



**UKRAINE**  
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## United Nations: Number of refugees from Ukraine reach 3 mln



Russia's military offensive against Ukraine forced 2.952 million people to leave the country in 19 incomplete days of the war in search of safety, protection and assistance, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said as of 13:00 (Kyiv time) on March 14.

The Office said the Ukrainian-Polish border accounted for 60.7% of all refugees.

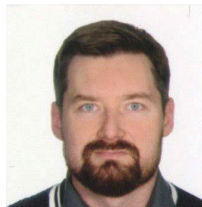
According to the UNHCR, the number of refugees from Ukraine to Poland since February 24, when Russia started the war, has reached 1.791 million. Romania received 453,430 people, of which 250,800 people were in transit through Moldova, the department said.

"As the situation continues to evolve, about 4 million people may leave Ukraine," the UNHCR said.

According to its estimation two days ago, there are now at least 1.85 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ukraine and another 12.65 million directly affected by the war.

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25 March 2022



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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT VOTED "YES" TO EC TO GRANT UKRAINE STATUS OF EU CANDIDATE



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UKRAINE TAKES SECOND PLACE AT PARALYMPICS IN BEIJING



UNITED NATIONS: 90% OF UKRAINIANS COULD BE FACING POVERTY



WHO EUROPE ESTIMATES NUMBER OF PEOPLE IMPACTED IN UKRAINE AT 18 MILLION

# Editors and owners of Ukrainian media have created humanitarian project "Find loved ones"

The war has been going on in our country for a month now. Millions of Ukrainians have become refugees, and the country's largest cities have become a zone of active hostilities. In this situation, many families have been separated, people often lose contact with their closest relatives.

A team of journalists put forward an initiative to create a project to search for missing people "Find loved ones."

We ask citizens whose relatives do not get in touch to send us all the information they have. We recommend using the following form:

1. Full name of the missing person;
2. Your contact details;
3. Photo of the missing person, description of special features;
4. Approximate place of the last stay of the missing person.

The project is non-commercial, all your appeals will be edited and published free of charge in the media.

We invite colleagues from the media to join the initiative!

The project coordinator is Maksim Urakin, deputy head of the Interfax-Ukraine news agency and publisher of the Open4Business project.



Send information to [maksim.urakin@gmail.com](mailto:maksim.urakin@gmail.com)

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## European Parliament voted “yes” to EC to grant Ukraine status of EU candidate

The European Parliament voted “yes” to a resolution calling on the institutions of the European Union to work towards granting Ukraine the status of an EU candidate, thus recognizing Ukraine's European perspective.

The corresponding document was voted on Tuesday as part of an extraordinary meeting of the European Parliament. Some 676 voted, of which 637 gave their affirmative votes, 13 were against, and 26 abstained.

The European Parliament calls on the EU institutions to work towards granting Ukraine candidate status for the EU in accordance with Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union and on merit basis, and in the meantime continue to work towards its integration into the EU single market in accordance with the Association Agreement, the resolution says.

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## Ukrainian refugees get right to live in EU for 3 years

Ukrainian refugees will have the right to live and work in the European Union for up to three years in accordance with the emergency plan, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine reported.

It is emphasized that more than half [454,000] went to Poland, 116,000 to Hungary, 67,000 to Slovakia, 45,000 to Romania and 79,000 to Moldova, which is not part of the EU. The information notes that refugees from Ukraine already have a 90-day visa-free access to the EU, but “this unprecedented change in EU law guarantees their status after this period.





# Chancellor Scholz: Germany will provide quick assistance to Ukrainians

All federal states of Germany will provide quick assistance to Ukrainians who are fleeing the war, and its procedure will be simple, Chancellor Olaf Scholz said.

"Overcoming this challenge is the common task of our entire state," he tweeted.



*Scholz thanked the many volunteers whose "tireless efforts allow us to help people fleeing the terrible war in Ukraine."*



The German chancellor also said that it is completely unacceptable when immigrants from Russia are insulted or even subjected to physical attack. "Because this is Putin's war. He, and only he, is responsible for this," Scholz stressed.

## WHO Europe estimates number of people impacted in Ukraine at 18 million

The current estimated number of people impacted in Ukraine is 18 million, of which 6.7 million are internally displaced, the WHO Europe said in a statement on Monday.



*"Nearly 3 million people have fled the country. Supply chains have been severely disrupted. Many distributors are not operational, some stockpiles are inaccessible due to military operations, medicine supplies are running low, and hospitals are struggling to provide care to the sick and wounded," WHO said.*

WHO said that it is coordinating with partners the provision of humanitarian health assistance, both within Ukraine and on its borders, and providing technical support and surge staff.

In particular, on March 8, WHO delivered to Kyiv 10 tonnes of trauma and emergency surgery kits to Kyiv, to be distributed to warehouses in seven regions: Kyiv, Poltava, Dnipropetrovsk, Odesa, Zaporizhia, Zhytomyr and Cherkasy.

In addition, on March 9 through March 11, 9 shipments of 10 tonnes each were dispatched to Kharkiv via Poltava; to Sumy via Poltava; to Dnipro; to Kherson via Dnipro; to Mariupol via Dnipro; to Mykolaiv; to Zhytomyr; to Zaporizhia; and to Cherkasy. Each shipment serves 150 trauma patients and 15,000 primary health care patients for 3 months.

WHO said that All supplies are distributed in close coordination with the Ministry of Health, based on WHO critical needs assessments, public health risk, service assessments and logistic capacity. "The coming days and weeks will see a constant flow of medical supplies, as part of an effort to ensure people's access to essential drugs and medical care," the organization said.



REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

World Health  
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Europe

# President of Ukraine signs law on legalization of virtual assets

President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky signed a law on virtual assets, which refers this market to the regulation of the National Securities and Stock Market Commission and the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU). According to the Telegram channel of the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine, with the start of this law, the following changes will be introduced in Ukraine:

- **foreign and Ukrainian crypto exchanges will work legally;**
- **banks will open accounts for crypto companies;**
- **Ukrainians will be able to protect their savings in virtual assets;**
- **the state will guarantee judicial protection of rights to virtual assets.**

In addition, the National Securities and Stock Market Commission will formulate and implement a policy in the field of virtual assets; determine the procedure for the turnover of virtual assets; issue authorizations to VA service providers; exercise supervision and financial monitoring in this area.

According to the Ministry of Digital Development, this is another important step towards the de-shadowing of the crypto sector and the launch of a legal market for virtual assets in Ukraine. “Since the beginning of the war, crypto assets have become a powerful tool for attracting additional funding in support of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. During the three weeks of the war, the Crypto Fund of Ukraine raised more than \$54 million in crypto assets. Today, the president has signed the law on virtual assets. We are launching a legal market for virtual assets in Ukraine and bringing the crypto sector out of the shadows,” Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Digital Transformation of Ukraine Mykhailo Fedorov wrote on his Telegram channel.

## President’s Office head: Necessary to hold dialogue on international guarantees for Ukraine

A dialogue on international guarantees for Ukraine should be started and carried out as soon as possible, adviser to the President’s Office head Mykhailo Podoliak believes.

“It is absolutely realistic to talk about security guarantees for Ukraine from the leading powers,” he said on Wednesday, answering a question from Interfax-Ukraine about the feasibility of developing a guarantee mechanism in the face of a sharp deterioration in relations between the West and Russia.

“For example, Ukraine’s accession to the European Union can be seen as the initial element of such guarantees. But a substantive dialogue on safeguards must be initiated and carried out as quickly as possible. Our partners know exactly what this means. Now is not the time to reveal details publicly, but it is definitely the time to implement a workable safeguards model,” he said.



# Ukraine takes second place at Paralympics in Beijing

Ukrainian athletes have earned record 29 medals at the Winter Paralympic Games in Beijing.

"The national team of Ukraine has put a golden end to its performance at the Winter Paralympic Games in Beijing. On the final day of the competition, our athletes won the victory in cross-country skiing in the 4×2.5 km open relay," the press service of the National Olympic Committee said.



In particular, Dmytro Suyarko (guide Oleksandr Nikonovych), Hryhoriy Vovchynsky, Vasyl Kravchuk and Anatoliy Kovalevsky (guide Oleksandr Mukshyn) brought Ukraine 11th gold and a total of 29th medal in Beijing 2022. "This is an absolute record for Ukraine at the Winter Paralympics," the Committee stressed.

Thus, Ukraine takes the second place at the Paralympics with 11 gold, ten silver and eight bronze medals.

## Red Cross to return to Ukrainian capital

Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal has said that, according to International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) President Peter Maurer, the ICRC will return its representative to Kyiv.

"Had a telephone conversation with the President of the ICRC Peter Maurer. Received positive signal! The Red Cross representatives are returning to Kyiv. Our top priority now is to deliver humanitarian aid to the surrounded cities and evacuate people urgently," Shmyhal said on Twitter.



## U.S. approves budget including aid to Ukraine

The U.S. Senate has approved a federal government funding bill for fiscal year 2022, which includes military and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine, as well as the allocation of funds for the ongoing fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

The current funding period for government activities ends on March 11.



*A \$1.5 trillion financial package provides for \$13.6 billion in aid to Ukraine, with about half of this amount going to humanitarian aid and supporting the country's economy, and the rest to the defense needs of Ukraine and U.S. allies on the "eastern NATO flank."*

The bill also determines the amount of U.S. spending on defense and other items of expenditure in fiscal year 2022. Thus, it provides for the allocation of \$730 billion to finance non-defense projects, which is \$46 billion more than in fiscal 2021 and is the highest figure in four years. Defense spending is \$782 billion, up \$42 billion from a year earlier. It is proposed to allocate \$15.6 billion to fight the coronavirus pandemic both in the United States and in other countries of the world. Among the measures is preparation for the possible emergence of new strains of coronavirus and another jump in the number of infections.



# Global financial service PayPal adds option to receive money transfers to Ukrainian Privatbank cards

The global financial service PayPal has added the option to receive money transfers to bank cards of the state-owned PrivatBank (Kyiv), the bank's press service reported.



*According to the report, such a service will work for Ukrainians in Ukraine and abroad.*



In addition, during the period of hostilities, the company is temporarily waiving its commission for customers who send funds to or receive funds in Ukrainian PayPal accounts.

"Clients of PrivatBank will be able to transfer funds from a PayPal wallet to Visa and MasterCard credit or debit cards without additional fees," the bank's press service said.

## Western Union, Moneygram, Ria Money Transfer, INTEL EXPRESS and TransferGo cancel fees for money transfers to Ukraine

The international systems Western Union, MoneyGram, Ria Money Transfer, INTEL EXPRESS and TransferGo have canceled fees for transfers to Ukraine, the press service of the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) said on Thursday.

According to the announcement, Ria has activated its global donation network for the Save the Children organization to help Ukrainian children who have been affected by the war in Ukraine and their families.

In addition, the INTELEXPRESS international money transfer system can make instant and free transfers to special accounts to raise funds to support the Ukrainian army and humanitarian aid to Ukrainians.

At the same time, the global payment network Euronet, which has an extensive system of ATMs in the world, has abolished fees for its services for the citizens of Ukraine.

In addition, the Polish instant payment system Blik has created a special page for raising funds to help the Armed Forces of Ukraine. The funds will be transferred to the NBU account opened in the state-owned bank – Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego.

## Ukrainian Parliament extends martial law until Apr 25

The Verkhovna Rada has extended martial law in Ukraine until April 25, 2022, MP Yaroslav Zhelezniak (the Holos parliamentary faction) has said.

"Today, the parliament has gathered again at the Verkhovna Rada... a number of important... decisions have been made," Zhelezniak wrote on his Telegram channel on Tuesday.

According to him, the extension of the martial law in Ukraine is stipulated in bill No. 7168 on the extension of the martial law in Ukraine, which was backed by 343 MPs.

"The period of martial law in Ukraine is extended from 05.30 on March 26, 2022 for a period of 30 days," the bill says. On February 24, after the Russian attack and the shelling of all regions, martial law was introduced in Ukraine.



## President of Ukraine announces tax reform: 2% of turnover, simplified accounting, voluntary single tax

The Ukrainian government has agreed on draft decisions to support the Ukrainian economy in an effort to maintain the operation of businesses and employment in places where security permits that, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky said.

“*First, we are starting tax reform: instead of VAT and the income tax, we are giving a rate of 2% of turnover and simplified accounting. For small businesses – it is the first and second groups of individual entrepreneurs – we are introducing voluntary payments of the unified tax. In other words, pay if you can, but if you cannot, there are no questions,” Zelensky said in a message published in the early hours of Tuesday.*

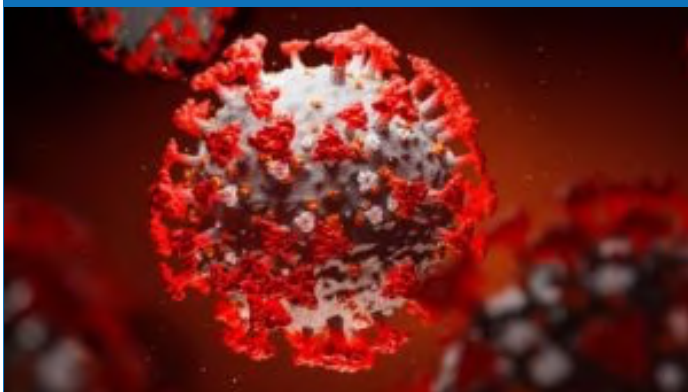
The second main point is maximum deregulation of business, he said.

“We are cancelling all checks for all businesses in order to allow everyone to work normally, in order to enable cities to return to life, in order to allow life to continue in all places where there is no fighting. There is only one condition – you must ensure the normal operation of your business within the framework of Ukrainian legislation,” Zelensky said.

These are just the first two steps of Ukraine's tax reform, he said. “It will be continued,” Zelensky said.

## Minister of Health: COVID doesn't disappeared

The COVID-19 pandemic has not ended, the Ministry of Health of Ukraine continues to provide oxygen supplies to COVID clinics, Minister of Health Viktor Liashko has said. “The coronavirus has not disappeared. There is only one pandemic in the world, nothing has disappeared, despite the fact that this topic is not on the front pages,” he said on the air of the 1+1 TV channel.



Liashko noted that the Ministry of Health continues to provide COVID hospitals with oxygen in the required volume.

He also said that there is enough COVID-19 vaccine in Ukraine, but the vaccine campaign is hampered by logistical problems.



This digest is a mutual project of the Interfax-Ukraine News Agency and the Open4business.com.ua. Maksim Urakin is a project director of the Biweekly news digest of Open4business.com.ua.

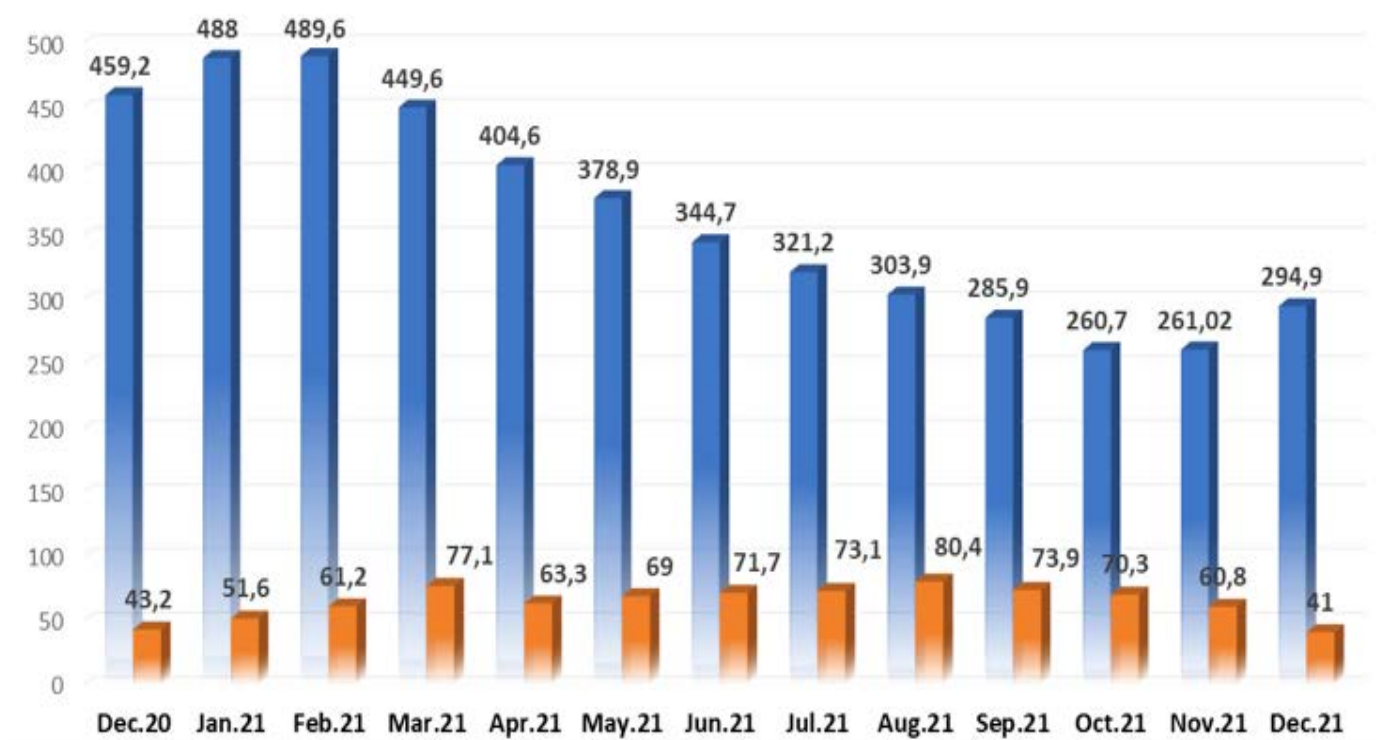
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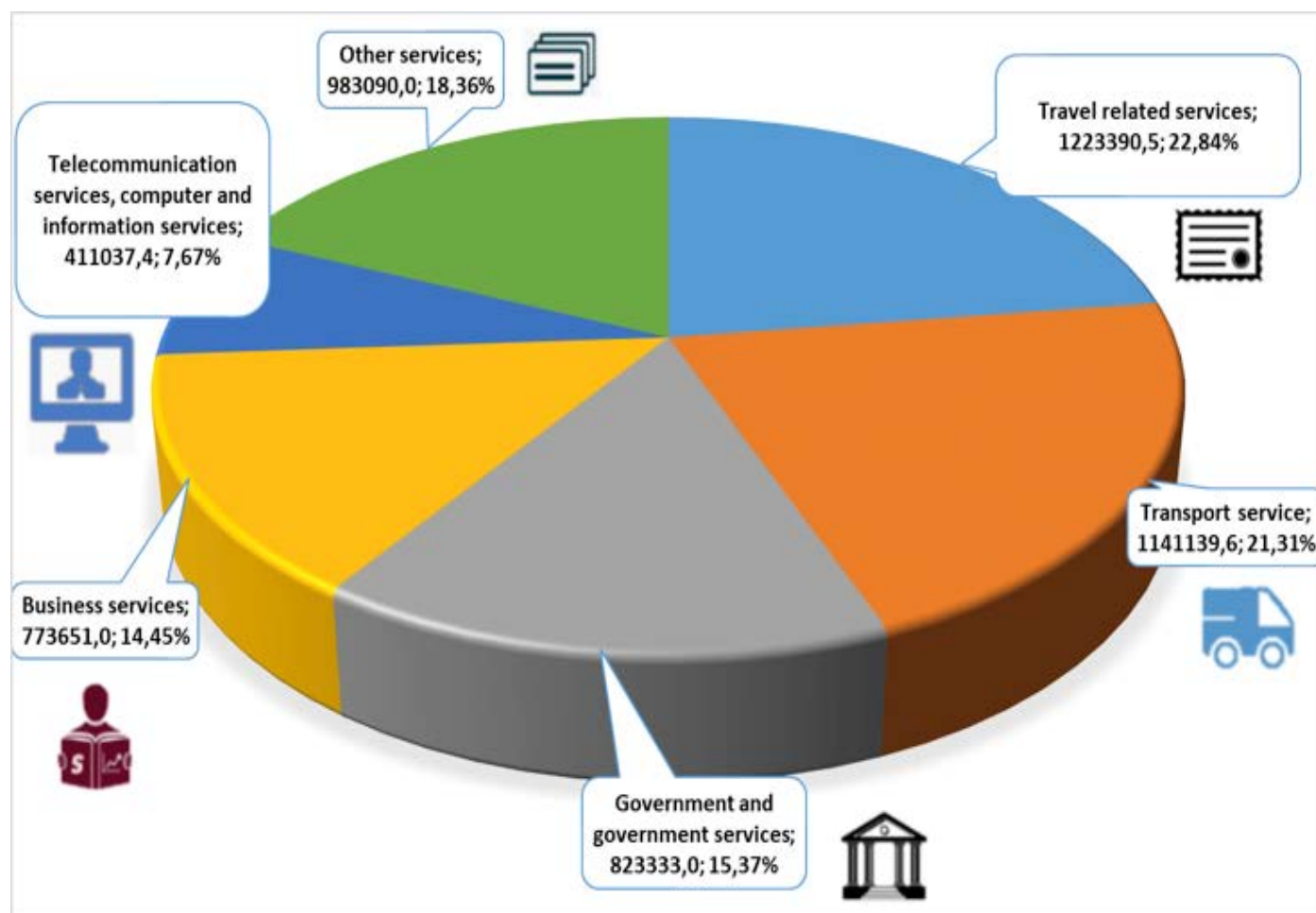
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## Number of unemployed in Ukraine and job opportunities, Dec 20 – Dec 21



## Structure of import of services in Jan-Sep 2021





# Atomic Energy Agency monitors situation at atomic facilities in Ukraine

Inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) currently have the ability to monitor the situation at nuclear facilities on the territory of Ukraine, the organization's director general Rafael Grossi said on Wednesday.

"Remotely controlled equipment is functioning normally," he said at a briefing in Vienna.

"We are able to continue security control activities," Grossi added.

“*He noted that he expects that in the future it will be possible to send IAEA inspectors directly to facilities in Ukraine.*

"I am in contact with all parties. We need to understand how we can provide support," Grossi said.

He noted that he was "inspired by the willingness of the parties to interact."

Speaking about whether the events in Ukraine pose a threat to nuclear facilities, the head of the IAEA said: "I proceed from the fact that there will be no such strikes."

Grossi explained that all countries had previously assured that they considered attacks on nuclear facilities unacceptable.

## 3,000 doctors provide over 6,000 free consultations in Turbota chat bot - Adonis

About 3,000 doctors of various specialties have united on the platform of the Turbota free medical consultations chat bot launched by the Adonis clinic and have already provided more than 6,000 free consultations, the project's initiator, medical director of the clinic Kateryna Komisarenko has told Interfax-Ukraine.

She clarified that doctors from several private and public clinics united on the chat bot platform and expressed their readiness to consult online.

“*The idea appeared following the idea of a platform for medical tourism. Then we decided to create a Telegram channel that would unite doctors and connect them with patients. These are doctors from different clinics, several doctors of different specialties," she clarified.*

On average, a consultation takes several minutes: the patient enters the chat bot, selects a specialty and asks a question. Doctors of this specialty receive a request and consult. The algorithm implemented in the chat bot allows the patient to receive an answer within a few minutes. In this case, the patient can receive answers from several doctors, not only for acute problems, but also for chronic diseases.

Komisarenko stressed that the chat bot was originally created as a platform for free consultations on a volunteer basis.

To date, doctors have provided more than 6,000 consultations on the Turbota platform.



# More than 500 foreign doctors ready to provide medical care to victims in Ukraine

More than 500 foreign doctors are ready to provide medical assistance to victims in Ukraine.

According to the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, more than 500 foreign medical workers have already registered through the registration form published on the website of the ministry.

Among them are doctors, nurses and paramedics from the countries of the European Union, the UK, Switzerland, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Israel, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Jordan, Brazil.

Registration remains open.

The Ministry of Health expresses gratitude for the offer to provide foreign medical assistance to Ukraine.



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## Ruukki stands with Ukraine and stops business with Russian and Belarussian companies

The war in Ukraine has dramatically changed the geopolitical landscape in Europe. Ruukki Construction fully condemns Russia's attack and the hostility towards Ukraine and its people.

Safety of our employees, customers and partners is of the highest importance at Ruukki. All of Ruukki's operations in Ukraine have been suspended and all shipments and sales to Russia and Belarus have been discontinued. For some time, this will also affect the delivery capabilities of some product groups.

Our thoughts are with the people of Ukraine and our colleagues, customers and partners, who are in the middle of the war. Ruukki and our employees in various countries help our Ukrainian colleagues and their families by providing financial support and resettlement assistance. We are grateful to all those who work tirelessly to help the people of Ukraine.

SSAB supports Ukraine through UNHCR

As part of SSAB, Ruukki is donating to UNHCR, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to support the people in Ukraine. UNHCR is present in the country with a structure already set up and has vast experience in rapid response, relief and refugee assistance, including people fleeing inside Ukraine.

Ruukki is constantly monitoring the development of the situation and taking any necessary actions to secure the safety of its people.

Ruukki has a factory in Kopyliv, some 50 kilometers west from Kyiv, and sales offices in some ten locations in Ukraine. Altogether, Ruukki has 73 employees in Ukraine.

In Ukraine, Ruukki products for commercial construction are represented by Rauta. Rauta Group was set up in 2014. Its core business is the design of constructions, supply and assembly of construction materials. The company has a license for the construction of facilities with medium (CC2) and high (CC3) consequences.

According to the unified state register, the owner of a 100% stake in the statutory capital of the company is Andriy Ozeychuk.



## Red Cross not entitled to independently organize humanitarian corridors

The Ukrainian Red Cross Society has no right to independently organize humanitarian corridors for the removal of civilians, its press service told Interfax-Ukraine on Monday. “The Red Cross Society of Ukraine does not have an independent right to organize ‘green corridors’, but it helps local and state authorities in coordinating the evacuation of civilians,” Director General of the National Committee of the Red Cross Society of Ukraine Maksym Dotsenko, whose words are quoted in a press release, said.

He said that in some cases, the Red Cross Society of Ukraine helps local and state authorities in coordinating the evacuation of civilians, while the International Committee of the Red Cross, with the potential and appropriate contacts with all parties to the conflict, organizes “green corridors” for evacuation.

“*“The International Committee of the Red Cross is ready to fulfill its role of a neutral intermediary and provide support within its capabilities,” the statement said.*”

“The Red Cross Society of Ukraine, as an absolutely neutral humanitarian organization, also notes the need for a bilateral agreement between the parties to the armed conflict for the provision of humanitarian assistance and the removal of the civilian population through ‘green corridors’, the organization said. “The Red Cross Society of Ukraine, as an absolutely neutral humanitarian organization, also notes the need for a bilateral agreement between the parties to the armed conflict for the provision of humanitarian assistance and the removal of the civilian population through ‘green corridors’, the organization said.

## Ukraine helps evacuate 146,000 foreign students

Some 146,000 foreign students, including 20,000 from India, have left Ukraine since the beginning of the full-scale aggression of the Russian Federation, spokesman for the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry Oleh Nikolenko said.

“Since the Russian invasion, Ukrainian government has helped 146,000 foreign citizens leave Ukraine, including 20,000 Indian students, evacuated from besieged cities,” Nikolenko tweeted.

“Russia must immediately cease fire in order to open humanitarian corridors for civilians in Sumy, Kharkiv, Mariupol,” the spokesman for the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry said..

## Volkswagen stops work at factories in Germany because of lack of parts deliveries from Ukraine

The Volkswagen auto concern has forced to suspend the production of cars at several factories in Germany due to the cessation of supplies of components from Ukraine after the start of Russian military aggression.

According to the Wall Street Journal, the automaker has created a working group whose task is to assess the risks and find ways to ensure the uninterrupted production of cars.

The largest Volkswagen plant in Wolfsburg is operating normally this week, however, according to the concern’s forecasts, car production will have to be reduced next week, and production will be completely stopped in another week. Supply disruptions will also affect the work of the Hannover truck plant and enterprises that produce auto parts.

Earlier, Volkswagen had to suspend the work of enterprises in Dresden, as well as in Zwickau, where electric vehicles are produced, in particular, the ID.4 model exported to the United States.



## Biden announces ban on Russian oil imports to US

U.S. President Joe Biden announced on Tuesday a ban on the import of Russian oil into the United States. In a press statement in Washington on Tuesday, he stated: "Today I am announcing new sanctions. We ban all oil imports. The measure has strong bipartisan support. We made this decision in close consultation with allies in Europe."



*At the same time, Biden noted that "our European allies may not be in a position to join us."*

The U.S. President called on Congress to pass a \$12 billion aid package for Ukraine. He noted that the United States has already provided Ukraine with a \$1 billion security assistance package and is coordinating actions in this area with European allies.

Speaking about the impact of sanctions on Russia, Biden noted that "the Russian economy has cracked." "The Central Bank of Russia is trying to support the ruble, but cannot do it now. We are restricting Russians' access to technology, which will weaken its military for many years to come." "If we don't confront Putin now, the situation will get even worse," he said.

## 50% of Kyiv residents leave Kyiv

About 2 million Kyiv residents have stayed in the Ukrainian capital, every second has left, mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko has said.

"According to the latest data, every second citizen of Kyiv has left the city. Now a little less than 2 million inhabitants are in Kyiv," Klitschko said on the air of the national marathon of Ukrainian TV channels on Thursday.

According to him, Kyiv has now turned into a fortress.

"Every street, every house... is being fortified, the territorial defense is joining. Even people, who were never going to change their clothes, now are in uniform with machine guns in their hands. These are musicians, and actors, representatives of different professions," Klitschko said.

He stressed that "the city stood and will stand ... And people will not surrender the city, the enemy will not pass!"



## Russian Gazprom continuing gas delivery for transit via Ukraine to Europe

Capacity utilization of Ukraine's transit corridor on Friday remains at the same high level, in line with the long-term contract volumes of 40 billion cubic meters per year or 109 million cubic meters per day.

European buyers have increased nominations for Gazprom's gas after prices soared due to the imposition of sanctions on Russia. Gas prices at the TTF hub were \$1,383 per thousand cubic meters on Friday morning.

"Gazprom is supplying Russian gas for transit via Ukraine as scheduled in accordance with the requests of European consumers – 109.5 mcm on March 11," the company's official spokesperson Sergey Kupriyanov told reporters.

As confirmed by data from the Ukrainian GTS Operator, the nomination for March 11 is 109.4 mcm, while that for March 10 was also 109.4 mcm.





## Ukrainian Ministry of Economy estimates damage from war at \$119 bln

The amount of direct losses incurred by Ukraine's infrastructure from full-scale Russian military aggression has already reached \$119 billion, work is underway to compensate for them at the expense of the seized gold and foreign exchange reserves of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, First Deputy Minister of Economy of Ukraine Denys Kudin has said.

"When the president's office yesterday or the day before yesterday announced over \$100 billion, this figure is somewhat clarified. It is \$119 billion. Unfortunately, it will grow with every next day of the war," he said on Ukrainian TV channels.

According to Kudin, one of the ways to compensate for losses and restore infrastructure is to work through cooperation with Western governments. "Western governments have already seized the gold and foreign exchange reserves of the Central Bank of Russia in the amount of \$415 billion. In fact, this amount is almost enough to cover these direct one-time losses," the first deputy minister said.

According to him, the Ministry of Economy expects that in the near future, together with partner governments of other countries, a legal mechanism will be found, how this money can go to Ukraine for further recovery.

The first deputy minister said that the Ministry of Economy from the first day began to count the losses that the state suffered due to Russian aggression. According to him, in addition to the direct approach to determining the damage (how much it will cost to restore bridges, roads, infrastructure facilities, hospitals, kindergartens, schools destroyed by Russia), there is a second approach – the amount of GDP losses.

"We see that in cities and towns where active hostilities are taking place, economic activity has decreased by 75%. In the rest of Ukraine, only every second business operates. This is a loss of 50% of economic activity," Kudin said.

He added that most of the metallurgical plants, most of which are located in the east of the country, have ceased their activities. "The blocking of sea routes by the Russians, of course, does not make it possible to fully export corn, wheat, sunflower oil – traditional agricultural export products," the first deputy head of the Ministry of Economy said.

As reported, Ukraine's GDP in 2021 for the first time amounted to about \$200 billion.

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## Ferrexpo increases fund to support Ukrainians to \$7.5 mln

Ferrexpo Plc (the U.K.), which controls Poltava Mining and Yeristovo Mining in Ukraine, has increased the level of approved funding for its Humanitarian Fund to \$7.5 million to provide further support to local communities close to the group's operations, as well as broader support for communities throughout Ukraine.

According to a press release of the group on the London Stock Exchange (LSE) on Monday, following the announcement of the establishment of the fund on 7 March 2022, the Group has been made aware of further projects and initiatives to support the humanitarian relief effort within Ukraine and the group's Board of Directors has moved to quickly increase the fund's approved budget accordingly.

Examples of projects that sit within the fund's activities include the group's efforts to coordinate the supply and distribution of food packages, the sourcing of basic medical supplies for local hospitals and medical facilities and the provision of meals for local residents of communities surrounding to the group's operations.

"The situation in Ukraine is rapidly evolving and the fund is intended help enable the group to react quickly to meet the increased needs of Ukraine and our workforce and their families at this difficult time," the group said.



## UNESCO to study opportunities citizens of Ukraine to get education in EU

UNESCO will analyze the educational opportunities for temporarily evacuated citizens of Ukraine in the countries of the European Union, the press service of the Ministry of Education and Science said, citing UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education Stefania Giannini.

“Ms. Stefania noted that UNESCO, within the framework of the mandate, will analyze what opportunities for education for temporarily evacuated citizens of Ukraine the EU countries can provide, especially for applicants for higher education. Giannini said that universities in some countries are already actively supporting students and academic staff and are ready to help them in the process of learning and activities,” the press service of the ministry said.

She also testified to the absolute support of the people of Ukraine and noted that UNESCO is ready to provide expert assistance in order to expand and strengthen our system of distance education.



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## Ukraine's GDP grew 3.4% in 2021 after falling 3.8% in 2020

Ukraine's GDP grew 3.4% in 2021 after falling 3.8% in 2020, the State Statistics Service said.

Nominal GDP was UAH 5.46 trillion and per capita GDP was UAH 131,940.

GDP was \$200.09 billion at an average exchange rate of UAH 27.29/\$1, and per capita GDP was \$4,840.

The Q4 2021 GDP growth estimate was raised to 6.1% from the 5.9% given at the start of February.

The Statistics Service raised its Q2 and Q3 2021 estimates for the second time, to 6% from 5.7% and to 2.8% from 2.7%, respectively, the initial estimates being 5.4% and 2.4%. GDP fell 2.2% in Q1 2021.





# United Nations: War in Ukraine kills at least 1,035 civilians

From February 24, 2022, when Russia started the war against Ukraine, until 24:00 on March 23, 2022, civilian casualties amounted to 2,685 people (in the report a day earlier – 2,571), including 1,035 dead (977), reports the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on Wednesday.

“UNHCHR believes that the real numbers are much higher, especially in government-controlled territory, and especially in recent days, as information from some places where there has been intense fighting has been delayed, and many reports are still awaiting confirmation,” it said.

According to him, this applies, for example, to Mariupol and Volnovakha (Donetsk region), Izium (Kharkiv region), Severodonetsk and Rubizhne (Luhansk region), Trostianets (Sumy region), where there are reports of numerous civilian casualties. They are subject to further verification and are not included in the above statistics.

“The majority of civilian deaths or injuries were caused by the use of explosive devices with a wide area of effect, including shelling from heavy artillery and multiple launch rocket systems, as well as rocket and air strikes,” the report says.

According to confirmed UN data, 214 men, 160 women, 28 boys and 14 girls died, while the sex of 48 children and 571 adults has not yet been determined.

Among the 1,650 injured, there are 28 girls and 23 boys, as well as 67 children, whose sex has not yet been determined.

Compared to the previous day, nine children were killed and ten were injured, according to the UN.

The office indicates that in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, as of midnight on March 24, there were 255 (224) dead and 646 (621) injured in government-controlled territory, and 56 (55) dead and 211 (202) injured in the non-controlled territory.

In other regions of Ukraine under government control (in Kyiv, as well as in Zhytomyr, Zaporizhia, Kyiv, Sumy, Odesa, Mykolaiv, Kharkiv, Kherson, Dnipropetrovsk, Cherkasy and Chernihiv regions), the UN recorded 724 (698) dead and 793 (771) injured.



## President of Ukraine: We need long-term, legally secured security guarantees

President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky has stated the need to find effective security guarantees for Ukraine that would not be in doubt.

“We need to look for effective guarantees. Guarantees for us, for our skies, and we will not abandon it. We need aircraft. I will continue to talk about this, I will continue to pursue this. We need long-term security guarantees for the state, for all Ukrainians, but concrete things, specific guarantees, legally binding, so that there is no doubt about them,” Zelensky said in a video message on Tuesday.



# Another batch of Starlink satellite internet stations delivered to Ukraine

Another batch of Starlink satellite Internet stations has been delivered to Ukraine, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Digital Transformation Mykhailo Fedorov said.

“Another batch of Starlink is in Ukraine. The future is in technology. Technologies today help Ukrainians, help the new good to defeat the old evil. The future belongs to Ukraine! Thank you Elon (SpaceX co-founder Elon Musk – IF)! Thank you Poland!” Fedorov said in his Telegram channel.

As reported, Musk refused to block Russian news agencies on the StarLink network.

The first batch of Starlink satellite Internet stations arrived in Ukraine on March 1, 2022, the second on March 10.

Starlink became active on the territory of Ukraine on February 27, 2022.



## Czech Republic can no longer accept refugees from Ukraine

Approximately 270,000 refugees from Ukraine have arrived in the Czech Republic, and the authorities are already running out of resources to accept everyone who wants to stay in the country without any problems, Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala said on Thursday.

“We have to admit that we are at the very edge when we can accept [these refugees] without problems,” the Associated Press (AP) quoted the prime minister as saying.

According to the agency, the majority of Ukrainian refugees are women and children.

AP notes that the Czech government is making efforts to issue long-term residence permits to refugees in the country, to ensure their access to health care and education. Also, a plan is being discussed at the parliament to allow refugees to be hired even without documents authorizing the performance of work.



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# United Nations: 90% of Ukrainians could be facing poverty

Early data estimates suggest that 90% of the Ukrainian population could be facing poverty and extreme economic vulnerability should the war deepen, setting the country – and the region – back decades and leaving deep social and economic scars for generations to come, according to the early projection released today by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

“In the event of a continuing, protracted war in Ukraine, 18 years of socio-economic achievements could be lost, with almost one third of the population living below the poverty line and a further 62% at high risk of falling into poverty within the next twelve months, according to an early projection released today by the UNDP,” UNDP said in a press release on Wednesday.

UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner said that the war in Ukraine is causing unimaginable human suffering with a tragic loss of life and the displacement of millions of people.

“While the need for immediate humanitarian assistance to Ukrainians is of the utmost importance, the acute development impacts of a protracted war are now becoming more apparent. An alarming economic decline, and the suffering and hardship it will bring to an already traumatized population must now come into sharper focus. There is still time to halt this grim trajectory,” he said.



Based on its longstanding, trusted partnership with the Government of Ukraine, UNDP has been working in all 24 regions (administrative districts) of Ukraine with more than 332 municipalities, 15 civil society organizations hubs, and more than 17 business membership associations across the country. As part of the coordinated United Nations Country Team's response, UNDP is now leveraging this extensive network for immediate and scaled up support to the people of Ukraine, focusing on immediate crisis response and maintaining core government functions for emergency response management and public service delivery.

“In order to avoid further suffering, destruction and impoverishment we need peace now. As part of the United Nations' unwavering commitment to the Ukrainian people, UNDP's primary focus is to help preserve hard-won development gains. That includes supporting the government to sustain critical governance structures and services, which constitute the bedrock of all societies,” Steiner said.

UNDP said that according to government estimates, at least \$100 billion worth of infrastructure, buildings, roads, bridges, hospitals, schools, and other physical assets have been destroyed. The war has caused 50% of Ukrainian businesses to shut down completely, while the other half are forced to operate well below capacity.

Among the largest UN agencies on the ground in Ukraine, UNDP has remained operational throughout the conflict and is now boosting its presence with targeted, specialized deployments in key areas such as debris management, damage assessment and emergency livelihoods including cash-based assistance, and also offering operational entry points and platforms to development and humanitarian partners to channel and scale support to the Government and people of Ukraine.



## Ukraine stops export of corn, oats, buckwheat, sugar and salt

The government of Ukraine has introduced zero quotas for exports subject to licensing in 2022 of corn, oats, buckwheat, millet, sugar and salt suitable for human consumption, according to government resolution No. 207 dated March 5, published on the government website on Sunday.



According to the amendments he made to resolution No. 1424 on the list of goods whose export and import is subject to licensing, and quotas for 2022, dated December 29, 2021, zero quotas were also introduced for the export of live cattle and its frozen meat, “meat and edible meat offal, salted or in brine, dried or smoked; edible meal from meat or meat offal: bovine meat” (Ukrainian Customs Commodity Classification Codes for Foreign Trade code 021020). Earlier on Sunday, Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said the government had decided to limit the export of a number of socially important goods and the raw materials from which they are produced, but did not specify specific product groups.

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## Ukraine introduces licensing of exports of sunflower oil, wheat, corn, poultry, chicken eggs, sunflower oil

Ukraine has expanded the list of goods, the export permit for which will be issued by the Economy Ministry, by five positions: from now on, the export of wheat, corn, poultry meat, chicken eggs and sunflower oil is subject to licensing. Resolution No. 207, expanding the list of exports and imports subject to licensing and quotas in 2022, was adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine at a meeting on Saturday, March 5.

It is clarified that licensing has been introduced for the export of wheat and meslin (a mixture of wheat and rye, Ukrainian Customs Commodity Classification Codes for Foreign Trade code 1001), corn (1005), domestic chicken meat (0207 11-0207 14), domestic chicken eggs (0407 21 00 00) and sunflower oil (1512 11 91 00).

In December 2021, the government adopted resolution No. 1424, which extended the licensing of anthracite coal exports to 2022.

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## Yoghurt, mineral water, raw tobacco, salt, doors, windows and their frames, cotton wool, socks and bras, bags are new items of critical import

Yoghurt, kefir, mineral water, raw tobacco, salt, hydrogen, photographic plates and film, doors, windows and their frames, cigarette paper, cotton wool, tights, socks and bras, bags and packaging bags are new items included in the list goods of critical import of Ukraine.

According to government resolution No. 266 of March 13, which was published on its website, the list is also replenished with glass and mirrors, silver, various types of metal products, aluminum metal structures, pumps, printed circuits, trailers and semi-trailers.

As reported, after the start of Russia's military aggression on February 24, the government on the same day by resolution No. 153 determined a list of critical import goods, for the purchase of which the National Bank of Ukraine allows buying foreign currency. This is the tenth expansion of this list since it was originally approved.

## Philip Morris sends over 500,000 packs of cigarettes to Ukrainian army

The U.S. tobacco company Philip Morris handed over 500,000 packs of cigarettes to the Ukrainian army, MP from the Servant of the People party Danylo Hetmantsev has said.



"Philip Morris donated 500,000 packs of cigarettes to help the army! Lviv Tobacco Factory and JT International Ukraine also handed over cigarettes to the military today in all regions where there are logistics warehouses," Hetmantsev wrote in Telegram.



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