



NEWS FROM UKRAINE

The Government of Ukraine approves action plan for integration of refugees

Prime Minister Mykola Azarov signed a respective order on 22 August, 2012.

The document instructs “ministries and other central executive government agencies to envisage, while drafting Ukraine’s state budget for a respective year, the expenditures needed to implement the action plan” regarding the integration of refugees and persons in need of additional protection into the Ukrainian society for the period until 2020.

According to the document, a number of agencies will be responsible for developing a tolerant attitude towards refugees. The Government also envisages training of specialists in Ukrainian as a foreign language, history, culture and the state system of Ukraine. The creation of temporary accommodation facilities for refugees in the regions of their greatest concentration is foreseen, as well as provision of medical and psychosocial assistance to these people.

Read more: KyivPost, 27 August, 2012

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/government-approves-action-plan-for-integration-of-refugees-312130.html>

Victims of human trafficking to be provided with complex aid

The Government of Ukraine approved the Procedure of cooperation of bodies countering trafficking in human beings. The draft of the relevant decree was developed by the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine implementing the Law “On Combating Trafficking in Human Beings”.

As was noted during the sitting of the Government, the document should foster provision of complex and efficient aid to the victims of trafficking.

The document, in particular, provides for the actions of the relevant authorities in cases, when victims are minors, are unable to move without assistance, stay abroad, are unwilling to co-operate with the authorities of interior, etc.

Read more: Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia, 27 August, 2012

http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/3741/victims_of_human_trafficking_will_be_provided_with_complex_aid

State Border Guard Service: Polish consular officials in Lutsk helped sell Ukrainian women into sexual slavery

The State Border Guard Service (SBGS) of Ukraine reported the elimination of a human trafficking channel, which involved employees of the Polish Consulate in Lutsk, as a result of the joint efforts of Ukrainian and foreign law enforcers.

According to the press service of the SBGS, at the end of 2011, Lutsk frontier unit together with representatives of the Security Service of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Interior Ministry in Volyn region received initial information



about the criminal scheme of recruiting and sending Ukrainian women to Germany for sexual exploitation.

The investigation has found out that the Ukrainian women were brought abroad using fraudulent schemes and contacts at the Consulate of Poland in Lutsk, where the Schengen visas were issued.

As reported, on 10 August, 2012 the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs fired all employees of its consulate in Lutsk and the Consul General was dismissed following a visa scandal. The Polish MFA has stated that the situation in Lutsk will not influence the temp of issuing visas to Ukrainian citizens.

Read more: KyivPost, 16 August, 2012

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/border-service-polish-consular-officials-in-lutsk-helped-sell-ukrainian-women-into-sexual-slavery-abroad-311604.html>

Ukrainian migrants may find themselves without job

Many Ukrainian migrants may find themselves without job because of unemployment increase in the Eurozone.

As the Ukrainian newspaper “Izvestiia v Ukraine” (No. 159 dated August 27) informs, since the level of unemployment in the countries of the Eurozone increased up to 15-20 per cent, the considerable part of Ukrainian labour migrants will suspend or decrease their money transfers to Ukraine.

For the same reason, many Ukrainian labour migrants may return home.

“The increase of unemployment in Eurozone means that any country will introduce protective measures aiming to support its own labour force and to exclude migrants from the market. Ukrainians staying abroad become more vulnerable in comparison with the citizens of one or another country,” the economic expert Oleh Ustenko noted.

According to Mr. Ustenko, it is time for the Ukrainian Government to develop a programme supporting entrepreneurship initiatives of migrants coming back home.

Read more: Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia, 27 August, 2012

http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/3739/ukrainian_migrants_may_find_themselves_without_job

Ukrainian migrants can get Polish passports

The new law on Polish citizenship has come into force on 20 August, 2012. According to its norms, to receive a Polish passport, a person should stay in the country for three years. A migrant willing to get a citizenship should learn the language; get steady income and an officially rented or private accommodation.

With the introduction of the new law over 100 thousand foreigners can receive Polish citizenship.

There are about 30 thousand Ukrainians staying in Poland, but according to the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, only few of them may be granted a Polish citizenship.

The MFA spokesman Oleksandr Dykusarov also reminded that dual citizenship is prohibited in Ukraine.

Read more: ForUm, 20 August, 2012

<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2012/08/20/131048.html>



Italy provides migrants with a new possibility to legalize their stay

The law providing for more strict sanctions for employers, who employ irregular immigrants, came into force in Italy. However, the government provides employers, who have been already using irregular labour, with the chance to remedy the situation.

In order to avoid penalties, they need to submit the application for legalization of an employee from 15 September to 15 October, 2012. At the same time, employees will have to provide the relevant documents, proving that they have been staying in Italy since 31 December, 2011, and have been working for the employer during 3 months as of 9 August, 2012 and continue to work at the moment of application submission.

According to the Italian Minister for International Cooperation Andrea Riccardi, there are about 150 thousand of irregular workers in the country, who could use the new decree and obtain the official work permit.

At the same time under the new Italian legislation irregular migrants, who became victims of exploitation, will be able to obtain permanent residence permit by humanitarian motives.

Read more: Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia, 13 August, 2012
http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/3605/ukrainian_guest_workers_obtained_possibility_to_legalize_their_staying_in_italy

Ukraine introduces temporary visa-free regime with Macedonia

President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich signed the decree on a temporary visa-free regime for citizens of the Republic of Macedonia. The visa-free entry for Macedonians is introduced for the period from 15 August, 2012 till 15 March, 2013, if the duration of their stay in Ukraine does not exceed 90 days.

Read more: ForUm, 15 August, 2012
<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2012/08/15/123747.html>

UK to issue visas for Ukrainians in Poland

Great Britain has moved the centre for consideration of documents of Ukrainians seeking UK visas from the British Embassy in Ukraine to the Embassy in Poland, the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported on the web.

The application procedure does not change. Ukrainians will keep filing documents in the UK visa office in Kyiv or electronically via the web page. Then the applications and accompanying documents will be sent by a commercial courier to the appropriate centre of the UK Border Agency in Warsaw for decision-making. After that the documents will be returned to the visa office of the British embassy in Ukraine.

Visa fee for the applicants will not change, and the examination of documents will take 15 days from the date of filing.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 8 August, 2012
http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/britain_moves_visa_application_centre_for_ukrainians_to_warsaw_286868



Embassy of Italy: Visa centre works under normal schedule

The Embassy of Italy in Ukraine resumed the normal work of the visa application centre, the Italian Ambassador to Ukraine Fabrizio Romano said in an interview.

“There will be no delays!” Mr. Romano said.

The Ambassador noted that a reason for delays in receipt of documents and issuance of visas was the installation of new equipment in the visa centre of the Embassy and the following problems with the software, which are resolved now.

Read more: ForUm, 3 August, 2012

<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2012/08/03/141059.html>

Ukrainians enjoying some Greek islands without Schengen visas

A simplified procedure allowing Ukrainian citizens to visit certain Greek islands without a Schengen visa will be in effect until 8 September, 2012.

As the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesman Oleksandr Dykusharov said at a briefing in Kyiv on 1 August, 2012, “The Ministry of Public Order and Citizen Protection of Greece has taken a decision, according to which citizens of Ukraine departing from the Turkish ports of Bodrum, Marmaris, Dikili, Foca, Fethiye, Ayvalik, Cesme and Kusadasi can stay up to 15 days on the Greek islands of Chios, Kos, Lesbos, Rhodes and Samos without Schengen visas. This simplified procedure for Ukrainian citizens visiting the islands in the eastern Aegean Sea will be in effect until 8 September this year.”

To get to these Greek islands without visas one needs to purchase ferry tickets or book a hotel on the islands at any travel agency, which officially provides such services in Turkey. After that, no later than 24 hours prior to the departure of the ferry, one needs to submit the following documents to the travel company’s office: a copy of a passport, a photograph or a full application form. The company scans and sends this information to the immigration service of Greece.

At passport control on the Greek islands tourists show the original visa application form, a passport and pay EUR 35 in visa fees.

Read more: KyivPost, 1 August, 2012

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/ukrainians-can-visit-some-greek-islands-without-schengen-visas-310853.html>



Centre for labour migrants support established in Ivano-Frankivsk region

Centre for labour migrants support was established in Ivano-Frankivsk region. This was informed in the air of one of the local TV channels by the deputy of Ivano-Frankivsk regional council Taras Parfan.

“It is the first time, when the centre for labour migrants support was established in Ivano-Frankivsk oblast. It is the public organization aiming to solve the range of issues, which labour migrants are facing, through cooperation with the regional council,” Mr. Parfan said.

According to the deputy, the organization has already got in contact with public organizations of Ukrainians abroad.

Read more: Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia, 9 August, 2012
http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/3565/centre_for_labour_migrants_support_was_established_in_ivano-frankivsk_oblast

828 refugees asked for asylum in Ukraine this year

2,435 officially registered refugees from 47 countries of the world are staying on the territory of Ukraine today. Only during the first half of this year, 828 foreigners submitted applications about recognition of them as refugees or persons who need protection. During the year, which passed since the Law “On refugees and persons who need complementary or temporary protection” came into force, 37 foreigners were recognized as persons who need complementary protection for the first time, the press service of the State Migration Service of Ukraine informs.

Read more: Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia, 13 August, 2012
http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/3604/828_refugees_asked_for_asylum_in_ukraine_this_year

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Compiled by Communications team of IOM Ukraine