



NEWS FROM UKRAINE

Ukrainians rank first among voluntary returnees from Belgium

For the first time, figures have been released about the number of irregular immigrants who have left the Kingdom of Belgium and returned to their home country voluntarily and without the help of the Belgian Government.

Ms. Maggie De Block, State Secretary for Asylum and Immigration of the Kingdom of Belgium, says it is mostly Ukrainian immigrants who have been leaving Belgium voluntarily in the past few months.

The Belgian dailies *De Standaard* and *Het Nieuwsblad* published data about people who fly back home after failing to obtain permission to stay in Belgium, and report their decision to the local authorities.

“Ukrainians are followed by citizens of Turkey, Morocco, China, Kosovo and Albania. In most cases, they still have an on-going procedure to appeal against an earlier decision, but at a certain moment they decide to throw in the towel,” explains Ms. De Block.

De Standaard newspaper writes that until now, it was generally assumed that almost all those that had fruitlessly tried every legal possibility to obtain a residence permit, eventually decided to stay in Belgium irregularly. That is why Belgian authorities launched a campaign to have those who leave the country voluntarily report this at Belgian airports since May 2013. It is the first time that figures have been released, and the number turns out to be higher than what experts had imagined.

The 1,346 persons who have left since last May would equal some 2,000 when extrapolated to a whole year. That is six people daily. But in reality, their number will be higher, as many are probably opting to return home via bus or car.

Read more: [Expatica.com](http://expatica.com), 21 February 2014

<http://bit.ly/1crBv20>

Ukraine’s population to drop to 35 million by 2065?

According to the average index calculated by Ukrainian demographers, there will be 35 million Ukrainians by 2065. Experts think this number is not critical. They suppose that the inflow of migrants will help to improve the demographic situation.

“In general, Ukraine will require migrants. In a rather short period of time, work force shortage will become apparent in Ukraine. As a rule, migrants work in trade and construction spheres. They are from Azerbaijan, Georgia, other former Soviet republics, and also Turkey,” states Oleksii Pozniak, Head of Migration Studies at the Ptukha Institute for Demography and Social Studies.

A nationwide census could yield more precise data and forecasts. Per the recommendation of the UN, it should be carried out every 10 years. The first and only Ukrainian census took place in 2001. A census is needed to form the strategy of a country’s development, to know the structure of the population. In 2012,



Ukraine prepared for to hold a census in 2013, but the government did not fund it. Now, according to Ella Libanova, Head of the Institute for Demography and Social Studies, another census should not be expected until the end of 2015.

Read more: The Day, 4 February 2014

<http://www.day.kiev.ua/en/article/day-after-day/population-drop-35-million-2065>

IOM and International Institute for Connections with Diaspora to strengthen cooperation

IOM Ukraine's Chief of Mission Manfred Profazi met with the Director of National Lviv Polytechnic University's International Institute for Education, Culture and Connections with Diaspora, Iryna Kluchkovska.

Mr. Profazi and Ms. Kluchkovska discussed a number of important issues related to international migration and the Ukrainian diaspora, other issues of common interest, and agreed on further cooperation and mutual events.

Iryna Kluchkovska pointed out that Ukrainian labour migrants have started to develop new models of integration in host societies, as such creating new diaspora institutions and influencing host countries' policies. "Today we face the threat of a new emigration wave — emigration of highly-qualified young professionals," underscored Ms. Kluchkovska. "Therefore, it is important to make forward-looking steps in the process of developing mechanisms for migration management in Ukraine in order not to lose human capital, but to turn it back to the development of Ukraine."

Read more: International Organization for Migration, Mission in Ukraine, 6 February 2014

<http://bit.ly/NCa14d>

Moldovan and Ukrainian customs officials join forces to fight cigarette smuggling

Representatives from customs and law enforcement agencies of Moldova and Ukraine have met at the EU Border Assistance Mission to the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) headquarters to look into ways of tackling cigarette smuggling through the central sector of the Moldova–Ukraine border — one of the most serious risks to border security between the two countries.

The EUBAM Mission prepared the ground for further cooperation of Moldovan and Ukrainian colleagues with their international partners. This time, the Ukrainian and Moldovan customs officers were joined by their EU colleagues from the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and HM Revenue and Customs (UK).

The Task Force Tobacco was established in 2010 and since then it has coordinated the joint efforts of Ukrainian and Moldovan customs agencies in combating the smuggling of tobacco products from Moldova and Ukraine into the EU.

Read more: European Neighbourhood Info Centre, 26 February 2014

<http://bit.ly/1mLX2tn>



Anti-corruption workshop for customs officials from Belarus and Ukraine

How to deal with people offering bribes to customs officials? What are the consequences of corrupt practices? These and other related issues were the focus of a three-day workshop on anti-corruption awareness and stress management, held in Minsk on 18–20 February under an EU-funded project, *Support to the creation of an electronic system of pre-arrival information exchange between the customs authorities of Belarus and Ukraine — PRINEX*.

The seminar, which brought together 20 customs officials from Belarus and Ukraine, was conducted by the International Organization on Migration (IOM), in cooperation with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

The workshop focused on anti-corruption practices, especially those in EU member states, and looked into ways of sharing experience on the regional level. Participants got practical skills in identifying risky situations and how to prevent engagement in such situations, as well as the consequences of corrupt practices.

Read more: European Neighbourhood Info Centre, 18 February 2014

<http://bit.ly/1dIlxBM>

Border guards from Belarus and Ukraine trained on document security at workshop in Minsk

Border guards from Belarus and Ukraine learned about modern techniques that their counterparts in Europe use to detect forged documents or to spot people using fake identities, at a workshop in Minsk on 17–19 February, organized under an EU-funded project, *Strengthening surveillance capacity on the green and blue border between the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine — SURCAP*.

The seminar on document security and identification of forged/falsified documents, conducted by the International Organization on Migration (IOM), in cooperation with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), brought together 20 representatives of the border guard services from both countries, as well as international experts from Latvia, the Slovak Republic and ICMPD.

Read more: European Neighbourhood Info Centre, 17 February 2014

<http://bit.ly/1mLXasP>

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