



NEWS FROM UKRAINE

President of Ukraine signs law on biometric passports

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich has signed the Law on the Unified State Demographic Register and Identity Documents, which envisages the introduction of electronic passports for Ukrainians.

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine passed this law on 20 November, taking into account proposals made by the president.

This law lays down the procedure of issuance of a large number of documents that will be used on the territory of Ukraine. According to the law, these documents are issued on the basis of the unified state demographic register, which certifies one's identity, along with driver's licenses, a certificate of a stateless person, a permanent residence certificate, a temporary residence certificate, a migrant's card, and a refugee certificate.

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

According to the law, the passports of Ukrainian citizens will be produced in the form of cards with contactless smart chips and issued no later than 30 calendar days from the date of the submission of a relevant application. The electronic passports will include the name of the state, the name of the document, the full name of the holder, the holder's gender, citizenship, date of birth, and a unique number in the register, the number of the document, the date of the document's expiry, the date of issue of the document, the name of the agency that issued the document, the place of birth, a photo and the signature of the holder.

Information about parents or trustee of the holder may be included to the document upon a relevant written request.

At the president's request, a new provision has been included in the law that says that people who refuse to enter their personal information in an electronic chip due to their religious beliefs have the right to refuse to use this document or the inserting of such information into the chip.

The president also suggested that the payment for the issuance of such documents should be covered from the revenues of the general fund of the budget.

Read more: KyivPost, 29 November, 2012

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/yanukovich-signs-law-on-biometric-passports-316905.html>

Border Guard Service chief: Ukraine open to border cooperation with EU

Ukraine is open for a dialogue and close cooperation with the EU Delegation to Ukraine and the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM), Head of the State Border Guard Service Mykola Lytvyn has said during a working meeting with Head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine Jan Tombinski and EUBAM Head Udo Burkholder in Odesa on 23 November, 2012.

Ukraine and the EU Delegation have implemented 17 technical assistance programs worth EUR 41.8 million since 2005. EUBAM created departments for international cooperation at regional agencies and border guard detachments to coordinate its work. In addition, the mission created a number of working groups for the prevention of irregular migration and smuggling, the improvement of information exchange, on the activities of joint checkpoints and mobile detachments, and the introduction of joint border patrols.

Read more: KyivPost, 23 November, 2012

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/border-guard-service-chief-ukraine-open-for-border-cooperation-with-eu-moldova-316617.html>



Ukrainian population grows in September 2012 first time in many years due to migration

In September, due to increased number of newcomers a permanent population of Ukraine has grown for the first time in 19 years. The Ukrainian population was 45,559,235 as of 1 October, 2012. Thus, over the month it increased by 177 people (as of September 1 — 45,559,058), the State Statistics Service of Ukraine reported.

Since 1993, the population of Ukraine, having reached a maximum mark in the history of 51.7 million monthly, has been declining. This negative tendency is still continuing in the country. In September 4,060 more people died than were born, according to the State Statistics Service.

Read more: The National Radio Company of Ukraine, 19 November, 2012

<http://radioukr.com.ua/en/148/516127/>

Eurostat: most of all Ukrainians among immigrants in Czech Republic and Poland

Ukrainians became the most numerous group obtaining citizenship in the Czech Republic and Poland in 2010. As Deutsche Welle informs, this is showed by the data of the Eurostat — the Statistical Office of the EU.

In 2010, the population of 27 countries of the Union increased at the expense of 810 thousand immigrants. The majority arrived from Africa (29%), Asia (23%), the European countries outside the EU (19%), and from North and South America (19%).

Ukrainians are the first by the number of obtained Czech (36.1%) and Polish (33.9%) passports. In Slovakia, Ukrainians made up the third group of naturalized citizens — 18.4 per cent.

Ukrainians are also among the four most numerous groups obtaining citizenship of Lithuania (9.9%), Estonia (1.4%) and Latvia (0.9%).

Read more: Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia, 23 November, 2012

http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/4374/eurostat_there_are_most_of_all_ukrainians_among_immigrants_in_czech_republic_and_poland

Ukrainians, Russians and Chinese get most Schengen visas in 2011

Citizens of Russia, Ukraine and China received the most Schengen visas for travel to the EU countries in 2011, according to a study “A visa policy to spur economic growth in the EU,” which was released by the European Commission on 7 November, 2012.

“In 2011, the countries where most C visa applications were lodged were Russia (5.2 million, 39% of total), Ukraine (1.1 million, 8%), China (1.1 million, 8%), Turkey (0.62 million, 5%) and Belarus (0.58 million, 4%),” the European Commission reported.

At the same time, the refusal rate for Ukraine, according to the European Commission, was 3.3 per cent.

In 2011, the present 26 Schengen states issued 12.6 million Schengen visas.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 7 November, 2012

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russians_ukrainians_and_chinese_get_most_schengen_visas_in_2011_292771



Researcher: Ukrainian migrants in EU seek legal employment

New Ukrainian labour migrants in Italy, Spain and Portugal are now massively trying to find legal work in those countries.

Scientific Director of the Euro-Atlantic Cooperation Institute Oleksandr Sushko said this on 20 November, 2012, at a conference on the situation in Ukraine through the eyes of the European Union and the prospects of relations.

“As I am researching the latest Ukrainian diasporas in the EU countries, I can say that to date, in countries such as Italy, Spain and Portugal, where there are the biggest Ukrainian labour diasporas, they significantly modified in the direction of almost total legalization of work and stay,” Mr. Sushko said.

According to Mr. Sushko, the legislation of European countries now allows Ukrainian migrant workers to live and work legally.

“At present there is mass orientation of Ukrainian communities not only to a legal stay, but also legal employment. In principle, the current legislation in these countries creates opportunities for such employment,” the expert said.

However, as Mr. Sushko explained, Ukrainian labour migrants who work or go to work irregularly, see their presence in another country as a one-time act (to earn and return quickly), or as an interim visit with further legalization.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 21 November, 2012

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_migrants_in_eu_seeking_legal_employment_293588

Croatia resumes visa regime with Ukraine

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry has recalled that the visa regime with Croatia is resumed on 1 November; therefore, Ukrainians who are planning to visit this country should apply for visas in advance.

“The forth of the Croatian Government’s decision on the temporary introduction of the visa-free regime for Ukrainian citizens expired on 31 October, 2012. Therefore, starting from 1 November, 2012, Ukrainian citizens who are planning to visit Croatia should apply for visas in advance at the Embassy of Croatia in Ukraine,” reads the statement.

However, the Foreign Ministry spokesman Oleksandr Dykusev said that according to the decision of the Croatian Government, foreign nationals, including Ukrainian citizens, who have valid permits for residence on the territory of the EU member states, valid short-term (two- or multiple entry) Schengen visas or valid long-stay visas, are exempt from the requirement to additionally register Croatian national visas until 31 December, 2012.

The abovementioned documents should be valid at the time of the departure of the applicant from Croatia, Mr. Dykusev said.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 2 November, 2012

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/croatia_resumes_visa_regime_with_ukraine_292453



Honorary Consulate of Malta officially opened in Kyiv

The Ambassador of Malta to Poland and Ukraine (resident in Warsaw) Mr. Godwin Montanaro, and recently appointed Honorary Consul Mr. Pavlo Hrechivskyi, took part in the opening ceremony.

Mr. Hrechivskyi stated that he would like to organize a Ukrainian business mission to Malta, a festival of Maltese culture in Ukraine and many other events and activities that would foster Malta-Ukraine bilateral cooperation.

Diplomatic relations between Ukraine and the Republic of Malta were established in 1992. Malta and Ukraine cooperate in such areas as tourism, healthcare, maritime and financial services, information technology and education.

Read more: The National Radio Company of Ukraine, 8 November, 2012
<http://radioukr.com.ua/en/148/515178/>

Ukraine's Consulate General opened in Karahanda

Karahanda region of Kazakhstan occupies a leading position in foreign trade with Ukraine. In 2011, trade with Ukraine reached USD 512.7 million, or almost a quarter of Ukraine's trade with Kazakhstan. In this region, Ukraine buys manganese ore, coal and rolled metal, and supplies food, coke, ferroalloys, equipment and spare parts.

Six joint ventures are operating in Karahanda, and negotiations are underway on joint projects in agriculture, chemical and light industry, pharmaceuticals and construction industry. About 1,000 Ukrainians live in the region. There are also two Ukrainian communities, which include about 62,000 people. Ukraine's honorary consulate in Karahanda is the second such institution of Ukraine in Kazakhstan. In 2004, Ukraine opened an honorary consulate in Kustanai.

Read more: The National Radio Company of Ukraine, 26 November, 2012
<http://radioukr.com.ua/en/148/516783/>

Ukrainian universities inviting Vietnamese students

Ukraine is ready to continue to teach the Vietnamese students and specialists, Prime Minister of Ukraine Mykola Azarov said after the meeting with Prime Minister of Vietnam Nguyen Tan Dung.

According to the press service of the Government of Ukraine, the Prime Minister noted a high level of cooperation between Ukraine and Vietnam in the field of education.

"We have agreed that the Vietnamese students, including students of military schools, will be trained in Ukraine," Mr. Azarov noted.

As of today, 1,047 Vietnamese students and postgraduates study in the Ukrainian universities. In general, Ukraine has trained over 8,000 Vietnamese specialists.

Read more: ForUm, 16 November, 2012
<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2012/11/16/121730.html>

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