February 2017

# **European Parliament and Council agree to waive visa requirement** for Ukrainians

#### 28 February 2017 - European Parliament

Ukrainian citizens will be able to travel to the EU visa free under a deal struck by the European Parliament and Council negotiators on 28 February. Once the decision enters into force Ukrainian citizens with biometric passports will be able to enter the EU for up to 90 days in for business, tourism or family purposes within a 180-day-period.

The deal will now have to be endorsed by the Civil Liberties Committee and Parliament as a whole, before being formally approved by the Council of Ministers.

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### EU provides EUR 27.2 million to Ukraine for migration management project

#### 2 February 2017 - Interfax

The European Union allocated EUR 27.2 million for the project "Support for Migration and Asylum Management in Ukraine" to foster migration management in the country in accordance with best international and European practices. According to the Head of EU Delegation to Ukraine, Ambassador Hugues Mingarelli, this is the biggest ever EU project on migration management in one of the Eastern Partnership countries.

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# Ukraine just begins to realize migrants' influence on country's development

24 February 2017 – Radio Free Europe

Over 60 per cent of Ukrainians who work abroad want to return and invest in the development of their home country, however additional efforts are needed to facilitate migrants' investment in Ukraine, said Anastasiia Vynnychenko, IOM labour migration specialist. Ukraine begins to realize the importance of labour migrants for the development, and should further support the creation of programmes for return of its migrants as well as facilitate investments in the country of origin

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## 64,000 foreigners attend universities in Ukraine

#### 9 February 2017 - KyivPost

Despite the protracted conflict and economic uncertainty, international students continue to arrive in Ukraine every year. The reason is affordable education. Even the usually expensive medical schools, in Ukraine they cost students only from USD 3,000 to 5,000. In 2016, the top nationalities of foreign students to the Ukrainian universities were Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, India, Nigeria, Morocco, Georgia, Jordan, Iraq, China and Uzbekistan.

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# The majority of Ukrainian migrant workers prefer Poland and Russia for seasonal jobs

#### 2 February 2017 - UNIAN

According to the study conducted by the Sociologic Group "Rating" among Ukrainians who have worked abroad in the last five years, 77 per cent of them left for seasonal work, only 15 per cent worked on permanent basis, and 7 per cent had another type of job. The majority of respondents worked in Poland and Russian Federation.

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### Ukraine and Russia debate over an explosive criminal case

#### 13 February 2017 – Interfax

On 10 February, the Russian Interior Ministry reported that it uncovered an international drug cartel with one of its centres located in Kyiv. A total of 67 people were arrested in this case in Russia, including 47 Ukrainian citizens. The Russian Interior Ministry claimed that there were special recruiting points in Kyiv, and advertisements with offer of high-paid couriers' jobs in Russia were placed in Ukrainian newspapers.

At the same time, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoI) of Ukraine said those Ukrainian citizens detained in Russia were victims of human traffickers.

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# **32** victims of human trafficking returned to Ukraine last year according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

#### 23 February 2017 - UNN

Last year, the Consular Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine helped 32 Ukrainian victims of human trafficking to return home. Additionally, the Consular Service helped the relatives of 447 Ukrainians abroad to identify their whereabouts and facilitated their communication.

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# 25 investigations on human trafficking opened in Ukraine since the beginning of the year

#### 8 February 2017 - UNN

Since the beginning of 2017, 25 investigations on human trafficking were opened by Ukrainian law enforcement agencies. It was stated during the meeting of the representatives of the General Prosecutor's Office with IOM Ukraine's Chief of Mission Manfred Profazi. The parties discussed human trafficking and labour exploitation issues, in particular, the capacity building efforts to address this issue on local, national and regional level, as well as cooperation between law enforcement authorities and civil society organizations in assisting the victims of trafficking.

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#### Czech Republic increased quotas for Ukrainian workers

#### 8 February 2017 – Radio Free Europe

On 8 February, the Czech Government adopted a resolution to increase the number of Ukrainian workers in the country. According to the Head of Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lubomír Zaorálek, the 800,000 quota will increase twice. Additionally, the number of staff in the Czech Consulate General

in Lviv and the department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in charge of Ukrainian labour migrants will be increased.



### Ukraine acts to improve diversity and inclusion

#### 27 February 2017 – Human Rights Watch

Ukraine has taken another significant step towards the protection and inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people. In early February, the Ministry of Health released for public discussion a draft medical form for patients choosing a family doctor, as part of broader healthcare reform. In the proposed form, Ukrainians can choose to indicate which gender they are – female or male – or choose not to indicate their gender.



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**Compiled by IOM Ukraine Communications team**