



NEWS FROM UKRAINE

EU could soon allow visa-free travel for Moldovans, while Ukraine and Georgia making progress towards goal

The European Commission could soon start procedures to lift visa requirements for Moldovan citizens holding biometric passports, after a progress report on Moldova's Visa Liberalization Action Plan (VLAP) found that it had met all the benchmarks in the plan. A similar assessment found that both Ukraine and Georgia had made good progress towards implementation of their respective Action Plans.

The European Commission issued the three progress reports ahead of the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius Summit on 28–29 November.

The Commission considers that the Republic of Moldova meets all the benchmarks set in the four blocks of the second phase of the VLAP.

The assessment found that Ukraine has made substantial progress in all four blocks of the VLAP and in particular since the end of 2012, speeding up its implementation and adopting a number of substantial legislative packages in order to tackle the identified gaps. However, there are still some important first phase requirements to be met.

The first report on implementation of the Action Plan by Georgia concludes that Georgia has made very good progress during the first few months.

Commissioner Malmström also congratulated Ukraine and Georgia for their progress. "Ukraine is very close to moving to the second, practical stage of the implementation of the Action Plan," she said.

Read more: EU Neighbourhood Info Centre, 15 November 2013

<http://bit.ly/ljLdfm>

Russian consul: No visas in near future, it's only about foreign passports

Consul General of Russia in Crimea Viacheslav Svitlychnyi denies rumors that Russia is going to introduce a visa regime for Ukraine, but admitted that the citizens will probably have to cross the border on foreign passports.

"There definitely will be no visas in the foreseeable future. But the fact is that foreign passports might be needed for entry, and this issue is being discussed. The timing is not being discussed so far, but such a possibility exists," Mr. Svitlychnyi noted.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 11 November 2013

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_consul_no_visas_in_near_future_its_only_about_foreign_passports_312734

Migration authorities report over 300,000 foreigners in Ukraine

The State Migration Service (SMS) of Ukraine says that there are more than 247,000 foreign citizens constantly residing in Ukraine and more than 71,000 foreigners living here temporarily. Head of the SMS Mykola Kovalchuk told this to reporters on 8 November 2013.



“As of today we have registered more than 247,000 foreigners permanently residing in Ukraine, and over 71,000 temporary residents. The majority of these persons is from the CIS countries. The most are from Russia and the countries of the Caucasus region,” Mr. Kovalchuk said.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 8 November 2013

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/migration_authorities_report_over_300000_foreigners_in_ukraine_312709

Ukraine will not revise immigration quotas for foreigners

Ukraine does not plan to revise the immigration quotas for foreigners in the near future, First Deputy Head of the State Migration Service of Ukraine Viktor Sheibut told ForUm correspondent.

“These quotas operate almost constantly and recently have not been filled,” Mr. Sheibut said.

Mr. Sheibut noted that Ukraine does not have and will not impose severe restrictions for migrants, such as in the Russian Federation.

According to Mr. Sheibut, it would be beneficial for Ukraine to integrate labour migrants to work legally and pay taxes.

According to the State Migration Service, Ukraine needs 300 thousand foreign workers every year in order to maintain the demographic balance.

Read more: ForUm, 31 October 2013

<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2013/10/31/140351.html>

Russia approves quotas for foreign employees in 2014

The Government of Russia plans to employ more than 1.6 million foreign workers in 2014.

This was set in a governmental decree, which also indicates the quota of 357,894 invitations for foreign citizens to enter Russia for labour activity.

It is planned to attract 557,000 builders to the Russian Federation next year, as well as almost 119,000 drivers and operators of mobile equipment, about 108,000 workers from the machine building and metalworking industry, and more than 275,000 unskilled workers. The other specializations include managers, scientists, engineers, and agricultural workers.

According to the data of the Federal Migration Service of Russia, there are at least 10 million labour migrants in the country, including more than 3 million irregular migrants. There are about 1.5 million Ukrainians in Russia.

Read more: Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia, 7 November 2013

http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/6040/russia_approves_quotas_for_foreign_employees_in_2014

Number of Ukrainian labour migrants decreased over recent years, — expert

The number of labour migrants from Ukraine was 1.2 million people during 2010–2012, or 0.3 million less than during 2005–2008. This figure was named by International Labour Organization (ILO) Project Coordinator Tetiana Minenko during the presentation of the Extended Migration Profile of Ukraine, the UNN’s correspondent informs.



Ms. Minenko noted that the biggest flow of Ukrainian labour migrants is directed to Russia. Top destination countries in the EU are Poland, Italy, and the Czech Republic.

National Coordinator of ILO in Ukraine Serhii Savchuk emphasized that labour migration brings considerable investments to the Ukrainian economy.

Read more: Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia, 31 October 2013

http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/6016/number_of_ukrainian_labour_migrants_decreased_during_past_years__expert

Ukrainians are the fifth largest migrant community in Italy

There are 225,000 Ukrainians residing regularly in Italy. At the same time, according to civil society organizations, there are at least half-a-million migrants from Ukraine in the country.

This data was published by the IDOS Research Centre together with the National Office against Race Discrimination UNAR, Radio Liberty informs.

According to the current statistical dossier on immigration, the Ukrainian community in Italy is the fifth largest after Romanians, Moroccans, Albanians and the Chinese.

The authors of the research note that despite the long economic crisis in Italy, the flow of foreigners to the country increases, though insignificantly. There are more than 5 million regular foreign citizens in the country now.

The total number of migrants in the country makes is more than 7 per cent of the population. Immigrants are mainly concentrated in the north of the country, in such large cities as Rome and Milan.

Despite the crisis, the employment rate among foreigners remains traditionally high in comparison with Italians. The researchers explain this phenomenon with the fact that immigrants often do low-skilled jobs with low salaries, which local residents refuse to accept.

Read more: Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia, 14 November 2013

http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/6068/ukrainians_are_the_fifth_largest_migrant_community_in_italy

Ukraine increases control over children adopted by foreigners

On 21 November 2013, the Government of Ukraine approved a decree on increasing staffing of foreign diplomatic missions to ensure efficient supervision over the rights of children adopted by foreigners and residing in the United States, Italy, France and Spain, the Information-Analytical Bulletin of the Government of Ukraine reports.

According to the governmental analysts, a number of amendments have been introduced for more efficient regulation of foreign adoption and monitoring the living conditions of an adopted child. The document also provides for a mechanism of the child's return to Ukraine if the adoption fails.

Accounting and supervision over the observance of the rights of Ukrainian children adopted by foreigners is entrusted to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its consular service.



To date, over 50 per cent of foreign adoptive parents have submitted their reports to Ukrainian consular offices.

Read more: ForUm, 25 November 2013

<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2013/11/25/142833.html>

1.2 million children globally become victims of human trafficking annually, — UNICEF

150 million girls and 73 million boys under 18 become victims of sexual violence and abuse every year, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Representative in Ukraine Yukie Mokuo informed at a press conference dedicated to the World Day for Prevention of Abuse and Violence against Children.

Ms. Mokuo also informed that 1.2 million children globally become victims of human trafficking.

UNICEF's representative noted that the facts of violence and abuse are present in the whole world, and, unfortunately, Ukraine is not an exception.

Read more: Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia, 19 November 2013

http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/6080/12_million_children_globally_become_victims_of_human_traffic_every_year_-_unicef

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