



NEWS FROM UKRAINE

EU Council approves amended visa facilitation agreement with Ukraine

The Council of the European Union approved the amended EU-Ukraine visa facilitation agreement, Ukraine's Commissioner on Foreign Policy and Integration Processes and Representative to the EU Kostiantyn Yeliseiev informed.

He said that Ukraine was working to speed up the implementation of relevant domestic procedures. "I hope that this amended agreement on the simplified procedure for issuing visas will come into force on 1 July of this year," Mr. Yeliseiev added.

"We will not stop there. Our priority is a visa-free regime, and we will be working on this," Mr. Yeliseiev stressed.

As reported, on 18 April, the European Parliament gave the green light to the entry into force of an agreement on amendments to the visa facilitation agreement between Ukraine and the EU.

Read more: ForUm, 13 May 2013

<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2013/05/13/162416.html>

Ukraine, Iceland to jointly combat irregular migration

The Government of Ukraine adopted the corresponding decree on 29 April 2013 No. 277-p "On the approval of the draft agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of Iceland on the readmission of persons", the Ukrainian Government's press office reported.

The provisions of the agreement are aimed at providing legal framework for coordination and cooperation between the competent authorities of the two countries on the prevention and combating irregular immigration.

The Ukrainian Government noted that this agreement ensures the introduction of principles and rules that for the rapid and efficient identification and safe and orderly return of persons who do not comply with the rules of entry, exit and residence in the territories of the contracting parties.

Read more: ForUm, 7 May 2013

<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2013/05/07/104026.html>

Over 60,000 foreigners study at Ukrainian universities

According to the Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine Dmytro Tabachnyk, over 61,000 foreign students are currently studying at higher educational institutions in Ukraine, and the leader among Ukrainian cities in terms of the number of foreign students is Kharkiv, where more than 20,000 citizens of other countries get higher education.

"It is nice that among these 61,000 foreigners 4,000 foreign students represent European countries," Mr. Tabachnyk added.



The Minister also said that education of foreign students in Ukraine is an important aspect from an economic point of view. He said that thanks to foreign students revenues to Ukraine's state budget grow every year by UAH 500 million.

"In 2012-2013, foreign students left UAH 4.3 billion as payment for education," Mr. Tabachnyk stated.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 14 May 2013

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/tabachnyk_over_60000_foreigners_study_at_ukrainian_universities_303187

Ukrainian labour migrants are welcomed in Europe

Ukrainian labour migrants are gladly invited to work in European countries, because they are industrious and honest. This was stated during the presentation of the book "Mom on Skype" by the Chief of Mission of the International Organization for Migration in Ukraine Manfred Profazi on 23 April 2013.

He said that there are several factors indicating the fact that migration from Ukraine shall not decrease, but, on the contrary, would increase. Some of the reasons include the democratic situation in the European countries and in Russia. Taking aging and depopulation into account, these countries shall attract migrants from Ukraine.

Read more: Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia, 14 May 2013

http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/5311/ukrainian_labour_migrants_are_in_popular_demand_in_europe

Ukrainian women migrate to Italy and Greece

Italy and Greece are the main countries of labour migration for Ukrainian women, stated a senior researcher with the National Institute for Strategic Studies Olena Malynovska during the presentation of the book "Mom on Skype" in Kyiv on 23 April 2013.

"The destination countries where women make up the majority, even the overwhelming majority of migrants, are Italy and Greece," Ms. Malynovska said.

According to her words, the unification of Ukrainian families takes place abroad. Also as a result of the migration of women, their children leave Ukraine as well, because they are attracted by the financial wellbeing of their parents.

Read more: Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia, 13 May 2013

http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/5306/ukrainian_women_migrate_to_italy_and_greece_more_frequently__research

Ukraine poses no immigration risk to Europe, diplomat says

Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine Andrii Olefirov believes that Ukrainians do not pose an immigration risk for the European Union Member States.



Mr. Olefirov said this during the conference “Ukraine-EU: Towards a Common Future” in Kyiv on 16 May 2013. “Ukrainians are not an immigration risk for any country of the European Union,” Mr. Olefirov said.

Mr. Olefirov recalled that in 2007, when the agreement on visa facilitation along with the readmission agreement with the EU were signed (which obliges Ukraine to take back irregular migrants from Ukraine and from other countries who came irregularly in the EU via Ukraine), the European Union did not believe that Ukrainians would not become irregular immigrants in the EU. However, as the diplomat says, in accordance with this agreement, Ukraine every year takes back “not hundreds of thousands, not tens of thousands, but hundreds of foreign citizens”, and only some Ukrainian nationals.

Ambassador of Slovakia to Ukraine Pavol Hamzik also does not see immigration risks for his country from Ukrainians. “Ukrainian citizens do not pose a risk to Slovakia, in particular from the point of view of irregular employment,” he said. The diplomat believes that the European side should help “get closer to visa-free relations, allow Ukrainian citizens to travel to the EU.”

Apart from this, Mr. Hamzik says, Ukraine will be able to move faster on the issue of visa liberalization with the EU if the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union is signed at the Eastern Partnership Summit in November this year.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 17 May 2013

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_poses_no_immigration_risk_to_europe_diplomat_says_303469

First in the CIS countries Honorary Consulate of Israel opens in Simferopol

The first in the CIS countries Honorary Consulate of Israel was opened in Simferopol on the initiative of the Crimean Verkhovna Rada and the Crimean Government, under the auspices of the Embassy of the State of Israel.

Yan Epshtein was appointed the Honorary Consul. He is a well-known public figure and the head of the cultural project named “Jews Wisdom Carried through the Ages”.

The main task of the Consulate will be supporting mutually beneficial bilateral relations in the economic, tourist, trade, cultural, scientific and humanitarian spheres. A special attention will be paid to joint projects in the sphere of education, attraction of investments from Israel to the Crimean economy. The jurisdiction of the Honorary Consulate includes the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 21 May 2013

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/first_in_cis_countries_israeli_honorary_sonsulate_opens_in_simferopol_303686

Czech Republic to issue long-term Schengen visas to Ukrainians for tourism and treatment

The Embassy of the Czech Republic in Ukraine will start issuing from 22 May 2013 not only single-, but also multiple-entry visas to Ukrainian citizens for tourism and medical treatment for one and two years, reads a statement posted on the official website of the Embassy.



“A Schengen multiple-entry visa may be issued if an applicant proves and justifies his intention to travel frequently and regularly, or in cases when the applicant proves his excellence and reliability, particularly by the fact that he/her used his/her previous Schengen visas in accordance with rules,” reads the statement.

In addition, an applicant must prove his/her economic situation in the country of origin and the intention to leave the territory of the Member States of the Schengen Area before the expiration of the visa.

The decision to issue multiple-entry visas, according to the Embassy, was made according to the “policy of the Czech Republic in support of individual and organized tourism and spa industry, expanding opportunities for personal contacts between citizens of Ukraine and the Czech Republic, in accordance with the priorities of the European Union’s Eastern Partnership, and as a sign of support for Ukraine’s European aspirations.”

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

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/czech_republic_to_issue_long_term_schengen_visas_to_ukrainians_for_tourism_and_treatment_303655

Bulgaria to issue multiple-entry visas to Ukrainians who visited country last year

Citizens of Ukraine, Russia, Moldova and Belarus, who used Bulgarian visas last year, may receive multiple-entry visas to this country this year for a period of six months and a year, the Second Secretary of the Bulgarian Embassy in Ukraine Ismegyul Ahmed told UKRINFORM.

The cost of a Bulgarian visa for Ukrainian citizens is EUR 35 without any additional charges, regardless of the number of entries and duration of the visa. Exceptions are the category of citizens visas for whom they are free in accordance with the EU-Ukraine visa facilitation agreement.

The cost of services on receiving, processing and transporting visa documents to visa centres is EUR 22.

While submitting applications directly to the consular services of the Bulgarian Embassy in Kyiv and the Bulgarian Consulate General in Odesa, applicants pay a visa fee of EUR 35, regardless of the number of entries and duration of the visa.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 23 May 2013

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/bulgaria_to_issue_multiple_entry_visas_to_ukrainians_who_visited_country_last_year_303943

Britain to issue more long-term visas to Ukrainians

The British Embassy in Ukraine is planning to seek an increase in the number of UK visas being issued to Ukrainian citizens, the UK Ambassador Simon Smith said.

“We will seek to increase the issuing of long-term visas to those citizens who have grounds for regular trips to the UK,” the diplomat said in an interview with Interfax-Ukraine.



He said that Ukrainians can obtain a UK visa for a period of two, five or ten years. “Of course, those wishing to get a long-term visa must fully comply with all requirements and must justify why they need a visa for regular travel to the UK,” Ambassador Smith added.

Read more: ForUm, 24 May 2013

<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2013/05/24/125034.html>

Emigrants invest billions of US dollars in Ukraine

In 2012, Ukrainian emigrants invested USD 7.5 billion in the development of the Ukrainian economy, Member of Parliament of IV-VI convocations Oksana Bilozir said during the round table “Problems of Legal Protection of Ukrainian Migrant Workers’ Rights in Europe”, ForUm correspondent reports.

“In 2012, Ukrainian labour migrants sent to Ukraine more than USD 7.5 billion, which is 3.4 per cent of GDP. Such data were recently published by the National Bank of Ukraine. When compared with 2011, the growth, even under the global crisis, was 6.4 per cent, or USD 0.3 billion,” Ms. Bilozir noted.

She also added that Ukrainian immigrants have invested in the economic development of the country as much as foreign direct investment amounts.

“The State Statistics Service of Ukraine reported that for the whole 2012, foreign investors invested in our economy USD 6 billion. The volume of investments of labour emigrants equals volume of direct foreign investments,” Oksana Bilozir summed up.

Read more: ForUm, 27 May 2013

<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2013/05/27/152717.html>

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Compiled by Communications team of IOM Ukraine