



NEWS FROM UKRAINE

President of Ukraine signed law on ratification of visa facilitation agreement between Ukraine and EU

According to the Head of the Main Department for International Relations at the Presidential Administration Andrii Honcharuk, the Ukrainian side expects the speedy completion by European institutions of all of the procedures required for the agreement to enter into force.

As reported, on 22 March, 2013, the Ukrainian Parliament ratified the agreement between Ukraine and the European Union introducing amendments to the visa facilitation agreement.

According to the document, the visa issuing procedure can be facilitated for drivers engaged in international cargo and passenger transportation, journalists and technical staff accompanying them, participants of official exchange programmes organized by the local authorities, close relatives, spouses, children, parents, grandparents, grandchildren who are visiting Ukrainian citizens living in the EU member states, or EU citizens, as well as citizens that travel to the EU for medical treatment.

Visa facilitation is also introduced for members of public organizations participating in seminars and conferences, participants of international exhibitions, conference, and symposiums, members of religious communities, and participants of official EU programs for cross-border cooperation.

Read more: Interfax Ukraine, 8 April, 2013
<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/148543.html>

Government of Ukraine approved immigration quota for 2013

The Government of Ukraine adopted the Order No. 218-p “On immigration quota for 2013”, according to which 6,221 persons will be able to immigrate to Ukraine this year.

The relevant text of the document was published on the official website of the Government of Ukraine, the UNN news agency correspondent informs.

According to the text of the order, the quota for scientists and cultural workers, the immigration of which meets the interests of Ukraine, was established in the amount of 315 persons.

In addition, quota for people being the relatives (brothers or sisters, grandfathers or grandmothers, or grandchild) of a citizen of Ukraine was established in the amount of 2,256 persons. The quota for parents, husband or wife of an immigrant, and his or her minor children was established in the amount of 3,311 persons.

Moreover, according to the text of the document, the quota for the former citizens of Ukraine is 263 persons.

Read more: Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia, 15 April, 2013
http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/5238/government_approved_immigration_quota_in_ukraine_for_2013



Flow of irregular immigrants via Ukraine 31 per cent down

The flow of irregular immigrants through Ukraine has reduced by 31 per cent compared to last year, the Deputy Chairman of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (SBGS) Pavlo Shysholin informed on 4 April, 2013.

“Since the beginning of the year, 122 (31 per cent) fewer irregular immigrants were detained on the border than over the same period last year. Thus, there remains a tendency to reduce immigration flows to Ukraine,” the official noted.

Mr. Shysholin noted that irregular immigrants are mostly united in organized transnational groups.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 4 April, 2013

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/flow_of_illegal_immigrants_via_ukraine_31_down_301260

Ukraine to simplify employment of foreigners

The Government of Ukraine is considering reduction the number of documents to be submitted by foreigners for employment in Ukraine. This was reported by the State Service for Regulatory Policy and Entrepreneurship.

“The State Employment Centre assured that the Government of Ukraine is considering a draft resolution whose adoption will substantially reduce the list of documents to be submitted by foreigners,” the press service of the Entrepreneurship Service says.

It is also reported that the time for examination of the documents should be reduced from 30 to 15 days. In addition, the extension of the permit to foreigners’ work will be simplified. To do so, it will be necessary to show only the documents that have been changed, not the full package, as is currently required. The document will be extended for free.

“In the future it is planned to introduce plastic permits (chips), which will carry all the necessary information in electronic form. Currently, the database is formed,” the department added.

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

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_to_simplify_employment_of_foreigners_302328

EUBAM: tackling cross-border crime in a spirit of partnership

An assessment of security threats on the Moldova-Ukraine border was made at a trilateral meeting of the European Union Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM) to Moldova and Ukraine, held recently in Odesa. The meeting also saw an evaluation of joint activities performed by the security services of both countries.

The Head of EUBAM, Mr. Udo Burkholder, paid tribute to the joint efforts of all parties to tackle cross-border crime.

“We can only tackle cross-border crime in a spirit of partnership, which is one of EUBAM’s core values,” Mr. Burkholder said. “Our positive working relationship with the security services of Moldova and Ukraine is a key to the fight against crime and promotion of regional security.”



Currently there is an ongoing cooperation between EUBAM and both countries in terms of information exchange, joint intelligence-led investigations and joint border control operations. Additionally, two working groups were established, one to address irregular migration and trafficking in human beings, and the second to address illicit smuggling activities. These working groups, coordinated by EUBAM, provide the security services a mechanism through which they exchange information.

Both groups played key roles in Task Force Arms, launched by EUBAM in March 2011 to strengthen efforts at counteracting the proliferation of weapons, radiological and nuclear material. EUBAM also created a mechanism for identification of drug consignments at Odesa and Illichevsk sea ports by setting up Task Force Drugs in September 2011.

Read more: EU Neighbourhood Info Centre, 2 April, 2013

http://www.enpi-info.eu/maineast.php?id=32583&id_type=1&lang_id=450

German Ambassador: Ukraine becoming a destination country for migrants

German Ambassador to Ukraine Christof Weil has said that Ukraine, as well as Germany, is becoming a destination country for labour migrants.

“I’m a representative of the country, which is an object of labour migration, although, as I have repeatedly been told, Ukraine has also become such a country,” the Ambassador said during a roundtable entitled “Mom on Skype: Labour Migration-Related Challenges” in Kyiv on 22 April, 2013.

The Ambassador added that labour migration has a negative impact on the families of migrant workers and welcomed the publication of a book entitled “Mom on Skype,” a Ukrainian-German social and literary project, which raises the issue of child left behind as a consequence of labour migration and, in a broader sense, a communications gap between parents and children.

“According to some government estimates, five years ago, about 200,000 Ukrainian children grew up without parental care, because their mothers or fathers or both parents went to work abroad,” IOM Ukraine Chief of Mission Manfred Profazi said.

Read more: Interfax Ukraine, 23 April, 2013

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/150656.html>

Some 35 countries recognize Ukrainian diplomas

Ukraine’s diplomas of higher education are now recognized by about 35 countries, the Minister of Education and Science Dmytro Tabachnyk briefed the press after a Ukrainian Government meeting in Kyiv on 9 April, 2013.

“In Europe, in particular, I know for sure that we have signed an agreement with France,” the Minister said.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 10 April, 2013

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/tabachnyk_some_35_countries_recognize_ukrainian_diplomas_301657



Ukrainians will visit Macedonia without visas until 2018

Macedonia decided to abolish the visa regime for Ukrainian citizens until 2018, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Leonid Kozhara informed after a meeting with Macedonian Ambassador to Ukraine Aco Spasenoski.

“Our Government worked with the Government of Macedonia – a decision was reached that the visa regime will be abolished. The visa regime was abolished for Macedonia citizens for two years until 2015. The Macedonian Government took a decision on abolishment of visas for Ukrainian citizens until 2018,” Minister Kozhara noted.

According to the Ukrainian Foreign Minister, abolishment of the visa regime will positively influence relations between the two countries. The visa-free regime is in effect since 15 March this year.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 1 April, 2013

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainians_will_visit_macedonia_without_visas_until_2018_300947

U.S. adopts greatest number of Ukrainian children

The United States remains the country that adopted the largest number of Ukrainian children – almost half of all juveniles adopted abroad, were registered at Ukrainian consulates in the U.S., the President’s Commissioner for Children’s Rights Yurii Pavlenko announced after meeting with the representatives of the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, DC.

The meeting participants discussed decisions of the Ukrainian Government and Ukrainian Foreign Ministry that are to be taken to make sure that the rights of adopted children are well protected. In addition, they outlined issues that must be addressed at the international level with the United States. “We trust the U.S. legal system. However, we will demand that the United States respects the laws of Ukraine and the child’s right to be a citizen of Ukraine until adulthood,” Mr. Pavlenko said. He recalled that U.S. citizens adopted 480 children from Ukraine last year, among them one in four children with disabilities and severe diseases, including Down syndrome, HIV infection, congenital heart diseases and others.

Read more: The National Radio Company of Ukraine, 3 April, 2013

<http://www.nrcu.gov.ua/en/148/527950/>

Red Cross in Chernihiv oblast helped 1,600 irregular immigrants to contact their relatives

Due to the Red Cross, almost 1,600 irregular immigrants detained in Chernihiv oblast obtained the possibility to contact their relatives and consular establishments, and thus, to speed up the determination of their future.

This was informed to the correspondent of the news agency UKRINFORM by the deputy chairman of the Chernihiv Regional Organization of Red Cross, the supervisor of the programme “Restoration of family ties and co-operation with consulates for irregular migrants detained in Ukraine”, Natalia Makarenko.

“The programme of the restoration of family ties for persons in the temporary detention centre for foreigners in the village of Rassudovo works since the summer 2008 – from the very beginning of the organization’s work. During its fulfillment, almost 1,600 persons used the telephone cards paid by the Red Cross. The considerable part of migrants were able not only to inform their relatives about their place of staying, but also to legally go to the countries of Western Europe, where they had headed and where their relatives had been waiting for them,” the interlocutor informed.



In addition to the telephone calls, each migrant has the possibility to send an open letter written on special form, which is called the message of the Red Cross. This right is usually used by people who cannot give a telephone call or get their relatives on the phone.

Read more: Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia, 18 April, 2013
http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/5233/red_cross_in_chernihiv_oblast_helped_1600_illegal_immigrants_to_contact_their_relatives

Ukraine should speed up with VLAP implementation, experts warn

The experts of the Civic Initiative Europe without Barriers and the partner analytical centres express the anxiety regarding the actual tempo of implementation of the tasks defined in the Ukraine-EU Visa Liberalization Action Plan (VLAP) and the quality of some laws which are essential for the establishment of the symmetric visa free regime between the European Union and Ukraine.

Ukrainian politicians are united in declarative aspiration to obtain the EU's cancellation of the visa regime.

At the same time the absence of the substantial progress in the fulfillment of the First Phase of VLAP demonstrates the usage of the declarative approach towards the performance of the tasks and as a result the loss of interest and the lack of the political will in the fulfillment of the legislative planning stage.

However on the assumption of the consolidation of the authorities' efforts and cooperation with the independent experts there is still a real chance to note the Ukrainian transition to the Second Phase of the VLAP on the Eastern Partnership Summit, which is going to take place on 25-26 November, 2013.

The precondition for such scenario can be the acceleration in the adoption of laws and bylaws which remain unadopted in the framework of the First Phase and passing to the EU the third final report of the VLAP implementation, which will have testify that Ukraine meets all the criteria of the First Phase.

As a rule the European Commission will need 2-3 months to prepare its own report on the Ukrainian progress in VLAP implementation. That's why to reach the success on the Vilnius Eastern Partnership Summit the Ukrainian national report has to be passed to the EU in the end of May or beginning of June 2013.

Read more: Europe without Barriers, 1 April, 2013
<http://novisa.com.ua/analitic/Move-Towards-the-Visa-Free-Regime-with-the-EU-Where-is-Ukraine-Today/en>

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Compiled by Communications team of IOM Ukraine