



NEWS FROM UKRAINE

Private remittances to Ukraine grew by 20 per cent in 2011

In 2011 private remittances to Ukraine from abroad grew by 20 per cent to USD 7 billion, the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) reported. USD 3.2 billion was remitted through the banks correspondent accounts, USD 2.8 billion came through international payment systems, and USD 963 million – through informal channels. The greatest amount of remittances was received from Russia (USD 1.9 billion), the United States (USD 613 million), Germany (USD 423 million), Greece (USD 341 million) and Cyprus (USD 331 million). Remittances amount is almost equivalent to the size of the funds received by Ukraine as foreign direct investment (USD 7.2 billion). The National Bank also noted the increased attractiveness of the international payment systems. In 2008-2009 they stood for one third of the money transfers to Ukraine. In 2011 the share increased to 40 per cent.

Read more: European news in English, 2 April 2012

<http://www.news-en.com/2012/04/02/income-in-ukraine-2011-in-private-remittances-grew-by-197-up-to/>

World Bank forecasts deficit of labour force in Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova

Worsening of the demographic situation in Eastern Europe, related to population's ageing, will entail deficit of the labour force in Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova and other states of the region, states the Vice President of the World Bank for Europe and Central Asia Philippe Le Houerou.

"Besides the growing necessity for expenses optimization, Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus should pay special attention to protection of the human potential in relation with the growing unemployment rate and worsening of the demographic situation," Philippe Le Houerou stressed.

According to the World Bank forecasts, by 2050, due to the ageing phenomenon, the number of economically active population in Moldova will reduce by one third, in Ukraine - by 35 per cent, and in Bulgaria and Belarus - by 40 per cent.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 24 April, 2012

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/world_bank_forecasts_deficit_of_labor_force_in_ukraine_belarus_and_moldova_280979

European agencies share border security experience with Ukraine ahead of EURO 2012 kick-off

The State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (UASBGS) and the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) are stepping up their cooperation as the date nears for the kick-off of the EURO 2012 football championships, co-hosted by Poland and Ukraine.

A border-security conference co-hosted in Kyiv by UASBGS and EUBAM saw participants from several European countries presenting priorities and challenges ahead of EURO 2012, with Ukrainian participants briefed on the experience of countries that have planned for such events in the past.

Representatives from the border-guard, customs and law-enforcement services of Ukraine, their counterparts from Poland, Germany, Hungary and Austria, as well as EU and diplomatic representatives, heard experts discussed issues pertaining to border security and optimization of border guard and customs procedures.



EUBAM and the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine have intensified their cooperation ahead of EURO 2012. Officers from the UASBGS, as well as from the State Customs Service of Ukraine and Ministry of Internal Affairs, have taken part in English-language training events conducted by EUBAM, in conflict management training, and in a number of public-communication initiatives.

Among the key aspects of the UASBGS' preparation for EURO 2012 is the development of EURO Channels for football fans entering Ukraine, and the creation of four jointly operated border crossing points on the Poland-Ukraine border, that will speed up border-crossing times for fans.

Read more: ENPI Info-Centre, 4 April 2012

http://www.enpi-info.eu/maineast.php?id_type=1&id=28561&lang_id=450&utm_source=4marketing.it%2C%204dem.it&utm_medium=Email%20Marketing&utm_content=Subscriber%231022&utm_campaign=European%20agencies%20share%20border%20security%20experience%20with%20Ukraine%20ahead%20of%20EURO%202012%20kick-off

Ukrainian-Russian border crossing agreement came into force

The agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Russian Federation on the procedure for crossing the Ukrainian-Russian state border by residents of border regions of the two countries, which was signed on 18 October, 2011, has entered into force, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's press service reported on 17 April, 2012.

From now on, residents of frontier areas of both countries can cross the border through international, interstate and local checkpoints of the region, where they live, and can stay in the territory of the region of the neighboring states, which they entered through a checkpoint, without registration and without filling in migration cards for the period of up to 90 days.

"Residents of border regions can cross the border on foot, on bicycles, motorcycles, passenger carriages, motor cars, and boats belonging to them, as well as by interstate public road transport and ferry connections within the border regions, and can bring with them goods not intended for industrial or other commercial activities, in the amount not exceeding the maximum allowed by law without paying customs duties and taxes," the press service said.

This agreement applies to Ukrainian citizens residing in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Donetsk region, Luhansk region, Sumy region, Kharkiv region, Chernihiv region, and Russians from Belhorod, Briansk, Voronezh, Krasnodar, Kursk and Rostov regions.

Read more: Kyiv Post, 17 April, 2012

<http://www.kyivpost.com/news/nation/detail/126122/>



Three million Ukrainians enjoy visa free regime with the European Union

About three million Ukrainians, residents of border regions with Poland, Slovakia and Hungary, enjoy a visa free regime with the European Union, Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Consular Service Department Andrii Olefirov said at a round table on 19 April, 2012.

“They should not have a visa, they receive the so-called permission in compliance with the signed international bipartite agreements,” Mr. Olefirov reminded.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 19 April, 2012

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/three_million_ukrainians_enjoy_visa_free_regime_with_eu_13048

Polish visa centre opens in Rivne

A visa centre assisting in getting Polish national and Schengen visas has opened in Rivne, west of Ukraine.

“Here one can provide all the necessary documents, and obtain a permit some time later in the same office,”

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland to Ukraine Henryk Litwin said.

According to him, a complete cycle of the visa service has been introduced here, and it is very convenient for residents of the region who used to apply for such services to the Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Lutsk.

The visa office, which is supposed to receive more than a hundred visitors a day, is operated by a foreign company.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 18 April, 2012

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/office_for_getting_visas_to_poland_other_eu_countries_opens_in_rivne_12816

Ukraine to increase visa price for US citizens

The United States is to increase the cost of issuing visas for Ukrainians, and Ukraine is getting ready to respond, the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine claims.

“According to the Embassy of Ukraine in the United States, from 13 April, 2012 year the U.S. Department of State is increasing the cost of processing applications for non-immigrant visas for citizens of the countries, with which the United States has a visa regime, including Ukraine,” the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine Oleksandr Dykusharov said at a briefing in Kyiv on 18 April, 2012.

Mr. Dykusharov added that according to the U.S. side the reason is the mismatch of the cost of visas and actual expenditures on their issuing.

Thus, according to Mr. Dykusharov, the visa fee will increase from USD 140 to USD 160 and from USD 150 to USD 190 depending on the type of visa.

“On a parity basis the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine is working on the issue of changing the current visa fees for U.S. citizens to enter Ukraine,” Mr. Dykusharov said.

Read more: Kyiv Post, 18 April, 2012

<http://www.kyivpost.com/news/nation/detail/126194/>



Ireland simplified visa access for Ukrainians

Ireland has simplified visa access for citizens of Ukraine, Foreign Ministry spokesman Oleksandr Dykusharov told at a briefing.

“On 12 March, 2012 the Justice Minister of Ireland announced coming into force of the document, according to which Ukrainians having short-term visas to Britain do not have to apply for Irish visa,” the official said.

Read more: ForUm, 3 April, 2012

<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2012/04/03/141022.html>

Ukrainian Consulate opens in Dubai

The Ukrainian Consulate started its work in Dubai (the United Arab Emirates) on 5 April, 2012. It comprises the territory of six out of seven country’s emirates, where the majority of Ukrainian citizens staying in the country reside.

“Opening of the Ukrainian Consulate is an important step aimed at further development of relations between Ukraine and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The Consular department comprises such emirates as Dubai, Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, Ajwan, Fujairah and Umm Al Quwain,” Ukrainian Consul to Dubai Petro Holoveshko noted.

Inter alia, Mr. Holoveshko reminded that many Ukrainian tourists choose those emirates for their holidays, therefore, opening of the Consulate will considerably simplify their access to Consular services. Previously everybody had to approach the Consular department of the Ukrainian Embassy in the UAE in Abu Dhabi. The Consul also noted that on the eve of UEFA EURO 2012, the Consulate will pay a special attention to drawing up entry visas to UAE citizens and residents.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 5 April, 2012

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_consulate_opens_in_dubai

6,500 Ukrainian students study in Poland

These data were unveiled at a meeting of leaders of the Institute of Innovative Technology and Content of Education Oleksandr Udod and Director of the Centre for Development of Polish Education abroad Magdalena Boguslawska.

“The largest number of foreign students in Poland are citizens of Ukraine (over 6,500). At the same time, more than 800 Polish students this year get higher education in Ukraine,” the Ukrainian Ministry of Education reports.

Read more: National Radio Company of Ukraine, 9 April, 2012

<http://www.nrcu.gov.ua/index.php?id=148&listid=168329>



Russia increases migrants' quotas for 2012

According to the order of the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation, the size of quota in Moscow is increased from 136,000 work permits to more than 150,000, the quota in the Central Federal District is increased from almost 425,000 to more than 444,000, in Southern Federal District from 96,000 to more than 120,000. In Volga Region and on the Far East 2,000 permits more could be issued, in Siberia – about 700 permits more.

According to the Federal Migration Service of Russia, from 3 to 5 million foreigners in the Russian Federation annually work without official permission. The quota established for 2012 earlier was 1.746 million. For 2011 it was 1.754 million.

As for Moscow, according to the Federal Migration Service, up to 800,000 foreigners simultaneously stay in the capital, only 130,000 of them have permits.

Read more: Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia, 11 April, 2012
http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/2812/the_quotas_for_migrants_for_2012_are_increased_in_russia

EU Member States may impose criminal penalties for aiding irregular immigration

A Member State may impose criminal penalties for aiding illegal immigration when the persons who have infiltrated Union territory, nationals of non-member countries, hold visas fraudulently obtained but not yet annulled, the European Union Court of Justice decided.

According to the Court's judgment, the competent consulate examining an application for a visa must ascertain whether the conditions for the entry into EU territory of a national of a non-member country have been satisfied. Particular attention has to be given to assessing whether the applicant presents a risk of illegal immigration or a risk to the security of the Member States and whether he intends to leave the territory of the Member States before the date the visa expires.

Read more: Electronic Immigration Network, 10 April, 2012
<http://www.ein.org.uk/news/eu-member-state-may-impose-criminal-penalties-aiding-illegal-immigration-when-visas-fraudulent/>