



Over 1.5 million displaced people in Ukraine – Ministry of Social Policy

28 September 2015 – Deutsche Welle

As of 28 September, a total of 1,505,570 displaced people from the Donbas and Crimea were registered with the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine. Over 505,000 IDP families have received social payments from the state, the Ministry reports.

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UN Agencies, major NGOs ordered out of Luhansk

24 September – ABC News

The United Nations humanitarian chief Stephen O'Brien said he is alarmed that UN agencies have been ordered out of eastern Ukraine's separatist-controlled Luhansk region by the "de facto authorities" there. UN operations in Donetsk are also in peril, O'Brien said. "A decision by the de facto authorities in Donetsk on the U.N.'s future operations remains on hold, and all U.N. agency operations have been suspended."

O'Brien said the restrictions on humanitarian shipments have kept about 16,000 tons of supplies, including food and shelter from being delivered. "Hospitals cannot perform surgery because they lack anesthesia," he said. "Some 150,000 people are not receiving monthly food distributions." He said the suspension of shipments is putting lives at risk and is "having a serious impact on some 3 million people as winter approaches."

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Kyiv bans Russian airlines' flights

26 September 2015 – BBC

Ukraine has said it will ban Russian airlines from flying into the country as part of sanctions over Moscow's support for rebels in the east. Kyiv said the measures would take effect on 25 October and would include major Russian airlines Aeroflot and Transaero. Russian transit flights will also be banned if the planes carry military personnel or dual-use goods.

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Government of Ukraine changes procedure for entering Crimea

23 September 2015 – Human Rights Information Centre

The changes concern foreign journalists, human rights activists and members of international NGOs travelling to the peninsula. To carry out journalistic activities, the representatives of foreign media should get a special permit of the Information Policy Ministry of Ukraine, while human rights activists and representatives of international non-governmental organizations should get such a permit from the Foreign Ministry.

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Yatsenyuk hopes that migration issue will not make EU deny visa-free regime to Ukraine

10 September – Kyiv Post

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arsenii Yatsenyuk said he is hoping that the European Union will not take into account issues relating to the new wave of migration to Europe when deciding on the issue of granting a visa-free regime to Ukraine.

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EU Commissioner Hahn more optimistic on prospect of visa-free regime for Ukraine

11 September 2015 – Interfax

EU Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy Johannes Hahn says that he views the prospect of granting Ukraine a visa-free regime more optimistically at this point.

Ukraine has made considerable progress with regard to visa liberalization, but the definitive verdict will be given based on the results of the EU assessment mission, he told reporters in Kyiv on Friday.

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Poland to bring in ethnic Poles from Kazakhstan, Ukraine and elsewhere

29 September 2015 – Fox News

Poland has earmarked funds to bring in tens of thousands of ethnic Poles now living in Kazakhstan, Ukraine and other former Soviet republics, its finance minister said.

The issue was raised recently amid a heated debate over the European Union's plan to share 120,000 refugees from the Middle East, Africa and Asia among its 28 members. Poland has said it will host 7,000 of them. Critics of the refugee program, however, say Poland's first obligation is toward the ethnic Poles who Soviet dictator Josef Stalin expelled by hundreds of thousands from their homes, and to their descendants.

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Border unit in Western Ukraine reconstructed with funding from EU

08 September 2015 – EU Neighbourhood Info Centre

The 'Hrabove' unit on the Ukrainian-Polish border, reconstructed by an EU-funded cross-border cooperation project, was officially opened by the Head of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine Viktor Nazarenko and the Head of Volyn Oblast State Administration Volodymyr Hunchyk. Under the project, 30 administrative, residential, household and public buildings were reconstructed, with the installation of a water supply network, replacement of heating supply networks and construction of a new boiler-house and renovation of official apartments for the military personnel stationed at the unit.

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Ukraine and Chile agreed on 90-day visa-free stays

24 September 2015 – Ukrinform

The press service of the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine reports that Ukraine and Chile have signed a bilateral agreement on terms of mutual visits of their citizens. The Government of Ukraine has approved the agreement on 16 September and it goes into effect on 21 October 2015.

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Compiled by IOM Ukraine Communications team