

## NEWS FROM UKRAINE

### **Hungarian-Ukrainian Business Club established in Budapest**

One of its main objectives is promoting economic cooperation between Ukraine and Hungary in a free trade zone between Ukraine and European Union (EU) countries.

Ukrainian - Hungarian Business Club was created by a group of Hungarian businessmen - small and medium businesses, newly elected President of the Business Club Yurii Kravchenko informed in January, 2012. This association plans to participate in joint Ukrainian-Hungarian economic projects and programmes and to establish information exchange, by creating a consulting and information office, its own portal and monthly economic bulletin.

**Source:** National Radio Company of Ukraine, 5 January, 2012

<http://www.nrcu.gov.ua/index.php?id=148&listid=160898>

### **Ukrainians allowed making foreign passports since 16**

Since 1 January, 2012, the law came into force according to which the age reduces from 18 to 16 years old since which it is allowed getting a foreign passport for citizens, who permanently or temporarily reside abroad.

Such citizens now can petition about getting a passport also at the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Earlier, getting of the foreign passport before 18 years of age was only possible on availability of requirements to have the foreign passport in the foreign country and in case a child adopted by a foreigner leaves for permanent place of residence.

**Source:** National Radio Company of Ukraine, 4 January, 2012

<http://www.nrcu.gov.ua/index.php?id=148&listid=160814>

### **'Single window' for investors starts working in Ukraine**

A law on the drafting and implementation of investment projects under a "single window" principle came into force in Ukraine on 1 January, 2012.

According to the law, regional centres for investment and development, if they receive requests from investors for assistance in the implementation of investment projects, will have to provide such assistance for free. In particular, regional centres will need to develop an action plan on the drafting and implementation of investment projects, as well as to form and give investors a package of documents required for the implementation of investment projects.

**Source:** National Radio Company of Ukraine, 3 January, 2012

<http://www.nrcu.gov.ua/index.php?id=148&listid=160740>

## Ukraine-Brazil agreement on visa-free regime comes into force

The agreement came into effect on 30 December, 2012. Citizens of Ukraine and Brazil can now travel for tourism and business purposes without visas for a period not exceeding 90 days within six months from the date of first entry.

The agreement was signed in Kyiv on 2 December, 2009 during former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's visit to Ukraine. As reported, Ukraine also signed agreements on the visa-free regime with Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei, Israel, India, Serbia and some other countries. In addition, the country signed agreements on the simplification of the visa regime with Bulgaria, Norway and Turkey.

**Source:** National Radio Company of Ukraine, 3 January, 2012  
<http://www.nrcu.gov.ua/index.php?id=148&listid=160713>

## Ukraine attracts labour migrants by comparatively high living standard

Ukraine attracts labour migrant by a higher living standard against developing countries. "They come to work here because our living standard is higher against the majority of developing countries," Head of the Migration Studies Department at the Ptukha Institute of Demography and Social Studies under the National Science Academy Oleksii Pozniak informed.

According to Mr. Pozniak, the number of labour migrants in Ukraine exceeds 2 million persons, but estimates at 5-7 million do not reflect the actual situation.

As national coordinator of the International Labour Organization in Ukraine Vasyl Kostrytsia said, in Ukraine there are no clear data on the number of labour migrants. But, as expected, by November, 2012, it will be possible to carry out several measurements of labour migration with a special module, included into the labour force studies.

An agreement about development of such a module under the auspices of the International Labour Organization was reached with the State Statistics Service of Ukraine.

**Read more:** The National News Agency of Ukraine, 10 January, 2012  
<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=241852>

## Croatia simplifies visa regime for certain categories of Ukrainians

Croatia has simplified visa regime for Ukrainian citizens with the existing dual or multiple Schengen visas, long-term visas D or residence permits issued by a member country of the Schengen zone.

According to the decision of the Government of Croatia, from 1 January, 2012 to 31 December, 2012, the citizens of Ukraine who have these types of visas or permits will not need to register a Croatian visa for entry, transit and stay in Croatia.

At the same time, these types of visas or permits shall remain in force at the time of departure of a foreigner from Croatia.

**Read more:** The National News Agency of Ukraine, 2 January, 2012  
<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=241374>

## Ukraine, Portugal to regulate social security issues

President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich signed the law “On Ratification of the Agreement on Social Security between Ukraine and the Portugal Republic,” the Presidential press service informs.

The agreement, signed on 7 July, 2009, in Lisbon, is aimed at development of mutual cooperation in the sphere of social protection of Ukrainian and Portuguese population and settlement of social security issues of both states.

The agreement is applied to the Ukrainian legislation as follows: social insurance, which concerns illness (temporary disability), pregnancy and childbearing (maternity), aid for burial, accidents at work, professional diseases and/or death based on those reasons, unemployment, old age pension, disability pension, survivor’s pension, long service pension according to legislation on compulsory state pension insurance; state aid to families with children when a child is born and the nursing aid until the child reaches three years of age.

As regards Portugal, the agreement is applied as follows: for the social security system - to legislation as regards social security schemes, applied to the majority of people, working for hire and self-employed, and to schemes of voluntary participation in the insurance system on the assigned aid - in case of illness, maternity, paternity and adoption of children, professional diseases, unemployment, disability, reaching a certain age and death; to the scheme, which is applied to the aid for family expenses of the subsystem on protection of families under the system of social protection of citizens; to the scheme on compensation of losses in case of accidents at work.

As it was reported, the Parliament of Ukraine ratified this agreement on 21 December, 2011.

**Read more:** The National News Agency of Ukraine, 12 January, 2012  
<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=242063>

## Hot line for complaints about doctors will be introduced in Ukraine

Until year 2014, the National Action Plan on patients’ security will be set up and realized in Ukraine. It is planned to launch a free hot line 0-800-301-300. All the cases of unsatisfactory servicing will be considered by a special commission.

A public analysis of mistakes will help not allowing them in the future. A special attention in setting up the National Plan will be paid to medicaments’ safety. In particular, it is planned to realize the project “Safe Drugstore.” If a patient is not satisfied with the quality of the preparation and it will be proved that this medicine is really not qualitative, a patient will get compensation to the amount about USD 6,000.

**Source:** National Radio Company of Ukraine, 11 January, 2012  
<http://www.nrcu.gov.ua/index.php?id=148&listid=161225>

## Customs Union to help Ukraine obtain European Union membership

Free trade area with the European Union (EU) and free trade area with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) do not exclude each other, Ukrainian Government’s representative on cooperation with Russia and CIS countries Valery Muntiyany said in an interview with “Era” radio in January, 2012.

“Ukraine has interests in the West and in the East, as well as North and South. 28 per cent of trade turnover with EU countries is also of value. But Ukraine will not strive for free trade area with EU at any cost,” the official informed.

According to Mr. Muntiyany, membership in the Customs Union will help Ukraine to enter Europe under more advantageous conditions. “Being a member of the Customs Union we can associate in EU under better conditions and become an equal partner, not outskirts. Through the Customs Union we can enter

both financial, innovation and goods and services markets of the EU and markets of Asian region. We cannot do it alone,” Ukrainian Government’s representative underlined referring to research results of Academy of Science.

**Read more:** ForUm, 17 January, 2012

<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2012/01/17/104027.html>

## Ukraine among migration leaders

Ukraine is among 10 world country leaders for migration, says Ukrainian magazine “Weekly.ua”. According to the edition, the Ukrainians, who were scattered across the planet, now number about 6.6 million people; instead, our country has accepted 5 million people.

According to the World Bank report “Migration and Remittances” in year 2011, the main countries where the citizens of Ukraine immigrated to, were Russia, Poland, the United States of America, Kazakhstan, Israel, Germany, Moldova, Italy, Belarus, Spain.

Ukraine accepted nationals from Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

In year 2010, migrants remitted to Ukraine about USD 5.3 billion.

In year 2010, the global volume of international money transfers, according to the World Bank, amounted to over USD 440 billion. Of this amount, USD 325 billion went to developing countries – six per cent more than in year 2009. It is believed that the real figure of transfers is much higher.

In terms of the volume of remittances sent from the country, on the top are the United States of America (USD 48 billion), followed by Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and Russia.

**Source:** The National News Agency of Ukraine, 21 January, 2012

<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=242848>

## Poland opens visa centre in Ternopil

Poland opened a centre for receipt of visa application forms in Ternopil (Ukraine’s west), which will start working since 23 January, 2012.

“Since this time on, city residents will not have to spend their time and funds in order to go, for instance, to Lviv, to open a visa,” head of the Ternopil Regional State Administration Valentyn Khopt informed in January, 2012.

As Polish Consul General in Lviv Jaroslaw Drozd noted, services of the centre will cost UAH 225 (1 USD - 7.99 UAH) to citizens.

“Visas in this centre will be issued for no longer time against the Consulate. We will even try that this procedure for visa centres continued one day less,” Mr. Drozd assured.

Residents of Ternopil, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Zakarpattia and Chernivtsi regions will be able to get visas at the new centre, which belong to the Lviv Consulate district.

Similar centres have been already opened in Ivano-Frankivsk and Lviv, a centre for receipt of visa applications will start working in Dnipropetrovsk on 26 January, 2012, and soon - in Donetsk.

**Source:** The National News Agency of Ukraine, 20 January, 2012

<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=242840>

## Cash can be withdrawn from WebMoney system at Ukrainian State Enterprise of Postal Services “Ukrposhta” departments

The WebMoney system introduced possibility of withdrawing cash from electronic money Web Money in Ukraine (WMU) at “Ukrposhta” state mail enterprise departments.

“It is possible to withdraw WMU from the purse and to receive a transfer in the cash hryvnia at any “Ukrposhta” department. For this, it is necessary to fill in a relevant form on the website: [banking.ukrgarant.com](http://banking.ukrgarant.com), to write one’s passport data and an address to receive a transfer,” the WebMoney press service explained.

In 12 working days, a paper notification will be sent to the user’s mail address about successful transfer of the funds. Following that, he/she can receive money at the designated “Ukrposhta” department, having presented a passport.

Maximum amount of one transfer is UAH 5,000, the number of transfers is unlimited.

**Source:** The National News Agency of Ukraine, 20 January, 2012  
<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=242828>

## European Centre for Modern Ukraine unveiled in Brussels

The newly formed non-governmental organization “European Centre for Modern Ukraine” (ECMU) started its activities in Brussels in January, 2012, an UKRINFORM correspondent in Belgium learned from ECMU Director Inna Kirsch.

Ms. Kirsch said that the ECMU is chaired by Party of Regions Member of Parliament Leonid Kozhara.

According to Ms. Kirsch, the new non-governmental organization is to inform about political life in Ukraine, taking into account the promotion of the country’s European integration aspirations, the introduction of contacts at the political, business and cultural levels between Ukrainian and European politicians and civil society, representatives of expert community.

“Among the many pressing issues the ECMU will pay special attention to the problems of the Association Agreement between the European Union (EU) and Ukraine (including an in-depth and comprehensive trade agreement,” Ms. Kirsch said.

Additionally, the organization at the expert level will offer policy and legislative initiatives aimed at developing cooperation between Ukraine and the EU.

**Source:** The National News Agency of Ukraine, 19 January, 2012  
<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=242714>

## **New terminal D tested at Boryspil airport**

The first operational testing of new terminal D was held at the International Airport Boryspil on 18 January, 2012, the press service of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine informed.

Representatives of all control services and 50 volunteers, who played the role of passengers, were attracted to this event.

During examinations, the state border guards revealed several “passengers” without documents or with damaged or forged passports. Communication during carrying out control was not only in Ukrainian, but also in the English language.

By holding of the European Football Championship 2012 finals in Ukraine, it is planned to hold another about 15 similar training sessions, where all the processes and equipment of the largest in Ukraine terminal will be tested.

As it was reported, new terminal D will be able to receive 12 million passengers a year. Its opening is planned for 25 March, 2012.

Airport Boryspil services about 70 per cent of air passenger transportation of the country. Currently, three terminals are functioning at the airport - B, C, F

**Source:** The National News Agency of Ukraine, 19 January, 2012

<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=242657>