



NEWS FROM UKRAINE

Ukrainian President signed law expanding rights of foreigners of Ukrainian origin

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich has signed a law expanding the rights of foreigners of Ukrainian origin, the presidential press service reported on 3 March, 2012.

The amendments to the law on legal status of foreign Ukrainians suggests that a person with the status of a foreign Ukrainian has the right to work at enterprises, institutions and organizations or carry out other labour activities under the same terms and procedures as envisaged for Ukrainian citizens. The document also establishes annual quotas for foreign Ukrainians to receive government scholarships to study in Ukrainian higher educational institutions.

In addition, the law cancels restrictions on the period of validity of documents certifying the status of a foreign Ukrainian.

Read more: Kyiv Post, 3 March, 2012

<http://www.kyivpost.com/news/nation/detail/123612/>

Ukraine expels 13,000 irregular migrants in 2011

Ukraine expelled 13,000 irregular migrants from the country last year, the Ukrainian Prosecutor General's office reported.

More than 310,000 foreigners are currently on the books of Ukraine's Migration Service, the annual report said. Most of them come from the Commonwealth of Independent States, Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Africa. The statement also said that 55,000 foreign nationals, as well as 21,000 Ukrainian citizens, were prosecuted for violating the rules of staying in Ukraine in year 2011.

Ukraine has raised the quota for legal migration by 12 per cent to 8,217 migrants per 2012.

Read more: China Daily, 1 March, 2012

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2012-03/01/content_14729718.htm

Polish long-term visas to become free for Ukrainians

Poland has agreed to cancel the payment for issuing national long-term visas (Type D) for Ukrainian citizens, Ukrainian Foreign Ministry Kostyantyn Hryshchenko informed on 3 March, 2012.

"Poland has accepted our initiative to cancel a fee of EUR 20 for their national long-term visas (Type D). Now we will launch a respective procedure in order to sign a bilateral agreement on this issue," the Minister said.

Mr. Hryshchenko informed that over 200,000 visas of this kind worth more than EUR 4 million were issued in year 2011. "Now this money will remain in the budgets of Ukrainian families," the Minister said.

In addition, Mr. Hryshchenko noted that it was currently possible to get Schengen visas at the Polish Embassy in Ukraine by showing tickets for EURO 2012 matches and insurance certificates.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 3 March, 2012 <http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=246478>



Poland issued over 570,000 Schengen, national visas to Ukrainians in 2011

Polish consular offices last year granted to the Ukrainians a total of 571,911 visas, 20 per cent more than in 2010 (452,622 visas), the Polish Foreign Ministry reported.

In 2011, Ukrainians were issued 371,188 Schengen visas, Type C and 200,723 national visas, Type D, reads a report of the Polish Foreign Ministry.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 21 March, 2012

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poland_issued_more_than_570000_schengen_national_visas_to_ukrainians_in_2011

Croatia cancels visas for Ukrainians from 1 April till 31 October

The decision to abolish the visa regime is made for the period of the tourist season. Ukrainian nationals – the bearers of valid passports of Ukraine of any type – will be able to enter Croatia without visas for up to 90 days within six months from the date of first entry, as well as to transit through its territory.

Read more: National Radio Company of Ukraine, 12 March, 2012

<http://www.nrcu.gov.ua/index.php?id=148&listid=166109>

Italy changed residence permits issue rules

Italy changed the rules for issue of residence permits. It is necessary now to conclude the so-called “integration agreement” for this. During the following two years after the agreement conclusion, emigrants must collect points.

For example, from 4 to 12 points are given for knowledge of Italian language, from 2 to 8 points are given for availability of a diploma of a European standard. The points will be lost for breach of law. If a person has less than 30 points, a residence permit will become an unachievable dream.

More strict rules are connected with the inflow of emigrants, the experts explain.

Today, according to the official data, 220,000 Ukrainians live in Italy. According to estimations of the Society of Ukrainians in Italy, there are about half a million of them.

Read more: Institute of human rights and prevention of extremism and xenophobia, 26 March, 2012

http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/2730/italy_changed_the_rules_for_issue_of_residence_permits_for_foreigners

UEFA to prevent racism during Euro 2012

All the discriminatory and racial themed slogans and symbols will be controlled at all Euro 2012 matches in Ukraine and Poland within the campaign “Respect the differences”.

The campaign will be held in cooperation with the UEFA longtime partner, the Football Against Racism in Europe network (FARE) and its partner organization “Never Again”. “Never Again” will monitor incidents of discrimination through symbols and slogans. According to UEFA’s official website, this monitoring has been an important part of the FARE network’s activities during major international tournaments.



During Euro 2012 FARE representatives will monitor the situation and prepare reports on violations for UEFA. Two FARE observers will be present at each tournament. If possible, they will represent the countries, whose teams play in a particular match. Most monitors will be hired from the FARE network staff and various partner organizations. In addition, FARE will conduct educational events and organize fans' meetings in Poland and Ukraine.

Read more: Interfax, 17 March, 2012
<http://www.interfax.com.ua/eng/main/98142/>

30-40 per cent increase in tourism to Ukraine expected during Euro 2012

Holding the finals of the Euro 2012 could increase the number of foreign tourists coming to Ukraine by 30-40 per cent, said the head of the State Agency of Ukraine for Tourism and Resorts Olena Shapovalova, opening the Ukrainian stand at the International Tourism Exhibition in Berlin (ITB). "Euro 2012 is a step on the way to large-scale tourism," said Ms. Shapovalova. According to her, Ukraine is adequately prepared for the football championship.

Read more: Kyiv Post, 13 March, 2012
<http://www.kyivpost.com/news/euro2012/general/detail/124202/>

Russian-Ukrainian agreement on information and cultural centres ratified by Parliament of Russia

The agreement stipulates the creation of legal framework for operation of information and cultural centres in both countries and favourable conditions for developing and enhancing humanitarian and cultural relations between the states. It also lays groundwork for creating new cultural institutions. Presently, there are only two such centres in Moscow and Kyiv.

Read more: ITAR TASS News Agency, 13 March, 2012
<http://www.itar-tass.com/en/c154/365226.html>

Korean diaspora in Ukraine almost tripled over past decade

The Korean diaspora in Ukraine has increased threefold during the past 10 years. About 35 thousand ethnic Koreans live currently in Ukraine, said the director of the Korean Cultural Centre in Ukraine Kan Den Sik during the round table "Ukraine and Korea in "glocal" context: prospects of strategic partnership", held in Kyiv on 13 March, 2012.

"Ethnic Koreans mainly migrated to Ukraine after the Soviet Union's collapse. Over the past decade the flow of migrants from Asian republics dramatically increased. If, according to the 2000 data, there were 13,000 Koreans in Ukraine, then their number almost tripled," said Mr. Kan Den Sik. According to him, Koreans began to migrate to Ukraine from Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan in search of better living conditions.

Read more: Institute of human rights and prevention of extremism and xenophobia, 14 March, 2012
http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/2666/korean_diaspora_in_ukraine_increased_almost_three_times_during_10_years



Ukraine has become one of the leaders of international education

Foreign students refill the state budget of Ukraine with USD 115 million annually, Ukrainian Minister of education Dmytro Tabachnyk told at a press conference in March, 2012.

According to the Minister, in 2011 Ukraine joined the top 10 countries in the sphere of international education. “Over the recent years we observe gradual and steady increase of foreign students in Ukraine,” Mr. Tabachnyk noted.

The Minister informed that for today there are 55,000 students from 130 countries studying in Ukrainian institutes. “They bring to the state budget about USD 115 million annually, and if we take sociological observations, it is only fourth part of their total expenses for accommodation and living in Ukraine,” the Minister summed up.

Read more: ForUm, 20 March, 2012

<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2012/03/20/163048.html>

EUBAM looks to prioritize joint criminal activity strategic analysis on Moldova-Ukraine border

The Head of the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM), Udo Burkholder, says that EUBAM will be prioritizing a joint strategic analysis of risks deriving from criminal activity on the Moldova-Ukraine border. Mr. Burkholder’s comments came at the fifth tri-lateral meeting of EUBAM and the security services of both countries held in Odesa.

Looking to the future, Mr. Burkholder stressed that EUBAM, together with Ukrainian and Moldovan security services, should use all available tools in order to meet the challenge of tackling cross-border crime.

Apart from the participation of both services in EUBAM training initiatives, the parties highlighted the efforts of the two working groups, one to address irregular migration and trafficking in human beings and the second to address illicit smuggling activities. These working groups, coordinated by EUBAM, provide the security services with a mechanism through which they exchange information.

The Joint Border Control Operation (JBCO) AKKERMANN, 2011 was singled out for special praise at the meeting. Together with other agencies, the Security Service of Ukraine and the Security Service of the Republic of Moldova played a major role in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the operation, which managed to make seizures valued at EUR 3.2 million – a six-fold increase on JBCO TYRA, 2010.

Read more: ENPI Information Centre, 1 March, 2012

http://www.enpi-info.eu/maineast.php?id_type=1&id=28152&lang_id=450&utm_source=4marketing.it%2C%204dem.it&utm_medium=Email%20Marketing&utm_content=Subscriber%231044&utm_campaign=EUBAM%20looks%20to%20prioritise%20joint%20criminal%20activity%20strategic%20analysis%20on%20Moldova-Ukraine%20border

Ukrainian Ombudsman signs Cooperation Agreement with IOM

There are over 200 million migrants in the world, said the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights Nina Karpachova during the signing of an agreement with the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

According to Ukrainian Ombudsman, Ukraine is most often visited by residents of the former Soviet states. At the same time, the majority of emigrants from Ukraine lives in the Russian Federation, Germany, the United States,



Israel, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland.

“Human rights have no borders, so the institution of Ombudsman in each country, as well as the International Organization for Migration, have to care about migrants’ rights protection,” Mrs. Karpachova said.

According to the Chief of the IOM Mission in Ukraine Manfred Profazi, IOM appreciates the support and attention of the Ukrainian Ombudsman, taking into account the increase in migration flows in the 21st century.

As Mr. Profazi put it, migration could contribute towards resolving demographic problems in many countries, though discrimination and xenophobic sentiments are still widespread.

There are more Ukrainians living abroad than foreign emigrants in Ukraine, Mr. Profazi said, adding that the agreement between IOM and Ukrainian Ombudsman will contribute to the protection of all migrants’ rights.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 6 March, 2012
<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=246623>

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Compiled by Communications team of IOM Ukraine