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Task Force Ukraine

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Refugees from Ukraine – staying in Leipzig: your rights and obligations

Greetings from the city hall in Leipzig. The European Union made a decision a few weeks ago to continue granting temporary protection to refugees from Ukraine until March 2025. The German government has now enacted this EU regulation in Germany through an ordinance. Thus, in accordance with Section 24 of the Residence Act (AufenthG), all residence titles held by people from Ukraine seeking protection that are valid on 1 February 2024 will be automatically extended by one year. This makes things easier for you because you do **not** have to appear in person at the Foreigners' Authority to have your residence title renewed until 4 March 2025.

Please find enclosed with this letter a statement declaring the extended right of residence granted by the ordinance, including all ancillary provisions. The federal government and the city of Leipzig hope that this will provide you with security and guidance in these uncertain and anxious times.

The federal government is also notifying all benefit/service authorities (Job Centres, Social Welfare Offices, etc.) so that they can continue to provide the necessary assistance without interruption.

Taking up employment and being financially self-sufficient creates the basis for staying in Germany once the war is over and temporary protection is no longer needed. Make use of this time – the Job Centre campaign helps you do this:



The careers guidance services help **pupils** make the transition from school to vocational training or university. Leipzig is one of the most dynamic economic regions in Germany. Well-trained specialists are the driving force for growth and competitiveness. Seeking vocational guidance early and in line with economic needs opens up job prospects in our region and allows you to gain work experience. This is very important to integrate in Germany as well as for the reconstruction of Ukraine – how and where you use your new skills later is up to you. For more information, go to:



If you were already employed in the past, the advisors at the Job Centre are there to help you integrate into the job market. Language is an important foundation and it can initially be taught in classes. But to gain a good command of German, it is just as important that you practice it day to day. The best way to perfect your German skills is at work, where you are required to apply your knowledge in everyday situations. The advisors at the Job Centre provide you with the support you need and make you job offers. You may initially be overqualified or speak better German than is required for these jobs. But it's a start and it will help you improve your prospects later on.

The city of Leipzig and the Federal Republic of Germany stand firmly by Ukraine in its fight for freedom and self-determination. We understand that you are worried about your family at home and the difficult situation you are in. None of us know how this fight will continue in the next few months. But: every day you work in Germany and every German word you learn and use is your contribution to Ukraine's fight against Russian disinformation and propaganda.

The experiences you and your children gain in the German job market and the European languages such as German that you learn serve as a bridge for you and your children: a bridge to a European future for Ukraine and thus an investment in the future itself! **I therefore encourage you to accept these offers. Go for it!**

I wish you and your families a wonderful festive season and all the best for the new year.

With best wishes,
on behalf of



Ulrich Hörning
Mayor for General Administration
Head of the coordination staff for Ukraine

