



NEWS FROM UKRAINE

Law on biometric passports comes into force in Ukraine

The law of Ukraine on a unified state demographic register and identity documents, which envisages the introduction of electronic passports for Ukrainians, comes into force on 6 December, 2012.

The document foresees the introduction of electronic passports containing electronic chips with biometric information for traveling abroad, according to the standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

Read more: The National Radio Company of Ukraine, 6 December, 2012

<http://www.nrcu.gov.ua/en/148/517888/>

International Organization for Migration noted efforts of Ukraine in combating human trafficking

The International Organization for Migration Mission in Ukraine has carried out the 6th Combating Human Trafficking Awards Ceremony in Kyiv in order to recognize persons and institutions, which made the major contribution to the struggle against modern slavery.

The event was timed to the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery and was titled “New Beginnings”, as the year 2012 was marked with such turning event as the establishment of the state system for assistance to victims. This became possible after the adoption of the Law of Ukraine “On Countering Human Trafficking” last year.

According to the estimates of the IOM, more than 120 thousand Ukrainian men, women and children have suffered from human trafficking since 1991.

“Unfortunately, Ukraine is still heavily affected by modern-day slavery. The IOM Mission in Ukraine is proud to have provided almost 9,000 victims of trafficking with a chance to start their lives anew. Apart from victim reintegration, we strive to make migrants aware of their rights and improve government’s ability to protect its citizens from the dangers of modern-day slavery and to prosecute traffickers,” the Chief of the IOM Mission in Ukraine Manfred Profazi said.

Read more: Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia, 6 December, 2012

http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/4484/international_organization_for_migration_noted_efforts_of_ukraine_in_combating_human_trafficking

Ukraine, Austria to join efforts in fighting irregular migration

The Ukrainian Interior Ministry has signed a Protocol between the Government of Ukraine and Austrian Federal Government on implementing the Ukrainian-EU agreement on the readmission.

“I hope that this document will simplify the cooperation of our official migration bodies, and create reliable legal grounds for the further cooperation of our states,” Interior Minister of Ukraine Vitalii Zakharchenko said on 29 November, 2012. The signing of the protocol will assist in creating the legal grounds necessary to coordinate cooperation between the official bodies of both states in the prevention and counteraction of irregular migration, the response to inquiries, and the fulfillment of the readmission of the people.

Read more: The National Radio Company of Ukraine, 30 November, 2012

<http://www.nrcu.gov.ua/en/148/517313/>



One million Ukrainians work irregularly in Russia

The number of Ukrainians, who work irregularly in Russia, according to the most humble data of experts, is one million.

This was said by the Head of the Department of Population of the Economic Faculty of the Lomonosov Moscow State University, Professor Vladimir Iontsev, during the video bridge Moscow-Kyiv “Slaves of the 21st century. Why human traffic thrives?”

According to Mr. Iontsev, irregular labour of migrants is profitable both for Russian entrepreneurs, and for representatives of state structures. “It is the great paradox. Irregular migrants become extremely profitable for many groups of officials dealing the issues of migration, in particular, the police. All irregular migration is connected with corruption, though its reasons are merely economic. In this case, it is economic phenomenon, which causes corruption. It is possible to earn big money on irregular migrants. Otherwise, it is difficult to explain why this phenomenon still exists in our country. Although everybody says it is bad,” Mr. Iontsev summed up.

Read more: Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia, 4 December, 2012
http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/4495/one_million_ukrainians_works_irregularly_in_russia

Denmark finishes helping Ukraine in combating human trafficking

Denmark has decided to stop providing assistance to Ukraine in the sphere of combating and preventing human trafficking, Ambassador of Denmark in Ukraine Michael Borg-Hansen stated at a press conference dedicated to the awards ceremony for achievements in combating human trafficking.

“Denmark has invested about USD 5 million in improving the control and prevention human trafficking in Ukraine... Denmark is now winding down its assistance with the hope that Ukraine will be able to handle itself,” the Ambassador said.

The Ambassador said that his country’s decision was reasoned by the fact that the Ukrainian Government is committed in this area. According to Mr. Borg-Hansen, Denmark has helped many countries, including Ukraine.

“We are glad that Ukraine is progressing in this issue and we can now help the countries in the greater need,” the Ambassador added.

The Ambassador noted that the Ukrainian authorities have managed to create an effective mechanism for assistance to victims of trafficking, the system of combating and prevention, as well as the relevant institutions.

At the same time, Mr. Borg-Hansen said, if Ukraine wants to be among the leaders in the fight against human trafficking, it is necessary to find the tools and resources to teach appropriate social workers and law enforcement officers, to carry out judicial reform.

Read more: ForUm, 5 December, 2012
<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2012/12/05/105954.html>



Training on border surveillance and anti-corruption awareness held in Ukraine

Three days of training workshops on “blue border” surveillance and raising anti-corruption awareness were held in Kyiv. The workshops were the first two training sessions of the EU-funded project entitled “Strengthening the Surveillance Capacity on the Green and Blue Border between the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine (SURCAP)”.

Participants learned about contemporary border surveillance and detection technical systems used at water border sections, coordination of actions among air, land and water border surveillance units, methodologies, and the maintenance of small-scale border floating devices. Options for coordination of activities between both countries on river border surveillance were also discussed.

Read more: EU Neighbourhood Info Centre, 1 December, 2012
http://www.enpi-info.eu/maineast.php?id_type=1&id=31324&lang_id=450

Please note that IOM bears no responsibility for the accuracy and content of the press summary, which is based on external news services and does not necessarily reflect the views of IOM.

Compiled by Communications team of IOM Ukraine