



NEWS FROM UKRAINE

Ukraine, EU work together for effective migration policy

The Government of Ukraine on 18 December 2013 approved a draft agreement on financing of the programme “Support to Ukraine in Managing of Migration Processes and Granting Asylum”, the governmental bulletin reports.

The total programme cost is EUR 28 million and it will be fully funded by the EU. The programme foresees three main components: EUR 4 million will be granted to improve the legal and political framework of Ukraine’s migration policy, EUR 8 million will be spent to reinforce the capacity of the migration service, and EUR 16 million to improve the migration service’s infrastructure.

Read more: ForUm, 20 December 2013

<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2013/12/20/170003.html>

UNHCR launches new online database with human rights and refugee information in Russian

On 10 December 2013, the UN Refugee Agency marked the annual Human Rights Day by launching the Russian language version of Refworld, a new online database with 4,500 human rights and refugee related documents.

The website (www.refworld.org.ru) was modelled after the Refworld database in English, which is a widely used online research and protection tool helping government officials and judges to decide whether someone is a refugee. Other stakeholders in the asylum procedure — lawyers, legal aid providers, NGOs — will also benefit from this new tool. The platform was designed to overcome the existing deficit in accurate, impartial, and up-to-date information in Russian and ensure that asylum officials in the Eastern European and other Russian speaking countries have access to comprehensive and unbiased data.

“UNHCR has long wanted to create a Russian version of Refworld, since we know that migration services and asylum lawyers working in the region need better access to country-of-origin information in order to make good decisions on asylum cases”, said Mr. Oldrich Andrysek, UNHCR Regional Representative for Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine.

Read more: UNHCR, 10 December 2013

<http://bit.ly/1hBmHm5>

Representatives of national minorities urged to maintain ethnolnational consent in Ukraine

The participants of the round table “Rights of National Minorities in the Context of Consolidation of Ukrainian Society” that took place in Kyiv on 10 December called on politicians not to speculate on the problems of interethnic and interconfessional relations.



“The political crisis and the maintenance of constitutional harmony in Ukraine must be settled through dialogue,” the resolution of the gathering states.

The round table was organized by the Assembly of Nationalities of Ukraine and the Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia.

Read more: Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia, 16 December 2013

<http://bit.ly/1hBIRpg>

5,000 Ukrainians prohibited entry to Russia in the last month

The number of citizens of Ukraine prohibited to enter Russia increased by 5,000 during the last month and reached 25,000 persons. This was informed by the Head of the Federal Migration Service (FMS) of Russia Konstantin Romodanovsky.

He assured that the prohibition does not depend on citizenship and is established with the help of a special computer system. “Can the computer make a mistake? It detects that a person has violated the term of staying on the territory of Russia for 120 days, and automatically prohibits entry for such citizens (for the term of 3 years). Nothing personal here,” the FMS Head explained.

Read more: Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia, 17 December 2013

<http://bit.ly/K23PkZ>

Russia still considering introduction of international passports requirement for Ukrainians entering its territory

Russia has not buried the idea of requiring international passports for entry to its territory by citizens of Ukraine, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Grigory Karasin announced.

“No change in our position has happened,” the diplomat said. “This, by the way, is in the interests of both countries.”

Currently Ukrainians can travel to Russia on national passports.

Read more: ForUm, 20 December 2013

<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2013/12/20/101152.html>

EU and Eastern neighbours focus on the rights of migrants, refugees and IDPs

The Eastern Partnership (EaP) Panel on Migration and Asylum meeting in Prague discussed the integration of migrants and refugees, and the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The meeting was hosted by the Czech Republic and co-organized by Azerbaijan. Representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine as well as participants from 11 EU Member States, international organizations, civil society and academia shared their experience and best practices in the sphere of integration and internal displacement challenges.



With continuously increasing migration flows, integration of third-country nationals is important for both the EU and its Eastern Neighbourhood. The experts present at the Panel meeting exchanged their views on priorities for integration of migrants and refugees. Academics explained why socio-economic integration is easier to achieve than civic and cultural, while European Commission representatives gave an overview of different EU policy tools for integration. Perceiving immigrants not as a problem, but as a part of the solution, remains key to successful integration.

Read more: EU Neighbourhood Info Centre, 23 December 2013

<http://bit.ly/1dA3G0m>

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