groups from which an application for protection must be accepted regardless of the regulation. These are:

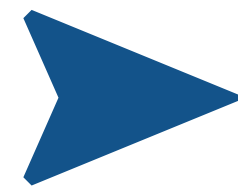
- minor;
- pregnant women;
- persons who may require special treatment, in particular due to their age or state of health;
- persons in respect of whom there are circumstances which, in the opinion of the Border Guard authority, clearly indicate a real risk of suffering serious harm in the country from which they came directly to the territory of the Republic of Poland;
- citizens of the country using instrumentalisation from whose territory foreigners come to the territory of the Republic of Poland.

Amendments to the Law on Granting Protection

Increase of applications in Terespol

In 2025, the Terespol border (road crossing) has already accepted **256 applications from citizens of countries such as: Tajikistan, Russia, Sudan, Guinea, Ethiopia, Syria, Iraq, Eritrea, Burundi.**

At this rate, by the end of the year the number of applications will exceed 1,200. This will be a record, because last year applications for protection were accepted from **594 people, the year before there were even fewer.**



Can Terespol become the first place where the restriction of the right to asylum will be applied?

The Ministry of the Interior and Administration monitors the situation on all borders of the Republic of Poland, in particular on the section of the jurisdiction of PSG Terespol . (...)

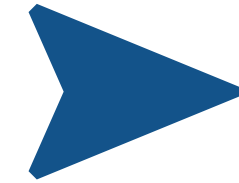
The premise for introducing such a restriction **is not in itself an increase in the number of applications for international protection, but the risk of destabilization of the state as a result of the instrumentalization of migration.**

There is no limit of applications, after exceeding which such a possibility is or may be automatically activated. It will be **legally significant whether the number of applicants is a result of instrumental actions aimed at the effect of destabilization.**

The position of the Ministry of Interior and Administration

International protection proceedings concerning Ukrainian citizens

Context:



Since mid-2023, there has been a significant increase in the number of applications for international protection submitted by Ukrainian citizens, especially men.

Communication from the Office 4 Foreigners

Since the beginning of the Russian aggression against Ukraine, there has been an increase in the number of applications for international protection (refugee status or subsidiary protection) submitted by Ukrainian citizens.

- negative impact on the system and prolonging the expected deadlines to 15 months
- refugee procedure treated as a “fast track” to legalizing stay
- misleading information and advice from certain advisors

“submitting an application for protection leads to the loss of benefits resulting from temporary protection, the deposit of travel documents, the inability to leave the territory of Poland during the procedure and, most importantly, may lead, in the event of a refusal to grant protection, to a worse position of the foreigner in terms of continuing his or her stay in Poland.”

A large proportion of applicants are men who fear war itself and being mobilised on the territory of Ukraine. It should be emphasised that fear of mobilisation and fulfilling other civic duties, as a rule, do not constitute a premise justifying granting refugee status or granting subsidiary protection.