



NEWS FROM UKRAINE

Ukraine sparing with funds to fight human trafficking – U.S. Department of State

Over the last year the Ukrainian Government did not demonstrate an increased effort in the investigation of modern slavery crimes and protection of their victims. Therefore, the country has been moved to the watchlist, the annual U.S. Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report 2013 states.

“The Government of Ukraine does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. Despite these steps, the Government did not demonstrate evidence of overall increasing efforts to address human trafficking – particularly in terms of devoting resources to investigating trafficking crimes and protecting trafficking victims; therefore, Ukraine is placed on Tier 2 Watch List,” the report says.

Such findings are based on the reduction of the number of law enforcement officers who deal with human trafficking crimes, decreasing number of criminal investigations and identified victims, as well as other information collected by the Department of State for the report.

The authors noted that Ukraine is “a source, transit, and, increasingly, destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking.” Ukrainians most at risk of trafficking are from rural areas with limited access to employment opportunities and are often targeted by Ukrainian recruiters using fraud, coercion, and debt bondage.

Unlike last year's report, the current one calls not 36, but 16 foreign countries, where Ukrainian victims of human trafficking were transported to. This list, the same as in the past year, includes Russia, Poland, Iraq, Spain, Turkey, Cyprus, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Israel, Italy, the United Arab Emirates, Montenegro, Kazakhstan, and three new destinations – Great Britain, Seychelles and Tunisia.

In Ukraine itself, according to the report, there were cases of using forced labour of citizens of Moldova, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Cameroon and Azerbaijan.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 20 June 2013

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_sparing_with_funds_to_fight_human_trafficking___us_department_of_state_305427

Ukrainians become the biggest migration group in European Union

According to an annual European Commission report on migration and refugees, which was published in Brussels on 17 June 2013, Ukrainian citizens were the most numerous migration group in the European Union countries in 2011.

About 204,000 Ukrainian citizens received EU residence permits in 2011, forming the largest group of regular migrants in the EU. In second place are citizens of the United States (189,000 people), followed by representatives of India (179,000), China (153,000) and Morocco (120,000).

The 20.7 million third-country nationals living in the EU amounted to some 4.1 per cent of the total EU population. A third of them came to the EU using the right of family reunification, and a quarter came to work. Some 21 per cent of migrants were students, and the rest moved to the EU in search of political asylum or for other reasons. In Germany, 5.7 per cent of the population does not have the citizenship of any EU member state.

Read more: KyivPost, 19 June 2013

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/ukrainians-become-the-biggest-migration-group-in-european-union-325869.html>



Russian authorities: about a million Ukrainians work in Russia irregularly

According to the Head of the Federal Migration Service Konstantin Romodanovskyi, about one million Ukrainian citizens are working in Russia irregularly. In addition, 750 thousand Ukrainians are candidates for getting an automatic ban on entry into Russia for a period of three years.

Mr. Romodanovskyi stated this at an international conference on the prospects of the Russian-Ukrainian relations in Moscow on 25 June 2013, the correspondent of Ukrinform in Russia reported.

“Today, approximately 1.5 million citizens of Ukraine are staying in the Russian territory, of whom 111 thousand are legally employed and 350 thousand came to visit their relatives, to study, or for treatment. It turns out to be that more than a million Ukrainians are working without proper documents,” he said.

Mr. Romodanovskyi reminded that the Russian Federation is working to toughen penalties for violations of immigration laws.

“The legislation provides for fines, deportation, or imprisonment for up to 4 years. Earlier this year, the rules were launched, under which a foreign national who does not notify the migration service within 120 days from the date of entry to the Russian Federation will be automatically banned entry for three years. Today we have about 750 thousand citizens of Ukraine who are candidates for entry prohibition,” Mr. Romodanovskyi said.

According to Mr. Romodanovskyi, on the average the Ukrainians in Russia earn more than USD 1 thousand a month.

Mr. Romodanovskyi believes that irregular immigration must be fought together. According to him, restrictive measures alone cannot solve the problem, so it is necessary to establish organized recruitment of workers from the CIS countries, including Ukraine.

“We are ready for a dialogue on the issue, but to date we do not understand to which body of the Ukrainian executive power this work should be attributed,” he said.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 26 June 2013

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/about_a_million_ukrainians_working_in_russia_illegally___fms_head_305602

Ambassador of Italy reports improvement in visa issuance to Ukrainians

The situation with the issuance of Italian visas to Ukrainian nationals has improved over recent years, Italian Ambassador to Ukraine Fabrizio Romano told Ukrinform reporter on 1 June in Kyiv.

“The number of problems with the issuance of visas has decreased,” Ambassador stated.

According to Mr. Romano, the Italian Embassy has recently installed new software that simplifies the processing of visa information. In addition, the number of officers in the visa section has grown. Ambassador Romano noted that access to the visa department of the embassy has been simplified and new visa centres opened in Kyiv, Odesa, Lviv and Donetsk.

The diplomat added that the Italian Embassy plans to open the visa centres in Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Crimea soon.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 1 June 2013

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ambassador_romano_says_situation_with_visa_issuance_to_ukrainians_improved_304647



14 Lithuanian visa centres to start working in Ukraine

In June, 14 visa centres of the Republic of Lithuania opened in Ukraine, the Head of the Department for Consular Service of the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine Andrii Sybiha said during the opening of the visa centre of the Lithuanian Embassy in Kyiv.

“Opening of this centre is another effective step towards further liberalization of the travel regime for citizens of Ukraine to Lithuania and the EU. The ultimate goal of our action is to achieve a visa free regime for the Ukrainian citizens traveling to the EU,” Mr. Sybiha said.

Foreign Minister of the Republic of Lithuania Linas Linkevičius noted: “The opening of this centre is a symbolic moment for us, and we are paying a bilateral visit to discuss our cooperation and partnership with Ukraine.”

Mr. Linkevičius stressed that the relations between Ukraine and Lithuania are developing.

Read more: ForUm, 31 May 2013

<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2013/05/31/154450.html>

German visa centre opened in Kharkiv

Visa centre of the German Embassy has opened in Kharkiv, the press service of the Kharkiv City Council reported on 11 June 2013.

The official opening ceremony was attended by German Consul General in Donetsk Klaus Zillikens and German Honorary Consul in Kharkiv Tetiana Havrysh. “The centre will greatly simplify the procedure for obtaining visas for travellers. Ms. Havrysh said that the visa centre can service up to 150 people a day and is ready to expand the staff if necessary.

Read more: National Radio Company of Ukraine, 12 June 2013

<http://www.nrcu.gov.ua/en/148/533702/>

Kosovo introduces visas for Ukrainians

Kosovo introduces visa travels for the citizens of Ukraine and a number of states from 1 July 2013, the Director of the Information Policy Department of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry Yevhen Perebyinis announced on 26 June 2013.

“The visa regime of entering Kosovo will be introduced from July 1 this year for the nationals of several states, including Ukraine,” Mr. Perebyinis said.

According to him, the Ukrainians will be able to apply for a visa to Kosovo in the country’s diplomatic missions in Hungary, Bulgaria and Macedonia.

At the same time, the diplomat noted that citizens with a valid multiple Schengen visa will be able to enter Kosovo for a period not exceeding 15 days.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 26 June 2013

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/kosovo_introduces_visas_for_ukrainians_starting_july_305617



Poland simplifies immigration procedures for foreigners

Council of Ministers of the Republic of Poland approved the new draft law on foreigners on 18 June 2013.

The document stipulates the range of simplifications for foreigners trying to obtain residence, education or work permits in Poland.

The document states that the temporary residence permits in Poland will be issued not for two, but for three years. Besides, a temporary residence permit will serve as a work permit; thus, it will not be necessary to obtain two separate documents.

At the same time, the procedure of work permits issue will not be eliminated. Employers will obtain these permits so that their future foreign employees would be able to obtaining Polish working visas. A foreigner will also be able to be unemployed during one month without losing the residence and work permits issued earlier.

Read more: Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia, 19 June 2013

http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/5500/poland_simplifies_immigration_procedures_for_foreigners

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