

NEWS FROM UKRAINE

Ukraine labour force hit by emigrating workers

According to the United Nations (UN) data, at present every third person in the world does not work nor has casual or seasonal employment.

With about 1.2% officially jobless people Ukraine's unemployment rate is considered high as well. In year 2010 the total number of Ukrainian active, dynamic and educated jobless young people up to 35 year made up 31.4%.

The Ukrainian Government is struggling to find innovative solutions such as addressing skills mismatches, job search support, entrepreneurship training and subsidies to hiring. Young people are nearly three times as likely as adults to be unemployed. Experts say Ukraine economy is unable to generate enough jobs to absorb its young people.

Meanwhile the inability to find work in the homeland makes Ukrainian youth look for a job abroad, which leads to the outflow of labour force. According to the International Labour Organization data in total the world has to create 80 million jobs to restore the pre-crisis level which is expected not earlier than year 2016.

Read more: PressTV, 1 November, 2011
<http://presstv.com/detail/207739.html>

Ukraine tries Israeli human traffickers

Six members of an Israeli human trafficking ring, which operated in the Republic of Azerbaijan, are on trial in a special court in Ukraine. Three members of the ring, which specialized in selling body organs from trafficked victims, worked at a clinic in Azerbaijan's capital city of Baku. Run by an Israeli national with no medical training, the clinic was used as a front for trafficking body organs harvested from Azeri children.

Read more: Kyivpost, 4 November, 2011
<http://www.kyivpost.com/news/ukraine/detail/116314/>

Turkey education, information, culture centre opens in Odesa

Turkish educational, informational and cultural centre opened at the South-Ukrainian National Pedagogical University named after Ushinskyi in Odesa (southern Ukraine). Opening of the centre took place during celebrations to mark the 88th anniversary of the Turkish Republic founding.

"The opening of the centre, which uses modern technology, no doubt will contribute to strengthening relations between the two countries and their regions. The Consulate General of Turkey in every possible way will help the centre," according to Consul General of Turkey in Odesa Hussein Ergani, who also became the head of the centre.

In turn, Rector of the University, Academician Oleksii Chebykin stressed that the main mission of the centre is to help create the necessary conditions for learning the Turkish language and culture, as well as develop all-round cooperation between Turkey and Ukraine in different spheres.

The centre will hold academic conferences, competitions, lectures on history and culture of Turkey, as well as implement joint educational, research and leadership projects, and carry out exchanges of students and teachers.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 7 November, 2011
<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=236292>

Ukraine joins Council of Europe's convention on combating domestic violence

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Kostiantyn Hryshchenko on 7 November, 2011 signed the Council of Europe's Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

The convention is a new legal instrument of the Council of Europe, which opened for signature at the 121st ministerial meeting of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers in Istanbul on 11 May, 2011.

The convention provides for a comprehensive legal framework for the protection of women against all forms of violence, is aimed at preventing and eliminating this phenomenon, and also foresees an international mechanism for monitoring the implementation of its clauses at the national level. Ukraine became the 17th state that has acceded to this convention. Joining the convention will facilitate the implementation of respective measures to eliminate violence against women and domestic violence through the further application of the convention's provisions at the national level.

Read more: ForUm, 8 November, 2011
<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2011/11/08/150041.html>

Ukraine finishing the first stage of work on visa free regime with European Union

This year Ukraine is finishing the first stage of work on visa free regime with European Union (EU) countries, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Kostiantyn Hryshchenko told a press conference in Donetsk in November, 2011.

"We have an action plan to obtain the visa free regime with EU countries. We have agreed and adopted a number of legislative bills, needed for this goal," said Mr. Hryshchenko adding the second stage includes creation of infrastructure for technical provision of transparency of the process in order to avoid any misuse.

"The matter concerns biometric passports, as well as live communication among law enforcement, customs and border bodies, which are engaged into control over people's travel between EU counties and Ukraine," the Minister explained.

"We believe we can fulfill the majority of the set tasks within one-two years," Mr. Hryshchenko assured.

Read more: ForUm, 9 November, 2011
<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2011/11/09/132034.html>

Ukraine, Moldova to simplify local border movement

Members of the Ukrainian Parliamentary group for inter-parliamentary relations discussed with their Moldovan counterparts in Chisinau cross-border cooperation between the two countries.

The lawmakers of the two countries signed a protocol on cooperation, providing for simplification of border crossing rules for the Ukrainians and Moldavians living in border areas.

“In addition to issues of energy cooperation and security, we discussed the possibility of creating an enabling environment not only for the movement of citizens of Moldova and Ukraine across the border, but also for simplification of customs procedures in moving freight and goods,” the head of the Ukrainian delegation and chairman of the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs Anatolii Kinakh informed.

Mr. Kinakh also noted that the meeting discussed the priorities of improving the regulatory framework based on European principles with the maximum simplification of the conditions of movement of goods and people.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 10 November, 2011
<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=236649>

Ukraine, Serbia to cooperate in defense and road transportation

A number of bilateral documents between Ukraine and Serbia were signed in Kyiv on 10 November, 2011 in the presence of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich and his Serbian counterpart Boris Tadic.

In particular, the sides signed an intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the sphere of defense. The document determines such basic areas as defense policy and national security, defense planning, environmental protection, etc.

The governments of the two countries also signed an agreement on the international road transportation of passengers and goods.

In addition, the sides signed a protocol on cooperation between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, which will facilitate the development of Ukrainian-Serbian relations both bilaterally and internationally. The document will also strengthen mutual support for Ukraine’s and Serbia’s course for European integration.

After the fourth meeting of the Ukrainian-Serbian intergovernmental commission on trade-economic and scientific-technical cooperation, the sides also signed a protocol outlining the agreements reached in the spheres of transport, industry, agriculture, tourism, energy, standardization and metrology, conformity assessment, investment protection, health, production and trade in pharmaceuticals and medical products, and regional cooperation.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 10 November, 2011
<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=236744>

Free information service “123” appears in Ukraine

Information holding “Miskdovidka” presented the national social project Business Reference 123, which includes largest cities and regions of Ukraine.

As the press release of the holding informs, residents of Kyiv, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Lviv and Odesa regions now can promptly receive any information, having dialed a short number “123” from the stationary telephone. Access to information is provided over 24 hours.

Subscribers to Business Reference 123 will not only receive reference information on goods, services, organizations and events in Ukraine, but they can also call taxis, book tables at restaurants, rooms at hotels, railways tickets, order flowers and gifts, etc.

Information is rendered free, both for Ukrainian residents and for foreign tourists.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 10 November, 2011
<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=236712>

Ukraine, Romania agree on cooperation in sphere of European integration

According to Ukrainian Foreign Minister Kostiantyn Hryshchenko, Ukraine and Romania have signed a protocol on cooperation between the foreign ministries of the two countries in the sphere of European integration.

Mr. Hryshchenko said that during a visit to Ukraine by an official Romanian delegation headed by Foreign Minister of Romania Teodor Baconschi, the sides had also signed an agreement on cooperation between the justice ministries of the two countries.

Read more: National Radio Company of Ukraine, 11 November, 2011
<http://www.nrcu.gov.ua/index.php?id=148&listid=156819>

Volume of foreign currency received from foreigners exceeds USD 12 billion over 10 months

The foreign currency coming from non-residents (foreign citizens, stateless persons and Ukrainians permanently residing abroad) over 10 months of year 2011 exceeded USD 12 billion (in the equivalent), First Deputy Chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine Yurii Kolobov told a press conference in November, 2011.

“Since the year start, the foreign market dynamics remains unpredictable, the volume of foreign currency receipts from non-residents over 10 months exceeded USD 12 billion in the equivalent, at the same time, the hryvnia rate on the U.S. dollar purchase/sale operations reduced by 0.6%, and on the sale – by 0.71%,” Mr. Kolobov said.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 15 November, 2011
<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=237138>

Poland introduced visa facilitation measures for Ukrainian citizens

A special office which will accept visa applications from Ukrainians wishing to travel to Poland was opened in Lviv on 18 November, 2011. This is one of 14 such visa centres which the Polish Foreign Ministry is planning to set up across Ukraine.

The first office of this kind was opened a few days earlier in Ivano-Frankivsk, with further visa agents scheduled to be ready for business by March, 2012 in Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Khmelnytskyi, Rivne, Ternopil, Zhytomyr, Lutsk, Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odesa, Sevastopol and Vinnytsia.

Read more: Eastern Partnership Community, 18 November, 2011

<http://www.easternpartnership.org/daily-news/2011-11-21/poland-introduces-visa-facilitation-measures-ukrainian-citizens>

Ukrainians – cheapest labour force in Europe

According to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, in September almost a third of Ukrainians (32.6%) received a salary of up to UAH 1,500 (USD 1 – UAH 7.98).

The proportion of Ukrainians who earn up to UAH 2,000 is almost half – 48.5%. And no more than UAH 4,000 is received by about 85% of Ukrainian nationals.

The poorest regions are traditionally the areas in which there are no large industrial enterprises. The highest percentage of people who earn the minimum wage is recorded in Chernivtsi (10.3%), Vinnytsia (9.1%) and Ternopil (8.7%) regions.

Most wealthy people, according to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, live in the capital and the eastern industrial regions of the country. There are 18.3% of Ukrainians, who earn more than UAH 5,000 in Kyiv, in Donetsk region – 13%, in Luhansk region – 10.6% and in Dnipropetrovsk – 10.1%.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 22 November, 2011

<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=237737>

Ukraine, Serbia abolish visas since 8 December, 2011

The agreement between the governments of Ukraine and Serbia on refusal from visa requirements for citizens comes into force 8 December, 2011.

As Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Secretary Oleksandr Dykusarov briefed the press conference in November, 2011, it is envisaged to set visa-free regime of trips on a basis of reciprocity for citizens of Ukraine and Serbia for the term not exceeding 30 days over 60 days from the date of the first entry.

According to the diplomat, realization of the agreement provisions will promote development of partnership relations with Serbia, intensification of contacts in the economic, cultural-humanitarian and other spheres, as well as a growth in the number of mutual trips of citizens with tourist, business and private purposes.

Read more: The Black Sea Association of National News Agencies, 22 November, 2011

<http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=18496&lang=en>

Women discriminated in getting European Union visas

Ukrainian women undergo the greatest discrimination in obtaining visas to European Union (EU) countries, a member of the Committee for European Integration Iryna Herashchenko, said during a roundtable in the Parliament of Ukraine.

“If she is young and pretty, less than 30 years old, has no husband and children, a million questions are asked her at consulates and visa centres: what does she want in Europe, why is she going?” Ms. Herashchenko said.

Ms. Herashchenko believes that, despite the current agreement between Ukraine and the EU on simplification of visa regime, it is not actually easier for Ukrainians to obtain visas.

Ms. Herashchenko stressed that in reality the list of documents for the Ukrainians who want to get a visa to the EU had not been reduced.

The representative of the Parliament’s European integration committee reported that even Ukrainian journalists face difficulties in obtaining visas to EU countries: they must provide a long list of documents, and embassies are extremely reluctant to give them long-term visas.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 24 November, 2011
<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=237925>

United Kingdom – Ukraine air services agreement

The Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to sign, alongside Ukrainian Foreign Minister Kostiantyn Hryshchenko, a new Air Services Agreement between the United Kingdom (UK) and Ukraine.

The new agreement is designed to ensure air services between Ukraine and the UK are run in full conformity with European Union (EU) and international law and replaces an agreement dating back to year 1993.

The most significant part of the agreement is the opening up of services to and from all parts of Ukraine and all parts of the UK: this could potentially lead to more low-cost services between the two countries.

The agreement also contains important enhanced safety provisions.

Read more: Kyivpost, 24 November, 2011
http://www.kyivpost.com/news/opinion/op_ed/detail/117554/

European Union not to take any sanctions against Ukrainians

Head of the European Union’s (EU) Delegation to Ukraine Jose Manuel Pinto Teixeira has said that the EU will not take any sanctions against the citizens of Ukraine in connection with the internal situation in the country.

“The EU has signed a visa facilitation agreement with Ukraine, and we are observing and implementing it. We are waiting for the end of this year, when the statistics on issuing Schengen visas to Ukrainians will be released, and this would be the best way to show whether those events that are currently unfolding in Ukraine in any way affect the issuing of visas. I’m convinced that all EU countries that issue visas are performing their duties in the same way as before,” Mr. Teixeira said. With regard to the relaxation of visa requirements for Ukrainians, the diplomat believes that it depends on Ukraine’s meeting certain conditions.

“This process is ongoing, everything is being done in order to give Ukrainians the opportunity to visit EU states, to develop interpersonal communication, and we hope that over time more and more Ukrainians go to the EU. As for the abolition of visas for Ukrainian citizens, it is currently impossible for very specific and substantial reasons,” Mr. Teixeira said.

According to Mr. Teixeira, it is clear that Ukrainians should support the European choice of their country and strive to become a real European country not only geographically. The diplomat said that he meant the declarations of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich to create “Europe in Ukraine.”

Read more: Interfax, 24 November, 2011

<http://www.interfax.com.ua/eng/main/86730/>

<http://www.kyivpost.com/news/nation/detail/117548/>

Migration service to issue foreign passports

The Government of Ukraine has moved the functions of registration and issuance of passports to Ukrainian citizens over to the State Migration Service of Ukraine (SMSU). The corresponding decree is posted on the Ukrainian Government portal. In particular, the Government of Ukraine transferred the authority of the State Department of Citizenship, Immigration and Registration of Natural Persons on issuing passports to citizens residing in Ukraine over to the State Migration Service. The SMSU also obtained the functions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine to operate the State Information System of Registration of Individuals and their Documentation.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 25 November, 2011

<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=238087>

Agreement on visa-free regime between Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina took effect

An agreement on the visa-free regime between Ukraine and Bosnia and Herzegovina entered into force on 27 November, 2011. The provisions of the agreement envisage the visa-free regime for citizens transiting through these countries on the basis of foreign passports, as well as for citizens whose stay in these countries does not exceed 30 days within two months from the date of first entry. In July, 2011, the Government of Ukraine approved an agreement with Bosnia and Herzegovina on the conditions of mutual trips by citizens, which foresees the cancellation of visas.

Read more: National Radio Company of Ukraine, 28 November, 2011

<http://www.nrcu.gov.ua/index.php?id=148&listid=158011>

China officially opens consulate general in Odesa

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Cheng Guoping has officially opened China’s Consulate General in Odesa (southern Ukraine), the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry’s representative in Odesa, Kostiantyn Rzhepishivskyi, said in November. The Consulate General of China in Odesa, the area of activity of which includes the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Donetsk, Zaporizhia, Kirovohrad, Mykolaiv, Odesa and Kherson regions of Ukraine and the city of Sevastopol, first made itself known in year 2006 and started issuing visas in year 2009.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 30 November, 2011

<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=238476>