



President signs 'visa free' laws

21 November 2015 —The President of Ukraine's Press Office

Petro Poroshenko signed a package of laws that ensure further liberalization of the visa regime for Ukraine by the EU. The President expressed hope that on 15 December, the European Commission would make a decision to provide a green light for Ukraine on the issue of the visa-free regime.

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All European Union Member States ratify EU-Ukraine Association Agreement

21 November 2015 —KyivPost

The Parliament of Belgium was the last to ratify the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement and thus complete the process, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko wrote on Twitter on 20 November. While the EU membership is still a distant prospect for Ukraine, the completion of the ratification process paves the way for a free trade regime between Ukraine and EU to take effect on 1 January, 2016.

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Law allowing foreigners to serve in Ukrainian Army is in place

03 November 2015 – Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

The President of Ukraine has signed the law “On the amendments to some legislative acts of Ukraine regarding the Armed Forces of Ukraine service performance for foreign citizens and stateless persons”, which has been adopted by the Parliament of Ukraine on 6 October. The law allows foreign citizens and stateless persons to legally serve in the Ukrainian Army and other armed units under a contract.

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Ukraine and Moldova facilitate movement across joint border

13 November 2015 – Eastern Partnership Migration Panel

Two new cross border cooperation agreements signed between Moldova and Ukraine will make it faster and easier to move across their joint border. The first agreement, establishing joint control at the Pervomaisc-Kuchurhan border crossing, will allow goods for import, export and transit through Transnistria to move through this point, eliminating the need for re-routing goods, and avoiding double customs clearance in both

Chisinau and Tiraspol. The second, on the automated exchange of crossing data across the Moldova-Ukraine border, will enhance security through increasing transparency about the movement of vehicles and goods.

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Ukrainians reminded about new migration rules in Russia

01 November 2015 – Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine draws attention of the citizens that Ukrainians who have been residing in Russia for more than 90 days without properly processed permits should apply to their local offices of the Federal Migration Service by the end of November. Starting from 1 December 2015, all Ukrainian citizens who exceed the assigned period of stay (90 days during 180 days) without receiving proper documents will become subjects to administrative prosecution and possible exclusion. The exceptions are made only for the residents of Southern and Eastern Ukrainian regions.

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Russian experts argue for effective use of Ukrainian migrants' labour potential

03 November 2015 — TASS

Experts at the Alexey Kudrin-led Civil Initiatives Committee have authored a survey of Russia's migration policy and migration problems saying that relations with migrants from Ukraine are a key issue. As a labour resource, they have many competitive advantages over their counterparts from Central Asia. Migrants from Ukraine are qualified and need no adaptation, but under the current state of affairs they may be forced to leave, the Civil Initiatives Committee says.

The committee's experts argue that Russia has not yet managed to use the labour potential of refugees from Ukraine effectively enough. They are distributed among Russia's territories regardless of their professions and skills. "Experienced engineers and technical specialists have to work as cargo handlers or builders to earn a living for their families and to pay for temporary accommodation," the survey says. Since April 2014, 404,000 Ukrainians have asked the Federal Migration Service for temporary asylum or refugee status, and another 265,000 for temporary residence permits.

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Poland repatriates ethnic Poles from conflict-torn Eastern Ukraine

24 November 2015 — Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

The ethnic Poles, numbering 188, from Mariupol, a port city near separatist-held areas on the Sea of Azov, arrived aboard four planes to the northern town of Krolewo Malborskie in Poland. They will be housed for the first six months at a health facility near the city of Olsztyn, where they will undergo intensive Polish language training. It is the second group of ethnic Poles to leave Ukraine for Poland since the conflict erupted in eastern Ukraine in early 2014.

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Polish society and Ukrainian migrants should make steps towards each other, – expert

08 November 2015 – Ukraine Today

Marta Jaroszewicz, migration project coordinator for the Centre for Eastern Studies, has recently published a report on Ukrainians' migration caused by conflict and economic instability.

“There were 800,000 Ukrainians legally staying in the EU at the end of 2014. But we don't know how many of those people came because of the war in the Donbas and due to economic reasons to Poland,” Ms. Jaroszewicz says.

Talking about implications of the current migration crisis in Europe, she stated that all EU societies are getting more closed. “It may be in some point that Ukrainians could be also put in the same basket... Polish society is one of the most homogenous in the EU. That's why is so difficult for Poles to get used to this new situation.”

According to the expert, “Poland should pay more attention and direct some projects towards Ukrainians, but also Ukrainians, if they decide to stay here, shouldn't close themselves off in their homes or in churches, they should go to Polish libraries, Polish theatres, they should send their children to Polish schools, because they are also rather closed society and they live in their network.”

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State Migration Service of Ukraine launched online service for checking foreign passports' processing status

05 November 2015 — Ukrinform

The online service, which aims to enable Ukrainian citizens to check the processing status of their passports for travelling abroad, has been launched, the State Migration Service of Ukraine informed. The service is accessible to anyone at: <http://dmsu.gov.ua/perevirkastanu.php>

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