

Hungary Country Report

The Consequences of the War in Ukraine
Integration of Ukrainian workforce

2022.06.27.

Federation of the Chemical, Energy and General Workers' Unions



VDSZ and Unions in Hungary

- In general Hungarians are pro-union; nonetheless membership is dwindling, stagnating at best
- In general unions are indicators of democracy at work
- The member base of VDSZ is steady, giving a good feel for the average of industries
- Stronger, more precise and directed social dialogue is needed
- The Hungarian government tends to neglect the unions
- The Hungarian Social Dialogue is to be upgraded



SitRep on Borders

- Over 2 million people fled to neighboring countries, Hungary projected that 800.000 will stay there
- The refugees' reception system is lacking – hot meals and medical assistance is needed
- The Hungarian Armed Forces are present on the border, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is adamant on not letting NATO troops on Hungarian soil
- NATO troops and equipment is being transported through Hungary despite the earlier statements



Legislative Changes

- Since 2022. 02. 24. the Hungarian Government made several changes in order to help the Ukrainian employees
- Financial aid is (~180-250 Euro) given to Ukrainian citizens
- Financial aid is given to employers who employ Ukrainian citizens (accommodation, travel, etc)
- Medical experts from Ukraine do not have to naturalise their degrees to start working in the field
- Local municipalities must aid the refugees



Government Aid

- Legislative changes – Easier employment and more benefits
- Medical assistance – Ukrainian citizens in need of medical care are relocated to Hungarian hospitals
- Childcare – Children in need of special care are relocated to Heim Pál Children's Hospital
- Humanitarian aid – Food and medication is sent to major Ukrainian cities
- Travel – Free transport to airports, free traintickets for refugees
- Education – Kindergarten, elementary and secondary schooling provided for children

The term „*migrant*” is never used in governmental communication



Social Impact



- There is a grand divide between people, as always political propaganda and uninformedness is the greatest problem
- Fearmongering, searching constantly for enemies and threats to „our way of life”
- Civil uproar, organizing help for the Ukrainian people
- Pressure on healthcare, school system because of the asylum seekers
- Problem with the contradiction of migrants and asylum seekers
- The government tries to push all tasks to civil organizations, NGOs.

Trade Union Initiatives

- A collective move was made, to gather donations and aid for the refugees
- Numerous collective statements were made to reject the aggression and violence in Ukraine
- Pressure is put on the government to acknowledge the fact that Russia is the aggressor, and the Ukrainian people are victims of Russian violence
- The Ukrainian nationals working in Hungary received aid from their respective trade unions

