

Center for European Studies  
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# Migration in the European Union



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# Part 1: Warm Up

# Group Discussion

- What do you know about migration in the European Union?
- What do you know about the large wave of Ukrainian refugees in the EU?
- What do you know about the European Union's assistance towards Ukrainian refugees?



Credit: iStock/Getty Images



# Part 2: Brief Overview

# Immigration to the EU

- The European Commission **proposes** directives, regulations and recommendations for creating fair, efficient, and sustainable migration and asylum systems.<sup>1</sup>
- It seeks to align these and support these systems in EU countries by developing and implementing effective migration management and asylum procedures.<sup>2</sup>
- The European Commission supports the national authorities with specialized teams and works closely with EU agencies and international organizations.<sup>3</sup>

# Immigration to the EU

- ▶ **Main pathways to immigrate to the EU:** resettlement and humanitarian admission, family reunification, study and research, labor immigration and marriage.

- ▶ **Competences of the EU for regular immigration:**

- ▶ **Regular immigration:** the EU has the right to establish conditions for entry in a member state however member states reserve the right to approve the number of people entering.

- ▶ **Integration:** EU will support member states integration efforts of legal non-EU persons.

- ▶ **Combating irregular immigration:** the EU must prevent illegal immigration through effective return policy while maintaining rights of the individual.

- ▶ **Readmission agreements:** the EU must fulfill agreements with third country nationals seeking re-admittance back to their country of origin.

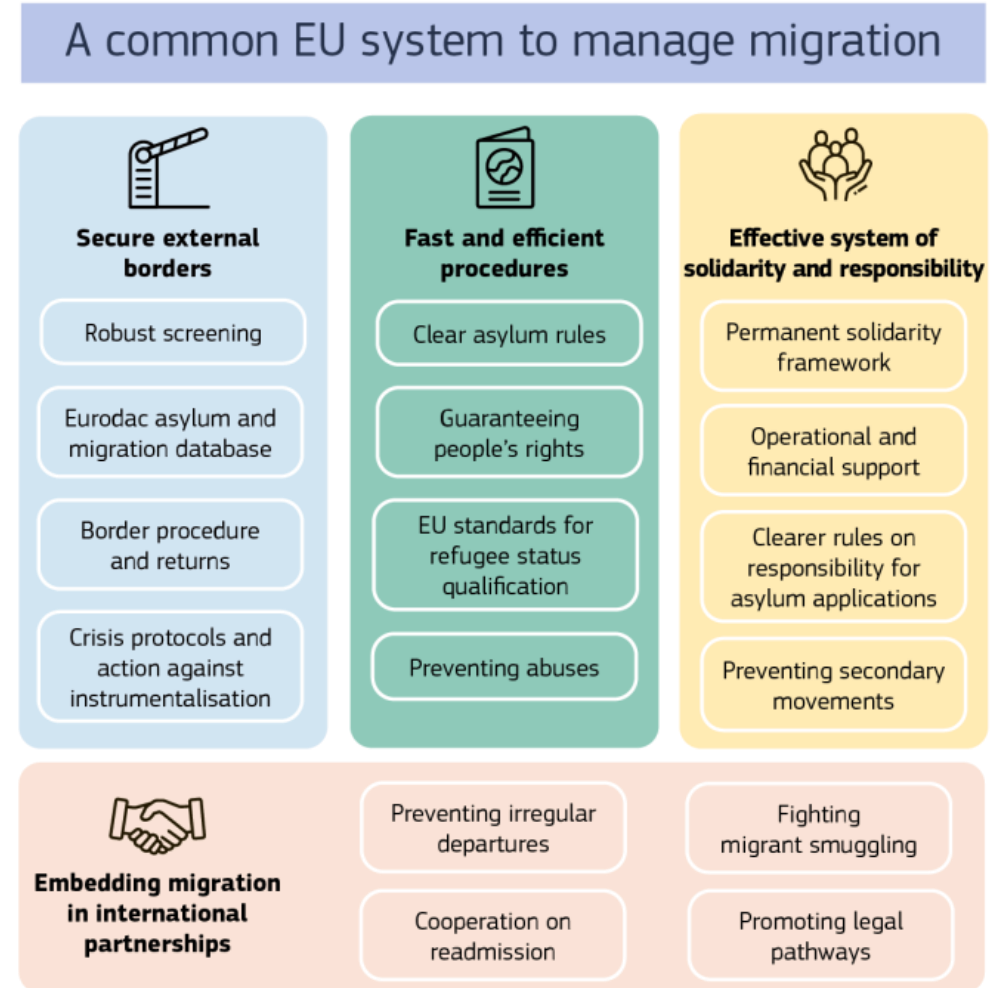
# Common European Asylum System

- ▶ In the EU member countries share the same fundamental values to guarantee protection for refugees. EU countries have a shared responsibility to welcome asylum seekers in a dignified manner under uniform standards in an open and fair system.<sup>5</sup>
- ▶ The European Commission established the **CEAS based on three main pillars**: efficient asylum and return procedures, solidarity and fair share of responsibility and strengthened partnerships with third countries.<sup>6</sup>
- ▶ **Member states responsible for asylum application: Dublin III Regulation** is to ensure quick access to the asylum procedures and the examination of an application determined by the EU country.<sup>7</sup>
- ▶ The regulation establishes the member state responsible for examining the asylum application based on family considerations, recent possession of a visa or residence permit in member state and whether the applicant has entered the EU regularly or irregularly.<sup>8</sup>



# EU Pact on Migration and Asylum

- A set of new rules managing migration and establishing a common asylum system at the EU level.<sup>9</sup>
- A comprehensive approach that aims to strengthen and integrate key EU policies on migration, asylum, border management and integration.<sup>10</sup>



Source: The European Commission



# The EU's policy for Ukrainian refugees

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the EU activated the **temporary protection directive** which gives refugees the ability to settle in an EU country of their choice and access rights across the EU including banking, housing and social services.<sup>11</sup>

This applies to Ukrainian nationals, third country nationals, and people living in Ukraine prior to February 24, 2022 . 4.2 million Ukrainians have entered the EU through this directive as of June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024.<sup>12</sup>

# Immigration to Canada



- Marc Miller is Canada's Minister of Immigration, refugees and citizenship.
- **Four main pathways** to immigrate to Canada and obtain permanent resident status; Economic, family sponsorship, refugee and protected persons, and humanitarian/other.
- Canada has multiple programs to immigrate to Canada including Express Entry, Provincial Nominee Program, Quebec-Selected Skilled Workers, Start Up Visa Program, and the Caregiver Program.

## **General steps on immigrating to Canada:**

1. Determine Eligibility
2. Submit an Application
3. Pay Fees
4. Medical Exam
5. Security Clearance
6. Interview
7. Approval

# Canadian refugee protection programs

- ▶ **The refugee and Humanitarian Resettlement Program;** this program is provided for people who are outside of Canada in need of protection.
- ▶ The United Nations Refugee Agency or private sponsors identify refugees for resettlement.
- ▶ **The in Canada Asylum Program;** this program is provided for people who are making refugee protection claims from inside of Canada.
- ▶ The asylum program provides protection for refugees who have fear of persecution or are at risk of torture, or cruel or unusual punishment in their home countries.<sup>13</sup>
- ▶ Not everyone is eligible for this program. Convicted criminals or people who have been previously denied asylum are not eligible. <sup>14</sup>

# Canadian policy for Ukrainian refugees



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- **Canada-Ukraine authorization for emergency travel** (CUAET) offers Ukrainians and their family members free, extended temporary status.
- Can apply for free visitor visa and are allowed to reside in Canada for a maximum of 3 years instead of the usual 6 months granted to visitors.
- Electronic visa applications are normally processed within 14 days.
- Can apply for an open work permit with their visa application at no cost.
- No cap on the number of applications accepted under CUAET.
- 298,128 people entered Canada through CUAET since April 1, 2024. <sup>15</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> "Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel: Key Figures." Government of Canada. July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/ukraine-measures/key-figures.html>.

# Part 3: Group Activities





**Instructions:** Students should now have an adequate understanding of EU migration and Canada's involvement. This activity will provide them with the opportunity to advance their levels of knowledge on EU migration and engaging in collective discussion. There are three stations which will each include a list of questions and sources to guide their reading. Divide students into three groups (or however many are required) and allocate a topic to each group. Once students have had enough time to discuss, allow each group to briefly present their conclusions to the class.

**Here are the station topics:**

- EU and Canadas immigration processes
- Asylum policy for Ukrainian refugees in the EU/Canada
- Why the different responses from previous refugee crises? (Syria, Afghanistan, Gaza/Israel)



# Part 4: Compare and Contrast



## Instructions:

Arrange the students into small groups with at least two students in each group. Using the article provided, allow students a couple of minutes to read through the text. Instruct the students to list the rights that Ukrainian refugees have in Canada as opposed to the EU.