



NEWS FROM UKRAINE

Migrant workers transferred more than one billion US dollars from Russia to Ukraine

The total amount of private money transfers to Ukraine during the first half of 2013 increased 10.3 per cent in comparison with the same period of 2012 — up to USD 3,834 billion, comprising 4.6 per cent of Ukraine's GDP.

USD 535 million of this amount was transferred by informal channels.

Russia remains the main remittance sending country with USD 1,186 billion transferred to Ukraine. The second top sending country is the USA (USD 307,1 million); the third one is Germany (USD 198,8 million).

At the same time remittances sent by Ukrainian long-term labour migrants in the structure of private transfers reduced by 18.8 per cent during the first six months of 2013 — down to USD 698 million.

Read more: Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia, 2 October 2013

http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/5871/migrant_workers_transferred_more_than_one_billion_dollars_from_russia_to_ukraine

EUBAM leaflet aims to improve transparency at border-crossing points

Essential customs, security and border-crossing information for people travelling to Ukraine and Moldova is now available in a new information leaflet released by the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM).

The leaflet — published in Russian, Ukrainian, English and Moldovan — contains important information on documentation requirements, prohibited items, customs allowances, driving rules and speed limits, emergency contacts, etc., with Moldovan information featured on one side and Ukrainian on the other.

30,000 copies of the leaflet will be disseminated at border-crossing points along the Moldova-Ukraine border.

Read more: EU Neighbourhood Info Centre, 3 October 2013

http://www.enpi-info.eu/maineast.php?id=34657&id_type=1&lang_id=450

Ukraine, Czech Republic to develop readmission mechanism

The governments of Ukraine and the Czech Republic signed an implementation protocol to the Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union on readmission of persons.

The signing ceremony took place during an official visit of the Czech President Milos Zeman to Ukraine, Ukrinform reports.

The document fosters joint measures for prevention, countering and identification of violations related to irregular migration. It defines competent bodies of both countries, responsible for implementation of the Agreement, procedures for readmission and transit of persons subject to readmission,



documents necessary for carrying out the readmission procedure, as well as the means and procedure for compensation of expenses.

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

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_czech_republic_to_develop_readmission_mechanism_311615

U.S. reveals mass visa fraud in Ukraine

A new report by the U.S. State Department's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) says organized fraud rings masquerading as travel agencies have taken control of the Diversity Visa programme in Ukraine.

The report, released on 25 October 2013, outlines a pervasive and sophisticated fraud scheme affecting the U.S. visa lottery programme as well as the intimidation and extortion of Ukrainian citizens.

The United States awards 55,000 Diversity Visas annually to the citizens of countries with historically low immigration rates to the U.S. They are granted through a random lottery system that does not take into account the applicants' family relations, professional or personal background.

The OIG does not identify which groups are carrying out the fraud, but says they have a vast impact. The U.S. Embassy in Kyiv estimates the groups are entering the names of as much as 80 per cent of the population of western Ukraine into the online visa programme, and continuing to enter them year after year. This happens often without the citizens' permission or knowledge, preventing them from entering the visa lottery on their own because the computer system deletes duplicate applications.

The fraud rings then have access to the confirmation number assigned online to the visa applicants, so if the U.S. State Department grants a visa to one of the applicants, only the criminals can facilitate the process.

U.S. officials have made efforts to combat the fraud, including changing the interview questions to try to trip up applicants coached by the criminal gangs, but corruption persists.

Read more: Voice of America, 28 October 2013

<http://www.voanews.com/content/oig-report-reveals-fraud-rings-are-controlling-us-visa-lottery-in-ukraine/1778817.html>

UNHCR concerned about non-admission of Syrian refugee into Ukraine

The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has said it is concerned about the non-admission of a Syrian asylum-seeker to Ukraine.

"The UNHCR deeply regrets the non-admission of an asylum-seeker from Syria to Ukraine by border guards at Odesa airport on 3 October," the UNCHR's press service told Interfax-Ukraine.

According to the report, the State Border Service of Ukraine denied the person entry to the country because they did not have a visa, without even considering their possible need for international protection.

The UNHCR said that according to the law of Ukraine on refugees and persons in need of complementary protection, persons arriving at the border may apply for asylum, regardless of whether they hold valid travel documents.

"With regard to the massive challenges for Syrian refugees, the High Commissioner for Refugees at the recent High Level Segment of the Executive Committee on Syria urged all governments — especially European countries —



to keep their borders open and to provide protection to all Syrians. He emphasized that the burden was far too heavy to be borne only by Syria's neighbours," the press service reported.

In addition, further, the UNHCR's position paper pertaining to the situation in Syria urges all governments to refrain from forcibly returning arrivals fleeing from the conflict in view of the imminent hazards to life and physical integrity, and severe violations of human rights they are facing in their home country.

The UNHCR called on the Ukrainian authorities to ensure Syrians seeking asylum have access to the territory of Ukraine and appropriate asylum procedures.

Read more: Interfax–Ukraine, 14 October 2013

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/170275.html>

Government of Ukraine strengthens protection of the interests of Ukrainian business abroad

The Government of Ukraine has included the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in the list of central bodies of executive power that can join consultative and advisory councils of domestic and foreign investors, the Information-Analytical Bulletin of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine informs.

The measure has enhanced the legal status of the Council of Exporters and Investors, which operates under the auspices of the MFA and includes more than 70 companies and associations. Domestic enterprises and companies will now have the opportunity to participate in investment projects abroad and establish cooperation with leading foreign investors in Ukraine.

Read more: ForUm, 24 October 2013

<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2013/10/24/115503.html>

Ukrainians exposed to new threats of human trafficking

Ukrainians are increasingly at risk of becoming exposed to human trafficking threats, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports on the European Anti-Slavery Day. According to a recent survey, commissioned by IOM and conducted by GfK Ukraine in September this year, 9 per cent of Ukrainians claim that they, their relatives or friends were facing situations or attempts of trafficking in human beings. Two years ago, when a previous survey was conducted with the same methodology, 7 per cent claimed encountering such situations.

The recent poll results confirmed that modern-day slavery in Ukraine has many forms. Some respondents reported situations or attempts of more than one type of exploitation. Six (6) per cent mentioned situations or attempts of trafficking for forced labour faced by them, their relatives or friends; 2 per cent reported cases or attempts of sexual exploitation; and up to one per cent each for trafficking for forced begging or criminal activities, for organ removal, and for trafficking in children for forced labour, begging or pornography.

Read more: United Nations in Ukraine, 18 October 2013

<http://www.un.org.ua/en/information-centre/news/1710>



Mosque bomber Pavlo Lapshyn given life for murder

A Ukrainian student has been jailed for at least 40 years for murdering an 82-year-old man and plotting explosions near mosques in racist attacks.

Pavlo Lapshyn stabbed Mohammed Saleem in Small Heath, Birmingham on 29 April, five days after arriving in the UK. Lapshyn, 25, admitted murder as well as plotting to cause explosions near mosques in Walsall, Tipton and Wolverhampton in June and July.

Lapshyn, from Dnipropetrovsk in Ukraine, was living in Birmingham while on a temporary work placement in the city when he killed Mr Saleem, a grandfather of 22.

He later planted three bombs near mosques in the West Midlands as part of a campaign he said was motivated by racial hatred.

Read more: BBC, 25 October 2013

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-24675040>

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