

**For the attention of:  
ACE Member Organisations**

Brussels, 07 March 2022  
Ref: 24/22/CO

Dear Members,

The ACE Executive Board has had several meetings regarding the war in Ukraine and resolved to take the following actions:

**Immediate actions**

In the light of the fact that other NGOs have confirmed an excess of donations of food and clothing, ACE considers any assistance should be in the form of:

- Shelter (architect to architect) – a number of countries bordering on or close to Ukraine (PL, SK, RO, HU, DE) are already offering accommodation. There are also schemes such as “[Host a Sister](#)” - offering assistance to women and children who form the majority of refugees.
- Finance (probably not direct to Ukraine but via Red Cross or similar) – Member Organisations may wish to follow the example of SAFA (Finland) or the Occitanie Region of the CNOA (France) in making financial donations to the Red Cross or other aid agencies. The Executive Board will propose that the ACE General Assembly also agree to make a donation e.g. from the ACE Reserve.
- Employment (visa-free – see below\*) – a number of Member Organisations have already established webpages on their sites for job offers / requests. ACE proposes to help coordinate this activity by including links to these from its own website. It will also approach software companies to see what can be done to equip new workstations created in architects' offices (computers, programmes etc).
- Study – ACE will explore, with the EAAEA, the possibility of helping Ukrainian architecture students to obtain placements in EU schools (with EAAE?)
- Communications – ACE will provide visibility for the work of specialist aid-agencies such as “Architectes de l'Urgence”, “architectes sans frontières”, keep Member Organisations informed of any further ACE actions and coordinate national initiatives where feasible or desirable.

**\* Temporary Protection Directive**

The European Commission (EC) has adopted a proposal to activate the [Temporary Protection Directive](#) in order to offer quick and effective assistance to people fleeing the ongoing war in Ukraine – whether Ukrainian nationals – as well as non-Ukrainian nationals and stateless people legally residing in Ukraine who cannot return to their country or region of origin (such as asylum seekers or beneficiaries of international protection, and their family members).

**The Directive:**

- **ensures the immediate protection and rights of those eligible**, including residency rights, access to the labour market, access to housing, social welfare assistance, medical or other assistance, and means of subsistence. Unaccompanied children and teenagers have the right to legal guardianship and access to education

- **reduces pressure on national asylum systems** by creating a protection status with reduced formalities. This will avoid overwhelming national asylum systems and allow EU countries to better manage new arrivals;
- **enhances solidarity and responsibility sharing** by promoting balance between EU countries in efforts to host new arrivals from Ukraine. A 'solidarity platform', wherein countries can exchange information about reception capacity, will be coordinated by the European Commission;
- **secures further support from EU agencies** such as Frontex, the European Union Asylum Agency and Europol to ensure smooth implementation of the activities included in the directive.

This temporary protection begins immediately (in EU27), for the duration of one year. It will be automatically extended twice by six monthly periods, for up to one year, if the situation persists. Colleagues in Norway, Switzerland and UK are invited to check whether similar provisions exist in their countries.

### **Professional Recognition**

Regarding employment, there is the related issue of recognition of professional qualifications in an orderly and regulated manner.

Some Member Organisations are already considering how to deal with this at national level. ACE will approach DG GROW to see what can be done at EU level.

### **ACE Membership**

The Executive Board will propose to the General Assembly to extend the definition of Observer Membership (beyond EU Accession/ candidate countries to include "neighbourhood" countries) and invite the Ukraine Union of Architects to join / attend the General Assembly (and temporarily waive any subscription requirement).

### **Longer-term**

Heritage - the Ukraine Union of Architects has indicated that, after the war, specialist help will be needed to re-build the country, especially conservationists to help restore the architectural heritage. We will also appeal to other bodies – Europa Nostra, ICCROM, ICOMOS, UNESCO etc.

Please keep us informed of any actions you undertake, send us links to any job offer or shelter facilities you may offer and consider making donations to the Red Cross.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Ruth Schagemann  
ACE President