

SUPPORT FOR MIGRATION AND ASYLUM MANAGEMENT IN UKRAINE (IMMIS)



Funded by the
European Union



Implemented by the International
Organization for Migration

Monitoring of migration situation and developments in migration and border management

February 2019

Main events and trends of the month

- The EU agreed on imposing sanctions against 8 Russians involved in the capture of Ukrainian seamen during the Kerch Strait incident.
- Germany and Denmark extended temporary controls at the EU internal borders. The Czech Republic is going to enhance patrolling in the areas with a high number of foreign workers.
- The number of foreigners and stateless persons who temporarily stay in Ukraine has levelled out after a seasonal increase in the number of foreigners who came to study in autumn due to the start of the new academic year.
- At the end of 2018, the number of Ukrainians participating in the Polish social insurance system was about half a million people.
- The number of Russian citizens who were not allowed to enter the territory of Ukraine has substantially increased since the martial law was cancelled on 26 December 2018, while the number of Turkish citizens who were not allowed to enter the territory of Ukraine has been increasing since December.
- In accordance with the Frontex Risk Analysis for 2019 report, Ukraine ranks first in the number of refusals of entry to the EU and the Schengen Area for the second year in a row.
- The SMS and the SBGS summed up the results of the work of the agencies in 2018 and discussed plans for 2019.
- Preventive measures related to monitoring and control over compliance with the migration legislation titled “Migrant” were announced to take place from 1 March till 31 May.
- The agreement on readmission of persons with Moldova entered into force.

1. FACTORS AFFECTING MIGRATION SITUATION AND MIGRATION POLICY IN UKRAINE

1.1. Social-political situation in the world

The EU diplomats agreed on imposing sanctions against 8 Russians involved in the capture of Ukrainian seamen during the Kerch Strait incident¹. The persons who will be allegedly put under the sanctions may include servicemen involved in the incident and court representatives who detained the Ukrainians².

Hungary launched a campaign against the European Commission and its President Jean-Claude Juncker. It claims that they want to reduce the amount of financial assistance to the countries that oppose migration³. In its turn, the EC rebutted these claims and assured that the EU funding was not aimed at promoting or reducing migration and that no migration quotas were planned for the member states⁴.

In February, the EU agreed on mutual visa-free travel for a short stay for the Schengen Area and Great Britain following the exit of the latter from the EU⁵. The UK Office for National Statistics reported that the immigration from the EU fell to the lowest level since 2009 due to the approaching Brexit⁶. The Czech Republic passed the law providing that the British citizens would preserve the same rights as the citizens of other member states during the transitional period⁷. According to the survey findings published in February, most EU citizens believe that the exit of Great Britain from the EU will have neither a substantial impact on the EU nor positive effects for Britain itself⁸; most British are ready to delay Brexit for the sake of extending negotiations, but not for too long⁹.

Sweden, Germany, Austria, Norway and Denmark extended controls at the border with other Schengen Area countries, which have been in place since November 2015, till 11 May 2019¹⁰. The Swedish government substantiated the decision by existence of a threat to public order and the country's internal security¹¹.

On 27 December, the Czech Interior Minister Jan Hamáček informed about extended patrolling of areas with large numbers of foreign workers, which would involve Czech, Slovak and Polish police forces¹². The

¹ <https://bit.ly/2lFwZbx>

² <https://www.euointegration.com.ua/news/2019/02/15/7092888/>

³ <https://apnews.com/268b8594525b47828e083e950e2d4ff4>

⁴ <https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/news/commission-responds-to-orbans-latest-anti-immigration-campaign/>

⁵ <https://www.euointegration.com.ua/news/2019/02/1/7092315/>

⁶ <https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-britain-economy-immigration/eu-migration-to-uk-lowest-since-2009-as-brex-it-approaches-idUKKCN1QH19W>

⁷ <https://www.novinky.cz/domaci/498443-zakon-o-brexitu-hladce-prosel-senatem.html>

⁸ <https://www.politico.eu/article/eu27-citizens-see-no-big-brex-it-hit-for-them-but-think-brits-will-be-worse-off-poll-extension-dutch-uk-britain/>

⁹ <https://www.politico.eu/article/poll-public-uk-voters-backs-brex-it-extension-but-only-if-its-short-deal/>

¹⁰ <https://www.euointegration.com.ua/news/2019/02/7/7092563/>

¹¹ <https://www.regeringen.se/pressmeddelanden/2019/02/fortsatta-granskotroller-vid-inre-grans/>

¹² <https://www.radio.cz/en/section/news/czech-slovak-and-polish-police-forces-set-to-cooperate-in-reducing-crime-in-areas-with-large-segments-of-foreign-workers>



Ministry signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Region of Central-Bohemia that seeks to combat problems associated with foreign workers in industrial zones.

Cyprus amended the rules for granting passports to foreign investors and increasing quality of background checks to prevent money laundering and flouting tax laws by such persons¹³. From now on, applicants who want to get a Cypriot passport will be checked by an international agency and should have the EU travel permit.¹⁴ The State Agency for National Security of Bulgaria intends to withdraw citizenship from foreigners who were granted citizenship in 2013–2018 in exchange for investment, but failed to invest in the country's economy. Such investors include Ukrainian citizens¹⁵.

On 14 February, in Geneva, the UNHCR and the UNICEF drew attention to the issues of stateless children and called on states and regional organisations to take urgent action to resolve the issue¹⁶.

As of 28 January 2019, 370 cases were initiated against Ukrainians who illegally obtained citizenship in Hungary. In most cases, the proceedings were initiated when it was found that an applicant obtained citizenship without the knowledge of Hungarian or when the language exam was passed by a straw man¹⁷. A ship carrying drugs and 11 suspects, including 8 Ukrainian citizens, were detained as a result of a joint operation implemented by Spain and Portugal.

1.2. Military conflicts and emergencies in the world

In Burkina Faso, jihadists escalated their attacks in the north and east of the country. The army attacked in response. Hundreds of people were killed. In Niger, Boko Haram continued attacks in several regions, mostly in border areas. Dozens of people were killed and went missing. In Cameroon, Boko Haram also escalated attacks in the north of the country. Hundreds of people died. In Kumba, separatists kidnapped 170 children from school on 16 February. 2 days later, they were released following the negotiation. In Chad, the government sent a request for air attacks to France to stop rebels in the north-east of the country, and Boko Haram continued attacks near Lake Chad in the west. In Mogadishu, Somalia, al-Shabaab blasted a car and killed 9 people, killed the Deputy Attorney General, sent a suicide bomber who blasted himself near a hotel and a judge's house, killing at least 29 people, and continued shooting attacks against law enforcement forces. Al-Shabaab also made a series of attacks in other regions of the country. Hundreds of people were killed. In Sudan, the President imposed the martial law due to protests, which increased the risk of violent breaking up of the riots. In Mozambique, Islamic militants continued attacks in Cabo Delgado and in the north. Dozens of people were killed. In Nigeria, hundreds of people died in various regions of the country as a result of attacks and clashes. Boko Haram continues attacking servicemen and civilians. For instance, on 16 December, a suicide bomber blasted himself in a mosque in Borno and killed 11 people¹⁸.

In February 2019, the most stringent situation was observed in Burkina Faso, Niger, Cameroon, Chad, Somalia, Mozambique and Nigeria. Conflicts in other countries and regions remained at the same level as in the previous month.

No other large emergencies, including in the countries bordering Ukraine, that could influence the migration situation in Ukraine were detected.

¹³ <https://apnews.com/51f766f612064246b5753408ea23b303>

¹⁴ <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/news/2019/02/14/7092804/>

¹⁵ <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/news/2019/02/21/7093116/>

¹⁶ <http://www.un.org.ua/ua/informatsiinyi-tsentri/news/4607-uvkb-oon-ta-yunisef-zaklykaiut-do-nehainykh-dii-v-yevropi-shchob-podolaty-bezhromadianstvo-sered-ditei>

¹⁷ <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/news/2019/02/11/7092670/>

¹⁸ <https://www.crisisgroup.org/crisiswatch>

1.3. Events in the JFO area and in occupied Crimea, and other emergencies in Ukraine

Tense situation was observed in the JFO area and in the occupied Crimea. For main events visit the official website of the Information and Analytical Centre of the National Security of Ukraine¹⁹. In February 2019, there were 279 shooting attacks at the JFO front line, which is 69 more than in January 2019. Details on shooting attacks, injuries, casualties and emergencies in the JFO area see on the official JFO page on Facebook²⁰.

According to OHCHR, in December, fewer injuries and casualties were registered among civilians: from 9 in November to 4 in December (1 casualty and 3 injuries) as a result of military actions in the east of Ukraine. On 10 January, 3 utility company's employees were injured in the shooting while performing their duties. A school in Zolote-5 was bombarded 4 times, including one time during classes²¹.

In February 2019, there were 5 situations in Ukraine that can be classified as emergencies by the State Emergency Service, but their consequences will not cause displacement of the population^{22,23,24,25,26}. The monitoring of the official website of the National Police of Ukraine has not shown any emergencies that can cause displacement of the population²⁷.

2. MIGRATION SITUATION

2.1. Demographic situation

As of 1 January 2019, according to estimates, the population of Ukraine was 42,153.2 thousand people (excluding the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol)^{28,29}. The chart that shows reduction in the population in January–December 2018 by 233.2 thousand people was published in the express edition by the State Statistics Service of Ukraine³⁰. According to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, in January–December 2018, 100 deaths were registered per 57 live births, which resulted in reduction of the population by 251.8 thousand people due to natural causes³¹.

In January–December 2018, the number of incomers (629.3 thousand people) was higher than the number of those who have left (610.7 thousand people), and the migration gain was 18.6 thousand

¹⁹ <http://mediarnbo.org/>

²⁰ www.facebook.com/pressjfo.news

²¹ https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/ukraine_humanitarian_snapshot_20190215_ua.pdf

²² <https://www.dsns.gov.ua/ua/Dovidka-za-dobu/90090.html>

²³ <https://www.dsns.gov.ua/ua/Dovidka-za-dobu/89715.html>

²⁴ <https://www.dsns.gov.ua/ua/Dovidka-za-dobu/89595.html>

²⁵ <https://www.dsns.gov.ua/ua/Dovidka-za-dobu/89174.html>

²⁶ <https://www.dsns.gov.ua/ua/Dovidka-za-dobu/88981.html>

²⁷ <https://www.npu.gov.ua/news/>

²⁸ http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/operativ/operativ2018/ds/kn/kn_u/kn1218_u.html

²⁹ Calculations (estimates) of the population were made based on the existing administrative data on state registration of births and deaths and changes of the place of residences.

³⁰ <http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/express/expr2019/02/23.pdf>

³¹ http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/operativ/operativ2018/ds/pp/pp_u/pp1218_u.html



people (based on the data on registration/de-registration). The calculations based on the data of the State Statistics Service of Ukraine on registration and de-registration³² show that in December 2018, in Ukraine, the number of incomers was 43.9 thousand people, and the number of those who have left was 39 thousand people. In December 2018, the largest gain was observed in Kyiv oblast (2.2 thousand people), in the city of Kyiv (1.7 thousand people) and in Odesa oblast (1.3 thousand people). In December 2018, the largest decrease was observed in Donetsk oblast (-0.7 thousand people), Luhansk oblast (-0.4 thousand people) and Vinnytsia oblast (-0.2 thousand people)³³.

The data on employable population and population aged below 15 as well as on rural and urban population can be found in the report for June 2018.

Demographic risks³⁴

Given a critical decrease in the population of Ukraine, a critical prevalence of deaths over births, decrease in employable population, decrease in population aged below 15 and slowing urbanization rate, demographic risk can be classified as “critical”.

2.2. Social and economic situation

The report for December 2018 stated that, according to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, the GDP increased by 0.4 percent in Q3 2018 as compared to the previous quarter and by 2.8 percent as compared to Q3 2017³⁵. In January 2019, seasonally adjusted industrial production index was 99.5 percent as compared to December 2018, and 97.1 percent as compared to January 2018³⁶.

The number of registered unemployed increased: in January 2019, it was 364.3 thousand people (1 percent of employable population), which is 22.6 thousand people more as compared to December 2018 (341.7 thousand people) and 64.3 thousand people less as compared to November 2018 (301 thousand people)³⁷. In January 2019, demand for labour increased (67.8 thousand vacancies) as compared to December 2018 (58.4 thousand vacancies). The number of candidates per vacancy decreased as compared to December 2018: 5 people per vacancy³⁸. In 2018, a total of 826.1 thousand people got jobs (including prior to obtaining the status of the unemployed), out of which 377.7 thousand people got jobs following reference from the employment service³⁹.

The data on the findings of the sampling study of economic activity of the population in Q3 2018 are presented in the report for December 2018.

The average nominal wage in January 2019 was UAH 9,223, which is 2.2 times higher than the minimum wage (UAH 4,173). The rate of change in the average nominal wage was 87.2 percent as compared to December 2018, and 119.6 percent as compared to January 2018. In January 2019, the real wage index was 86.4 percent as compared to December 2018, and 109.5 percent as compared to January 2018⁴⁰. As

³² Excluding the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the city of Sevastopol and some temporarily occupied territories in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

³³ http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/operativ/operativ2018/ds/mr/mr_u/arh_mr2018_u.html

³⁴ Here and further in the text the risks are assigned one of the following grades: “critical”, “disturbing” or “acceptable”, where “critical” is a risk with the highest probability, and “acceptable” is the risk with the lowest probability.

³⁵ <http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/express/expr2018/12/189.pdf>

³⁶ <http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/express/expr2019/02/26.pdf>

³⁷ http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/operativ/operativ2019/rp/sz_br/sz_br_u/kzbr_m_u2019.htm

³⁸ https://www.dcz.gov.ua/sites/default/files/inf/files/dodatky_pp_sichen_2019_0.xls

³⁹ https://www.dcz.gov.ua/sites/default/files/inf/files/dodatky_26.xlsx

⁴⁰ <http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/express/expr2019/02/30.pdf>

of 1 February 2019, the wage arrears were UAH 2,614.3 m (98.8 percent, as compared to 1 January 2019), which is 3.7 percent of the payroll budget (0.5 percentage points more than in the previous reporting period)^{41,42}.

In January 2019, the inflation rate in the consumer market was 1 percent as compared to the previous month, and 9.2 percent as compared to January 2018. In January 2019, the core inflation was at 0.3 percent as compared to the previous month, and 8.3 percent as compared to January 2018. In January 2019, the inflation (on a year-on-year basis) showed a slight decrease and was at 9.2 percent (as compared to 9.8 percent in December 2018⁴³)⁴⁴.

In January 2019, 3,649 thousand households received housing and utility subsidies. In January 2019, subsidies were granted to 367.5 thousand households. The number of such households increased by 2.1 times as compared to the corresponding period in 2018⁴⁵.

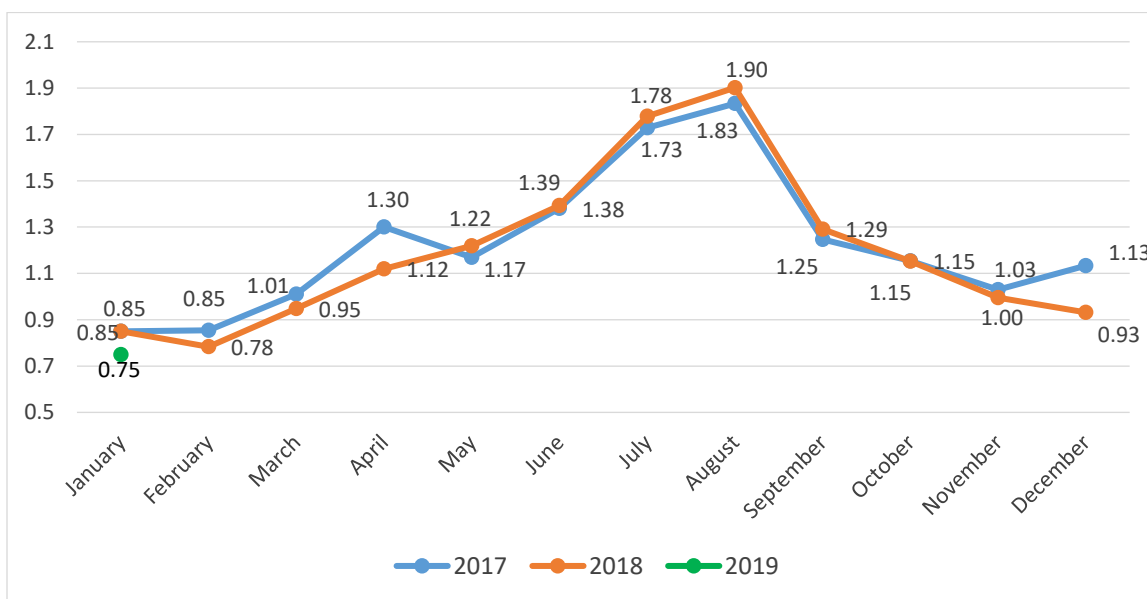
Social and economic risks

Taking into account the GDP increase, slow inflation, higher Doing Business ranking, increased amount of sold industry production and high human development index as well as a slight increase in P2P remittances to Ukraine from abroad allow to conclude that social and economic risk is “acceptable”.

2.3. Border crossings

According to the SBGS, in January 2019, foreigners from 167 countries and stateless persons entered Ukraine 733 thousand times⁴⁶.

Number of border crossings by foreigners and stateless persons (FSPs) to Ukraine (million times, January 2017 — January 2019)⁴⁷:



⁴¹ http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/operativ/operativ2019/gdn/Fop_ed/Fop_ed2019_u.xlsx

⁴² http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/operativ/operativ2019/gdn/zvz/zvz_19_u.htm

⁴³ <http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/express/expr2019/01/01.pdf>

⁴⁴ <http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/express/expr2019/02/14.pdf>

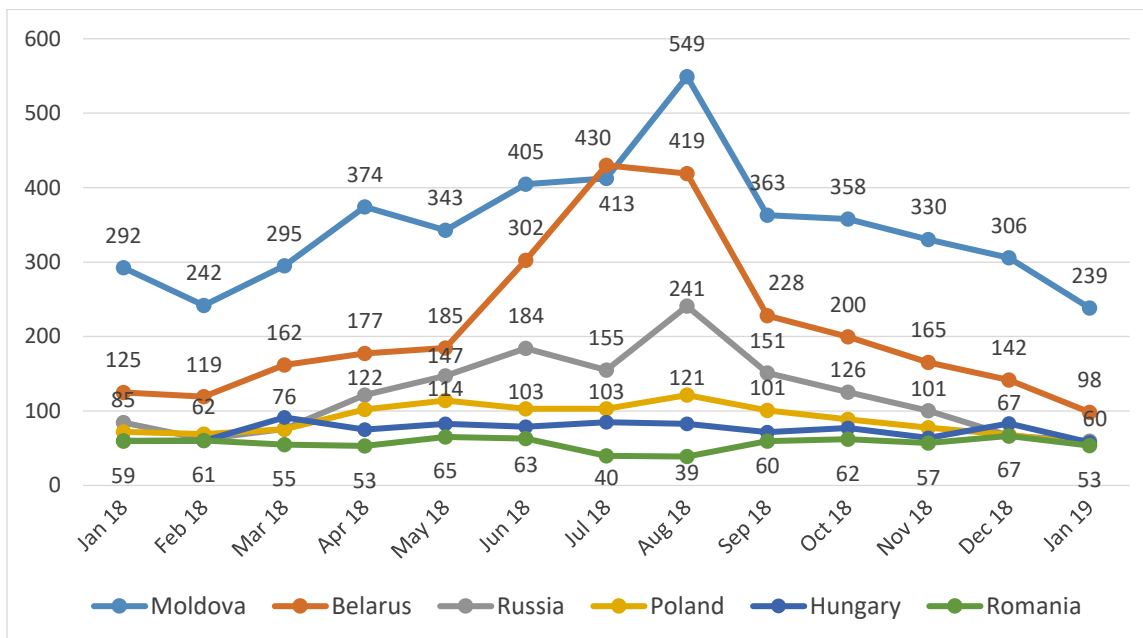
⁴⁵ <http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/express/expr2019/02/21.pdf>

⁴⁶ Based on the data received from the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine on request.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

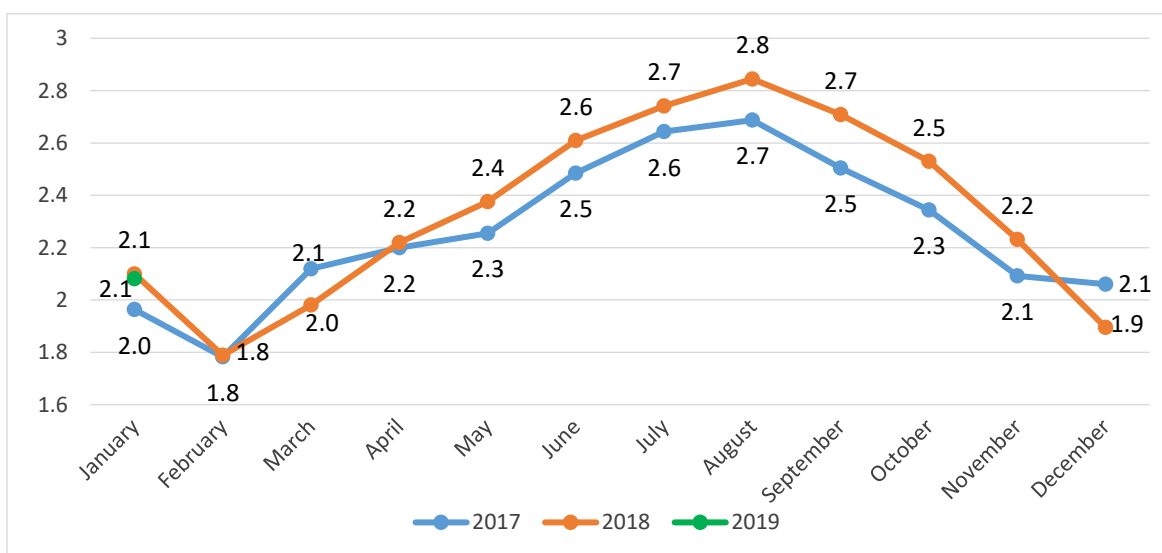
In January 2019, most border crossings were made by the citizens of Moldova — 238.5 thousand times, Belarus — 98.4 thousand times, Russia — 59.7 thousand times and Hungary — 57.9 thousand times⁴⁸.

Number of border crossings by citizens of Moldova, Belarus, Russia, Poland, Hungary and Romania to Ukraine (million times, January 2018 — January 2019)⁴⁹:



According to the SBGS, in January 2019, citizens of Ukraine crossed the border 3,853.6 thousand times, out of which 2,080.5 thousand times were from Ukraine. When going abroad, citizens of Ukraine crossed the border by land in 76.4% of cases, by air — in 23.4% of cases, and by sea — in 0.2% of cases⁵⁰.

Number of border crossings by Ukrainians on exit (million times, January 2017 – January 2019)⁵¹:



⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

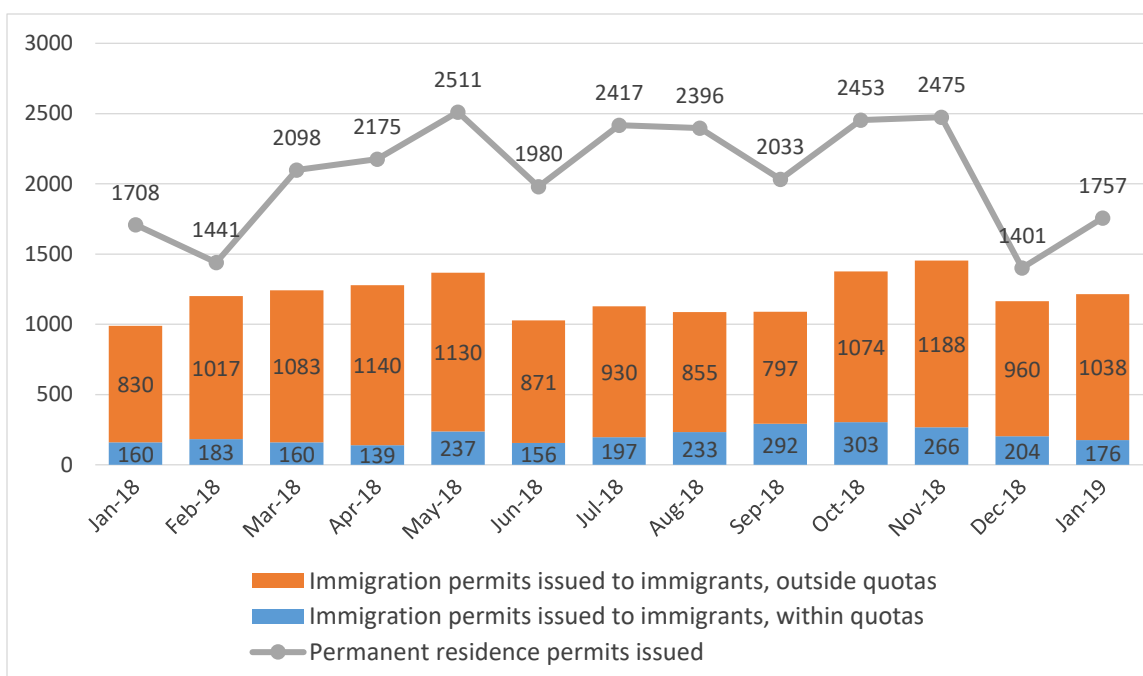
⁵¹ Ibid.

Based on the data from the SBGS the UNHCR carries out monthly monitoring of crossings of the line of contact between Ukraine and the Crimea as well as between Ukraine and temporarily non-controlled territories in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. In January 2019, the line of contact was crossed by 1,121 thousand people in both directions, out of whom 551 thousand people entered the Ukrainian government-controlled territory and 570 thousand exited it⁵². In January 2019, total crossings decreased by 7.7 percent as compared to December 2018. As of 22 February 2019, 138 FSPs applied to the SMS for special permits to enter the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine. During this period, 136 permits were issued, and in 2 cases applicants were denied issuance of such permit⁵³.

2.4. Foreigners temporarily and permanently residing in Ukraine

In January 2019, 1,108 cases related to the immigration permit issuance were considered, 25 applications were rejected⁵⁴.

Issued immigration permits and permanent residence permits (pcs, January 2018 – January 2019)^{55 56}:



Most permanent residence permits were issued to immigrants beyond quotas on the grounds of marriage during over two years with a person who is a citizen of Ukraine, to children and parents of Ukrainian citizens and to persons who have the right to obtain Ukrainian citizenship by territorial origin. Since the beginning of the year, 2 immigration permits have been issued to “foreign Ukrainians”, foreign Ukrainians’ husbands/wives and their children⁵⁷.

⁵² <https://bit.ly/2ipWCBf>

⁵³ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/assets/files/statistic/week/immi-22-02-2019.pdf>

⁵⁴ Based on the data received from the State Migration Service of Ukraine on request.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ Issued permanent residence permits include permits issued in exchange and can include permits issued based on immigration permits granted during previous periods.

⁵⁷ Based on the data received from the State Migration Service of Ukraine on request.



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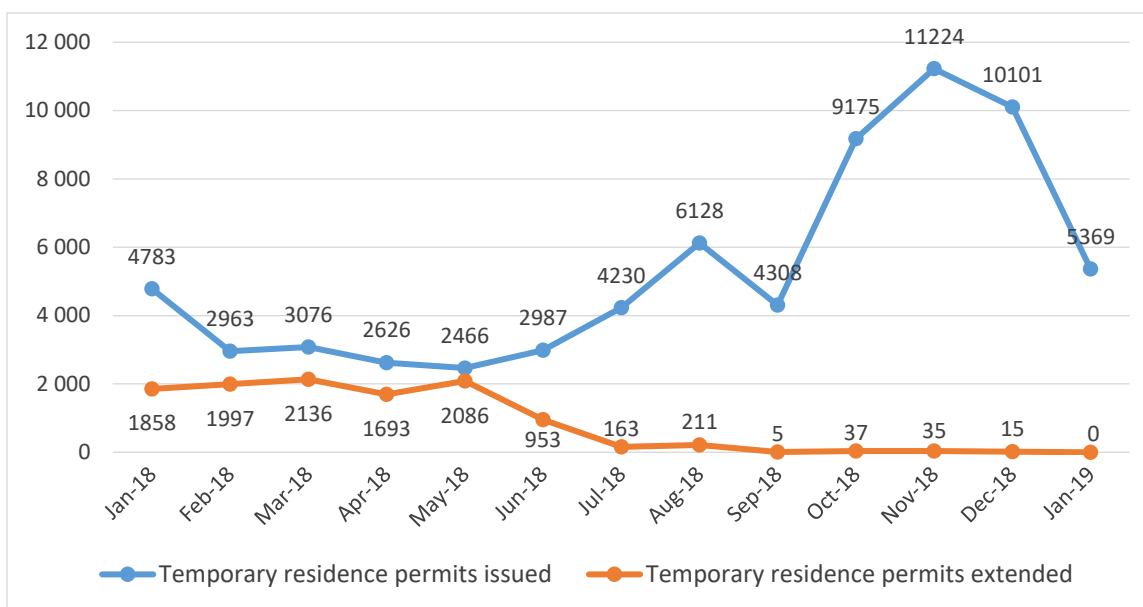


Implemented by the International Organization for Migration

In January 2019, 276,435 immigrants were registered in Ukraine, which is 0.66 percent of Ukrainian population. Most of them are citizens of Russia (151,822 people), Moldova (18,775 people), Azerbaijan (12,624 people), Armenia (11,929 people), Georgia (10,600 people) and Belarus (8,976 people) as well as 5,045 stateless persons⁵⁸.

In January 2019, 5,369 temporary residence permits were issued and no temporary residence permit was extended.

Temporary residence permits (pcs, January 2018 — January 2019)⁵⁹:



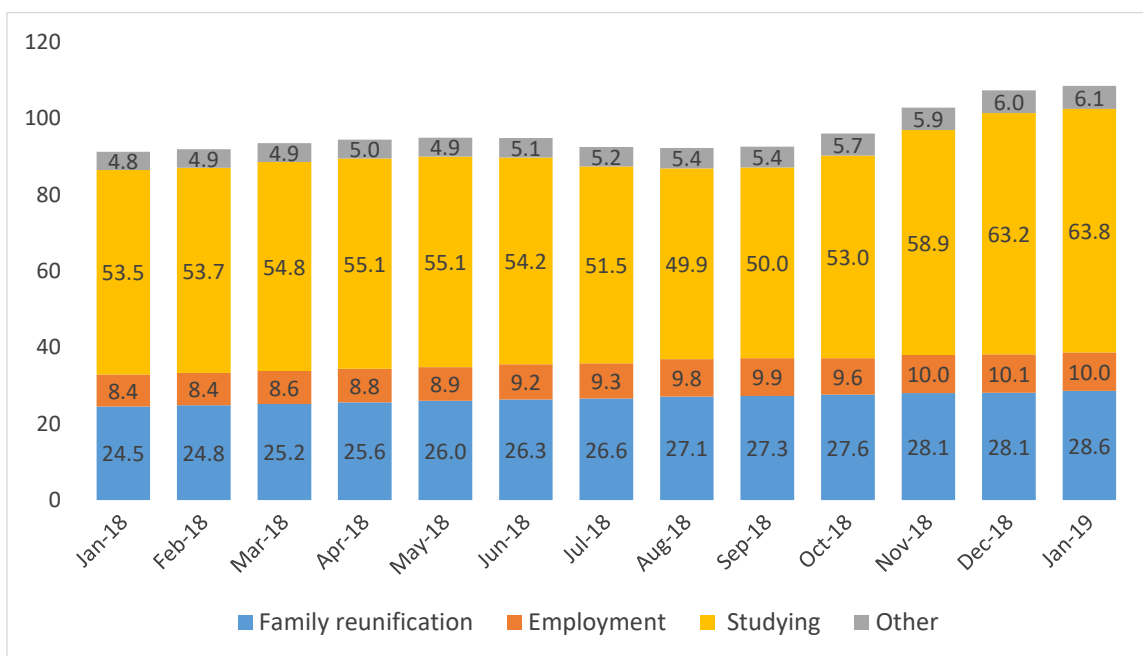
In January 2019, 108,531 FSPs were registered as temporarily staying in Ukraine. Most of them are citizens of India (15,183 people), Russia (9,356 people), Turkey (7,141 people), Morocco (7,057 people), Azerbaijan (5,059 people) and Turkmenistan (4,422 people) as well as 621 stateless persons⁶⁰.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

Reasons for temporary residence of FSPs in Ukraine (thousand people, January 2018 — January 2019)⁶¹:



Also, in January 2019, the SMS received 339 applications for Ukrainian citizenship. During this period, 984 people obtained Ukrainian citizenship by birth, 168 — by territorial origin, and 5 — under presidential decree. No termination of Ukrainian citizenship under presidential decree was registered⁶².

Immigration risks

Increased number of migration risk countries, the citizens of which enjoy visa-free entry to Ukraine, reduced number of entries of FSPs to Ukraine, substantial increase in the number of foreign students studying in Ukrainian higher education institutions, minor changes in the number of FSPs permanently and temporarily residing in Ukraine, reduced number of immigration permits issued to FSPs, reduced number of initiated criminal proceedings against foreigners and stateless persons as well as reduced number of persons held liable under Article 203 of the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offences as compared to the previous month allow for classifying immigration risk as “alarming”.

2.5. Ukrainian nationals permanently or temporarily residing abroad

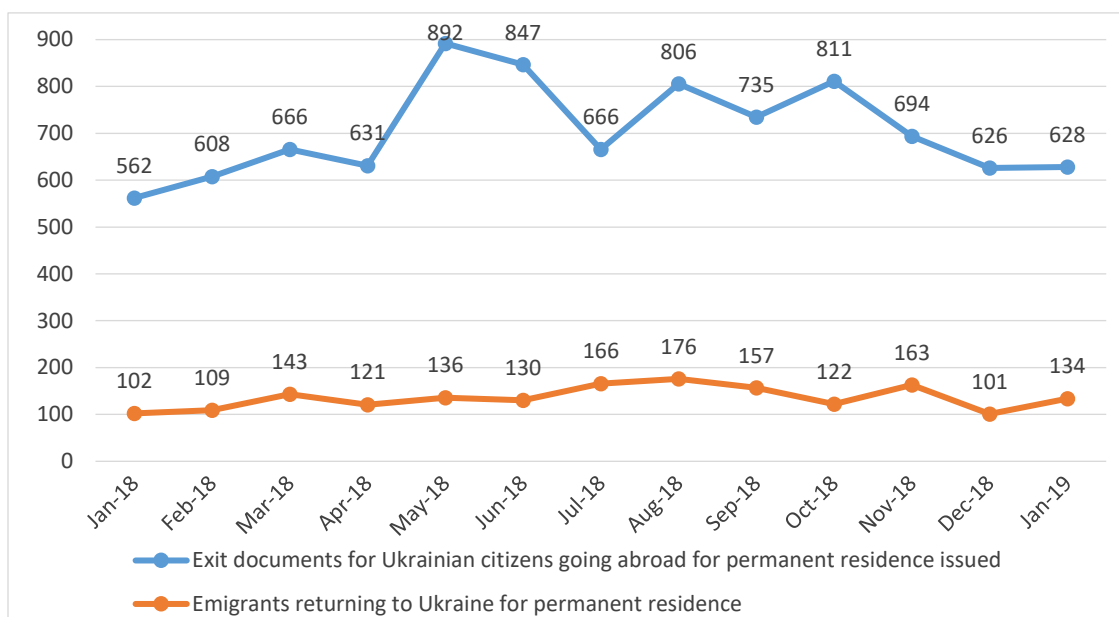
In January 2019, the State Migration Service of Ukraine processed and issued 628 permits for permanent residence of Ukrainian citizens abroad⁶³.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Ibid.

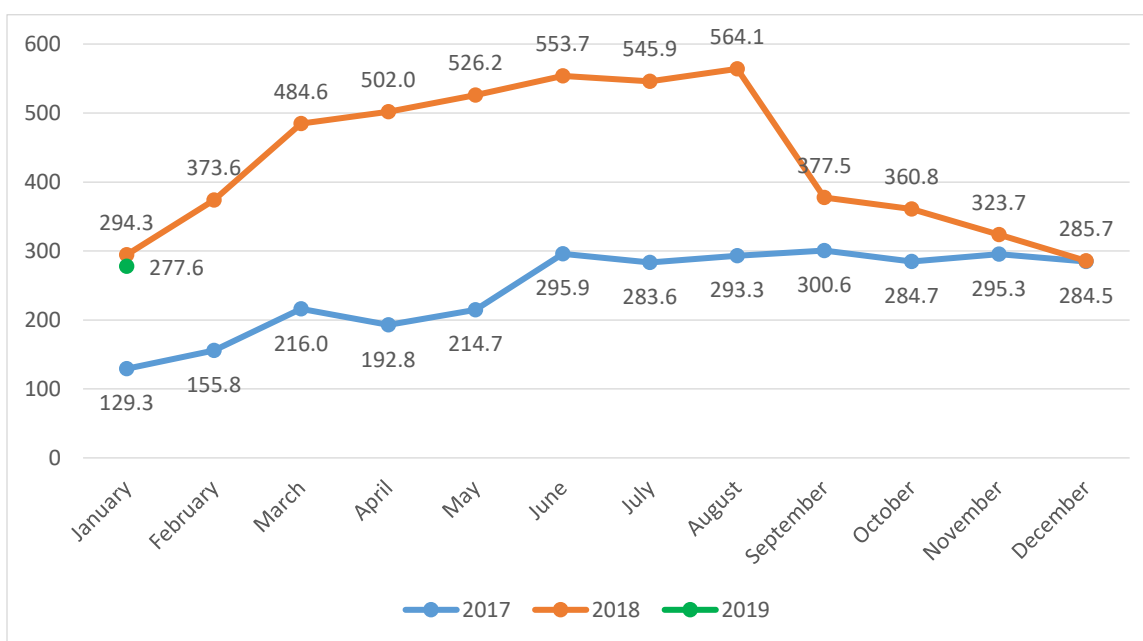
⁶³ Ibid.

Data on emigration (January 2018 — January 2019):



In January 2019, Ukrainians went for permanent residence abroad mostly to the USA (222 people), Lithuania (82), Russia (64), Germany (63), Belarus (28) and Hungary (24), and returned mostly from Russia (33), Israel (21) and the USA (18). Pensioners continue moving to Hungary (83.3 percent of emigrants to this country) and to Russia (56.3 percent of emigrants to this country)⁶⁴.

Processing and issuing passport of a citizen of Ukraine for travelling abroad (thousand pcs, January 2017 — January 2019)⁶⁵:



⁶⁴ Ibid.

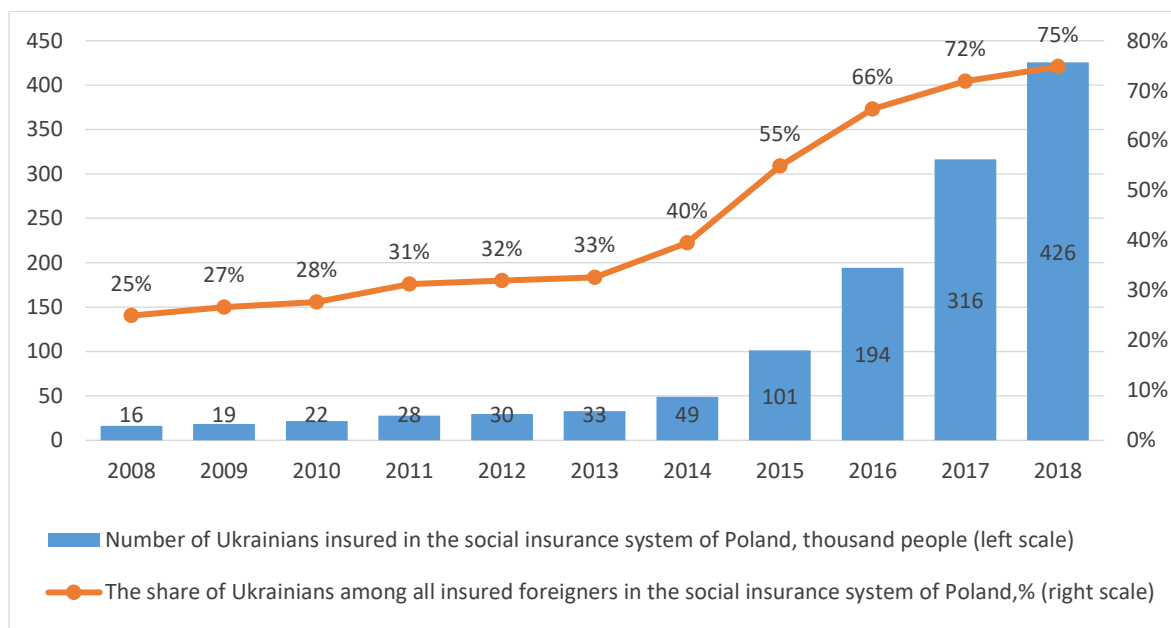
⁶⁵ Ibid.

In January, 277,623 passports of a citizen of Ukraine for travelling abroad were processed and issued⁶⁶.

According to the Polish Office for Foreigners, in 2018, the number of foreigners with valid residence permits in Poland increased by 47 thousand people as compared to 2017. The largest increase was observed among Ukrainian citizens — by around 34 thousand people, and the number of Ukrainians with valid residence permits was 179 thousand people at the beginning of 2019. The most popular reason for residence in the country was employment⁶⁷.

According to the Polish Social Insurance Office, the number of Ukrainians engaged in the Polish social insurance system continues growing, and Ukrainians accounted for two thirds of insured foreigners as of the end of September 2018⁶⁸.

Ukrainians in the Polish social insurance system (2008–2018)⁶⁹:



Emigration risks

Extended list of developed economies that can be visited by Ukrainians without visa, a moderate increase in the number of trips by Ukrainian citizens abroad, minor increase in the number of permits for permanent residence abroad issued to Ukrainian citizens and increased number of documents issued for return of Ukrainian citizens allow for estimating emigration risk as “alarming”.

2.6. Labour migration and money remittances to and from Ukraine

As of January 2019, 10,034 FSPs are registered as employed in Ukraine, which is 30 persons fewer as compared to December 2018⁷⁰.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

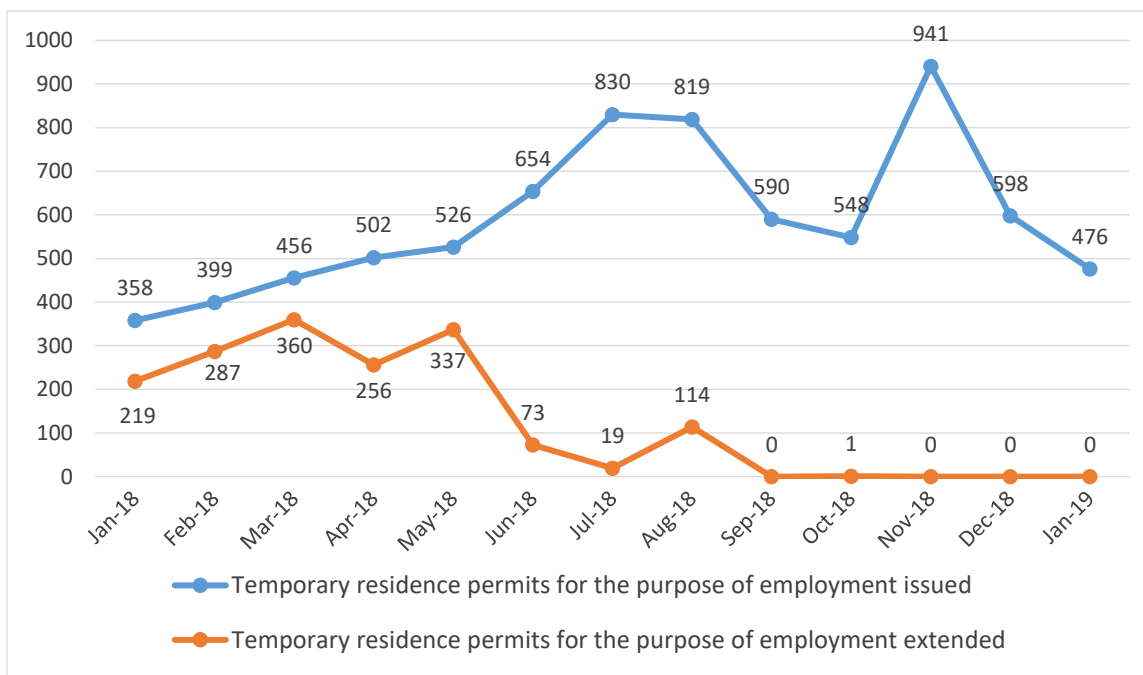
⁶⁷ <https://udsc.gov.pl/podsumowanie-legalizacja-pobytu-w-2018-r/>

⁶⁸ <https://www.zus.pl/documents/10182/2322024/Cudzoziemcy+w+polskim+systemie+ubezpiecze%C5%84+spo%C5%82ecznych.pdf/4498fca6-981d-a37c-3742-8e4e74e20a32>

⁶⁹ Ibid. Data for 2018 as of the end of September.

⁷⁰ Based on the data received upon request from the State Migration Service of Ukraine.

Temporary residence permits for the purpose of employment (pcs, January 2018 — January 2019)⁷¹:



Most FSPs who resided in Ukraine for the purpose of employment as of January 2019 were citizens of Turkey (1,809), Russia (1,144), China (657), Belarus (543), Azerbaijan (477), the USA (410) and Poland (359). At the same time, the largest number of such persons are registered in Kyiv and Kyiv oblast — 62.4 percent, in Odesa oblast — 8.1 percent and in Lviv oblast — 6.5 percent⁷².

According to the National Bank of Ukraine, in 2018, (the equivalent of) USD 294 m was transferred from Ukraine via money transfer systems (excluding bank transfers, card payment systems and postal orders)⁷³. Remittances via money transfer systems from Ukraine were mainly transferred to Russia (37%), Georgia (9%), China (6%), Azerbaijan (6%), and Uzbekistan (4%). Ukraine remains a net recipient of international remittances. In 2018, the amount of money received in Ukraine via international money transfer systems was eight times higher than the amount transferred abroad⁷⁴. Data on remittances to Ukraine in Q3 2018 can be found in the report for December.

Labour migration risks

Moderate decrease in employable population in Ukraine, decreased average monthly wage, decreased number of the able-bodied unemployed, moderate increase in the unemployment rate, decreased wage arrears, decreased wage arrears to payroll budget ratio, decreased employers' demand for employees and decreased number of FSPs who temporarily work in Ukraine allow for estimating the risk as "alarming".

2.7. Educational migration to and from Ukraine

As of January 2019, 63,815 FSPs were registered as studying in Ukraine, which is 638 persons more as compared to December 2018. Educational migrants are registered in the largest educational centres in

⁷¹ Ibid.

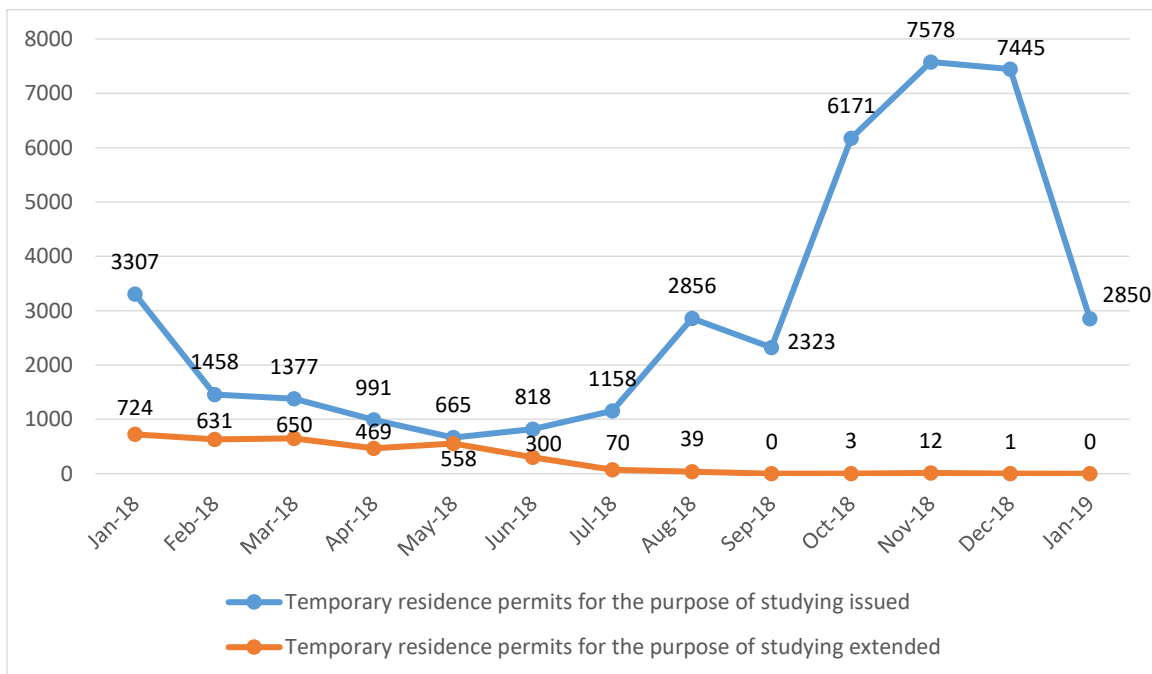
⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ https://bank.gov.ua/control/uk/publish/article?art_id=87962588&cat_id=55838

⁷⁴ https://bank.gov.ua/control/uk/publish/article?art_id=64288362&cat_id=105262

Ukraine: Kharkiv oblast (26.8 %), Kyiv and Kyiv oblast (17.7 %), Odesa oblast (14.4 %) and Dnipropetrovsk oblast (6.1 %)⁷⁵.

Temporary residence permits for the purpose of studying (pcs, January 2018 — January 2019)⁷⁶:



Top-10 countries of origin of migrants staying in Ukraine for the purpose of studying remain the same as in the previous month: India (14,668), Morocco (6,888), Turkmenistan (4,129), Turkey (3,838), Nigeria (3,537), Egypt (3,170), China (2,708), Israel (2,236), Jordan (2,191) and Iran (1,766). There are few students from the EU member states, mostly from Germany — 97 students. The exception is Poland: 537 Polish citizens temporarily staying in Ukraine have come to study⁷⁷.

2.8. Irregular migration

FSPs detained for illegal border crossing (persons, January 2018 — January 2019)⁷⁸:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 19	
Total	117	79	84	134	198	160	246	199	181	194	142	127	101	
Border	with Poland	24	29	30	18	56	44	73	62	50	44	38	56	37
	with Slovakia	24	4	0	22	46	48	63	31	55	57	51	13	7
	with Hungary	16	1	14	3	20	4	11	7	5	10	8	7	16
	with Romania	0	0	0	1	0	10	21	10	18	27	3	4	10
	with Moldova	37	31	30	64	43	29	37	54	35	35	25	30	19
	with Russia	9	12	7	22	20	10	33	27	6	10	10	10	9
	with Belarus	4	1	1	4	9	6	5	4	9	7	5	3	0
	by sea or by air	3	1	2	0	4	9	3	4	3	4	2	4	3

⁷⁵ Based on the data received upon request from the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

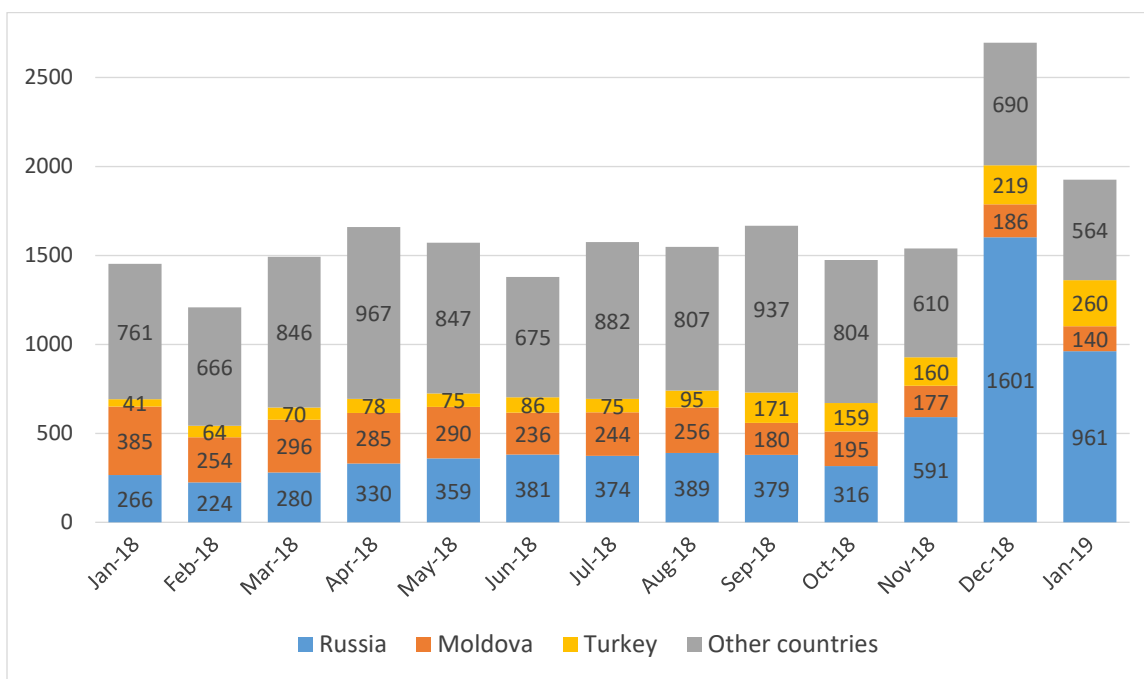
⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Based on the data received upon request from the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine.

In January 2019, mostly citizens of Iraq and Moldova were detained for illegal border crossing (22 and 21 out of 101 FSPs, accordingly)⁷⁹.

In January 2019, the largest number of persons detained by the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine on various grounds were citizens of Hungary (402), Moldova (304), Azerbaijan (288), Russia (259), Georgia (158), Turkey (143), Romania (138), Uzbekistan (92), Israel (89), the USA (87), China (78), Armenia (64), Belarus (59) and Poland (57)⁸⁰. FSPs are most often detained for breach of rules for staying in Ukraine (93.9 % cases in January 2019).

Number of FSPs who were not allowed to enter the territory of Ukraine by main countries of citizenship (January 2018 — January 2019)⁸¹:



Despite the fact that Russia citizens do not cross the border so often as compared to citizens of Moldova and Belarus, they are proportionately more often denied entry to the territory of Ukraine mainly due to unconfirmed purpose of travel (86.1 % of cases in January 2019), unconfirmed financial means (5.2 %), entry/exit restrictions (3.5 %), violation of registration period (2.6 %) and invalid documents (1.7 %)⁸².

According to the SBGS, in 2018, 2,200 violations of the procedure for entry/exit to/from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine were detected. This violation led to denial of entry to nearly 1,400 foreigners as well as adoption of 1,170 decisions on entry ban for foreigners⁸³.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/v-ukrainu-ne-propustili-rosiysku-videoblogerku-anastasiyu-ivlvu-cherez-nezakonne-vidviduvannya-krimu/>

Irregular migrants⁸⁴ detected and brought to responsibility (January 2018 — January 2019)⁸⁵:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 2019
Detected irregular migrants	419	807	1,296	1,062	610	612	618	2,336	829	879	909	782	641
Held administratively liable	406	795	1,288	1,033	595	608	588	2,290	828	878	897	772	635
Decision on forced return issued by the territorial body	401	738	1,246	1,018	589	595	574	2,182	840	829	919	759	620
Decision on forced return issued by court	25	53	82	59	26	33	54	225	62	48	64	22	16
Issued decision on detaining a person and placing to the Detention Facility for the FSPs	20	41	72	42	14	25	50	178	59	54	67	13	25

In January 2019, the SMS detected a total of 641 irregular migrants, out of whom 468 men and 173 women. 635 irregular migrants were held liable under Article 203(1) of the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offences “Violation of the rules for stay in Ukraine and transit through the territory of Ukraine by foreigners and stateless persons”, out of those 21.6 % were citizens of Azerbaijan, 13.4 % citizens of Russia, 8.7 % citizens of Uzbekistan, 6.8 % citizens of Georgia and 6.8 % citizens of Moldova,. Most detected migrants (99.5 %) avoided exiting Ukraine after the end of the relevant period of stay⁸⁶.

According to Petro Tsyhykal, Head of the SBGS, in 2018, the number of irregular migrants increased by one third in Ukraine. In 2018, a total of 3,270 irregular migrants were detained⁸⁷.

According to the Frontex monthly report, in January 2019, Ukrainians made 3 attempts to cross Ukraine-EU border, which is 1 attempt less than during the same period in 2018⁸⁸. In February, Frontex published the Risk Analysis for 2019 report⁸⁹. Ukraine ranks first in the number of refusals of entry to the EU and the Schengen Area for the second year in a row: the number of refusals increased by 55 percent — 57,593 refusals as compared to 37,114 in 2017. There are two main reasons for not allowing Ukrainians to cross the EU border: lack of relevant documents confirming the purpose of travel and the terms of stay (22.7 thousand refusals) and lack of sufficient financing (15.6 thousand refusals)⁹⁰.

The statistics on crimes investigated under Article 332 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine “Illegal transfer of persons across the state border of Ukraine” is presented in the table below.

⁸⁴ The term ‘irregular migrant’ shall be used in this monitoring report to indicate ‘illegal migrant’ in the meaning used in Ukraine’s legislation, reports of the public authorities and their publications, as being in conformity with the practices of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

⁸⁵ Based on the data received from the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine on request.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ <https://www.5.ua/suspilstvo/derzhprykordon-185693.html>

⁸⁸ <https://frontex.europa.eu/along-eu-borders/migratory-map/>

⁸⁹ <https://frontex.europa.eu/media-centre/news-release/frontex-publishes-risk-analysis-for-2019-Dh6Wkf>

⁹⁰ <https://www.euointegration.com.ua/articles/2019/02/27/7093344/>

Crimes investigated under Article 332 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine “Illegal transfer of persons across the state border of Ukraine” (January 2018 — January 2019)⁹¹:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 2019
Registered crimes	25	22	27	34	29	20	31	78	25	19	23	-	18
Crimes where a notice of suspicion has been presented to a person	3	6	6	26	6	5	10	46	9	6	10	1	1
Crimes where a case (with an indictment) has been referred to the court	1	4	1	6	22	6	1	39	4	12	6	2	0

In January 2019, no case was submitted to court (out of cases registered in the Unified Register of Pre-Trial Investigations). As of December 2018, the number of cases submitted to courts is 31.2 percent of the total crimes committed during this period (out of cases registered in the URPTI). This figure was 31.2 % in 2018, 20.1 % in 2017, 18.6 % in 2016, 31.6 % in 2015, 44.5 % in 2014, 38.6 % in 2013.

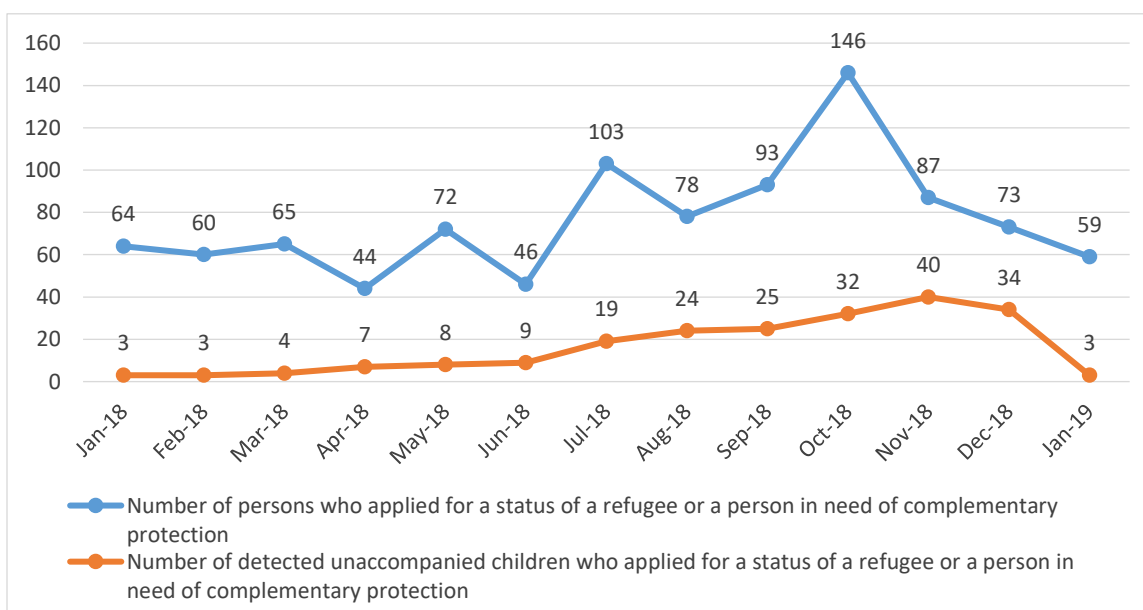
Irregular migration risks

Decreased number of FSPs detained for illegal border crossing, existence of irregular migration routes to and through Ukraine, decreased number of detected irregular migrants who were refused entry to Ukraine, substantial increase in detected human trafficking incidents, substantial increase in the number of victims of human trafficking and decreased number of persons transferred to territorial bodies for readmission allow for estimating irregular migration risk as “alarming”.

2.9. People seeking international protection

In Q4 2018, 1,799 refugees and 768 persons in need of complementary protection were registered.

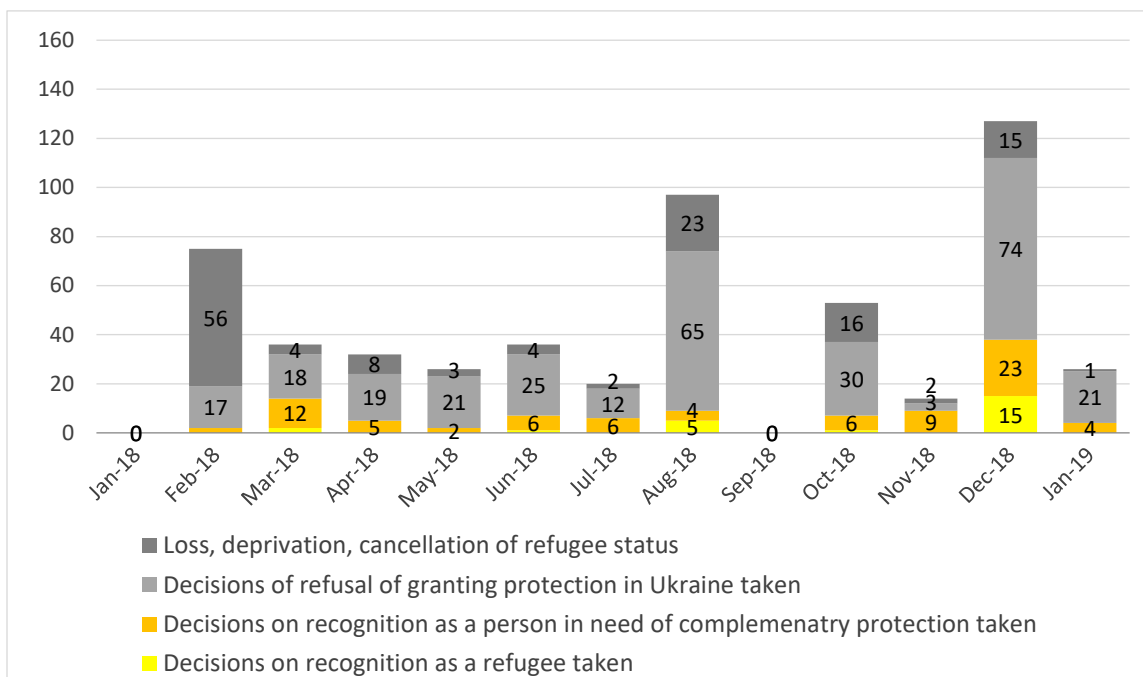
Submitted applications for international protection (January 2018 — January 2019)⁹²:



⁹¹ https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/stst2011.html?dir_id=113653&libid=100820#

⁹² Based on the data received from the State Migration Service of Ukraine on request.

Decisions issued by the SMS as regards applications for international protection (January 2018 – January 2019)⁹³:



Risks related to international protection seekers

Decreased number of persons who applied to the SMS for recognition as a refugee or as a person seeking complementary protection, decreased number of FSPs who were granted protection in Ukraine and substantial decrease in the number of refusals of protection allow for estimating the risk related to international protection seekers as “acceptable”.

2.10. Internal forced migration and internally displaced persons

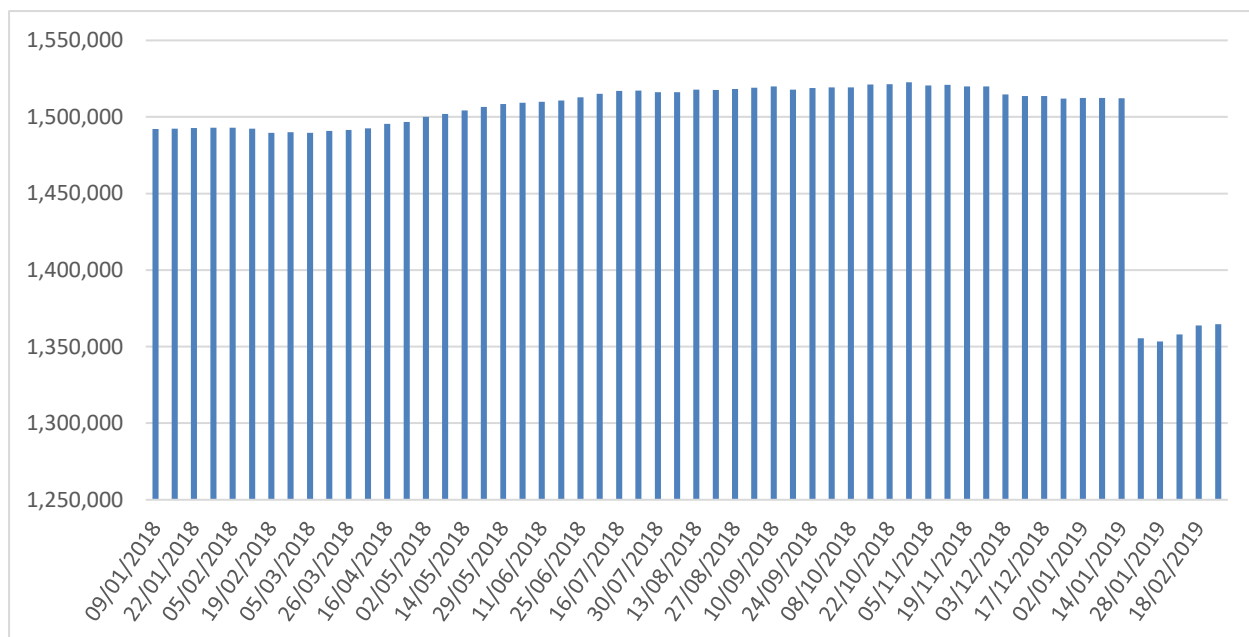
As of 25 February 2019, according to social protection departments of oblast state administrations and Kyiv City and Sevastopol City State Administrations, 1,364,611 IDPs from the occupied territories of Donetsk oblast and Luhansk oblast and the AR of Crimea were registered, which is 0.8 percent more than in the end of January⁹⁴. Detailed statistics on IDPs can be found in publications by the UNHCR⁹⁵.

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ <https://www.msp.gov.ua/news/16745.html>

⁹⁵ <https://bit.ly/2CZaLzr>

Number of registered IDPs (persons, January 2018 — February 2019)⁹⁶:



Internal migration risks

Continuous shooting attacks in the JFO area, slight increase in the number of IDPs and decreased internal migration allow for estimating internal migration risk as “alarming”.

2.11. Trafficking in human beings

According to the IOM, over 230,000 persons became victims of human trafficking since 1991⁹⁷.

In total, in January 2019, the National Police of Ukraine detected 70 human trafficking cases. 64 persons were recognized as victims, including 21 women and 1 minor (under 14 years of age)⁹⁸.

Crimes investigated under Article 149 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine “Trafficking in human beings” (January 2018 — January 2019)⁹⁹.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 2019
Registered crimes	51	28	29	22	28	18	18	15	23	15	14	9	70
Crimes where a notice of suspicion has been presented to a person	19	16	18	12	13	14	9	12	6	7	12	12	15
Crimes where a case (with an indictment) has been referred to the court	7	4	7	3	20	15	1	21	11	14	2	1	0

According to the National Police, over 290 human trafficking incidents were detected last year. Anti-human trafficking units identified 24 organized groups, the members of which committed 145 crimes¹⁰⁰.

⁹⁶ <https://www.msp.gov.ua/timeline/Novini.html>

⁹⁷ <http://iom.org.ua/en/node/2356>

⁹⁸ https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/stst2011.html?dir_id=113653&libid=100820#

⁹⁹ Ibid.



3. MIGRATION AND BORDER MANAGEMENT

3.1. Migration policy and legislation of Ukraine, court practice

Head of the State Migration Service Maksym Sokoliuk reported on the SMS performance in 2018 and outlined the main areas of activity for the next year¹⁰¹. Key achievements included the identification system reform, introduction of biometric documents for foreigners, improvement of counteraction to irregular migration, improvement of conditions for the provision of services, fight against corruption, and establishment of cooperation with international organizations. Among new priority areas of work for 2019 are the automation of processes in the field of migration, improvement of the migration legislation, application of electronic services, and reduction of queues.

SBGS Head Petro Tsyhykal has taken stock of the agency's activities in 2018¹⁰². Among the achieved results there are preservation of personnel, strengthening of the state border guard system, integration of the SBGS into the European security field, social security of employees, and development of the material and technical base. Next year's priorities include an increase in the number of border guards at all BCPs and in the density of border guard units through recruiting more regular servicemen, creation of a powerful and mobile grouping of border guard vessels and boats in the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea.

In 2018 report, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine placed an emphasis on some key follow-up activities in the field of border management and migration¹⁰³. Specifically, in 2019, the Government plans to modernize the state border guard system, launch a mechanism for coordinating integrated border management, strengthen the level of protection of the rights and interests of Ukrainians abroad, develop the infrastructure of the Unified State Demographic Register and the National System for Biometric Verification and Identification of Ukrainian Citizens, Foreigners and Stateless Persons, and upgrade the Unified Information-Analytical System for Migration Processes Management.

In February, the CMU set up the immigration quota for foreigners and stateless persons for 2019. The size of the quota is 3,768 persons (see details by oblasts and categories of migrants in the Annex to the Resolution)¹⁰⁴.

Assistant to the SBGS Head, Oleh Slobodian, said that preventive measures under the code name "Migrant" will be carried out from 1 March to 31 May to control and monitor compliance with the migration legislation in pursuance of the MoI assignment. The main purpose of the joint operation of the SMS, the SBGS, the National Police, and the SSU is to prevent and counteract 'illegal migration,' as well as verify compliance by foreigners and stateless persons with the established rules of stay in the territory of Ukraine.

¹⁰⁰ <https://www.npu.gov.ua/news/torgivlya-lyudmi/u-minulomu-roczy-policzejski-pripinili-9-sprob-prodazhu-ditej-lgor-malaxov/>

¹⁰¹ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/dms/4048.html>

¹⁰² <https://www.5.ua/suspilstvo/derzhprykordon-185693.html>

¹⁰³ <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/ua/npas/pro-zatverdzhennya-zvitu-pro-hid-i-rezultati-vikonannya-programi-diyalnosti-kabinetu-ministriv-ukrayini-u-2018-roci>

¹⁰⁴ <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/ua/npas/pro-vstanovlennya-kvoti-immigraciyi-na-2019-rik>



In late February, amendments to some laws on election monitoring have come into effect. To minimize the risks of the Russian Federation's interference in elections in Ukraine, it has been decided that citizens of the aggressor state (occupying state) and persons proposed by the aggressor state (occupying state) may not be official election monitors^{105,106}. Although legislative changes prompted mixed responses from the international community¹⁰⁷, Ukraine's position has remained unchanged¹⁰⁸.

Amendments to the procedure for taking children abroad for rest and recreation have come into force on 22 February¹⁰⁹. They strengthen the protection of orphan children, children deprived of parental care. Specifically, additional requirements are set for families of foreigners who will host children for rest and recreation: no record of conviction of the host family, absence of alcohol and drug addiction, mental and infectious diseases, as well as guarantees of children's return to Ukraine.

On 26 February, the Committee presented a submission on the consideration of the draft law on amending certain legal acts on the implementation of the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction¹¹⁰. The purpose is to bring Ukraine's legislation in line with the Hague Abduction Convention.

On 22 February, draft amendments to the Law of Ukraine on the Unified State Demographic Register and documents confirming Ukrainian citizenship¹¹¹, aimed to reinstate the right to obtain a passport in the form of a booklet or an ID card without a contactless chip, were submitted for familiarization of the MPs.

In late February, the 2019 action plan for the implementation of the Strategy for Overcoming Poverty entered into force. Some actions are directly oriented at IDPs: it is planned to improve the mechanism of providing them with monthly targeted aid to cover living expenses (in particular, for housing and utility services), develop a mechanism for stimulating IDPs for self-sufficiency, and explore the possibilities for establishing and functioning of social enterprises for the employment of IDPs¹¹².

On 4 February, the draft Law on the verification and monitoring of state benefits has been submitted to the Verkhovna Rada for familiarization¹¹³. The document aims to offer the Finance Ministry the opportunity to use personal data from the Unified State Demographic Register to verify the payment of state benefits. Later, on 19 February, MPs N. Korolevska and Y. Solod have presented the Rada with an alternative draft Law on the verification and monitoring of state benefits¹¹⁴, according to which personal data for the verification shall be provided only upon the consent of recipients of benefits. Earlier, the same MPs submitted a draft law on increasing the amount of monthly targeted aid for IDPs¹¹⁵.

¹⁰⁵ <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/card/2683-19>

¹⁰⁶ <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/news/2019/02/8/7092611/>

¹⁰⁷ <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/news/2019/02/7/7092581/>

¹⁰⁸ <https://mfa.gov.ua/ua/press-center/briefing/1320-vidpovidy-rechnici-mzs-ukrajini-katerini-zelenko-dlya-zmi-shhodo-vidmovi-gromadyanam-rf-u-rejestraciji-oficijnimi-sposterigachami-vid-inozemnih-derzhav-abo-mizhnarodnih-organizacij-na-prezidentsykih-viborah-v-ukrajini>

¹⁰⁹ <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/ua/npas/pro-vnesennya-zmin-do-postanov-kabinetu-ministriv-ukrayini-vid-27-sichnya-1995-r-57-i-vid-21-grudnya-2005-r-1251>

¹¹⁰ http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?pf3511=64941

¹¹¹ http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?pf3511=65534

¹¹² <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/ua/npas/pro-zatverdzhennya-planu-zahodiv-na-2019-rik-z-realizaciyi-strategiyi-podolannya-bidnosti>

¹¹³ http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?pf3511=65394

¹¹⁴ http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?pf3511=65526

¹¹⁵ http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?pf3511=65514



In early February, the Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Housing and Utility Services of Ukraine and the Ministry of Veterans' Affairs discussed solutions to the problem of providing ATO/JFO veterans and IDPs with housing. Representatives of the Ministries filed an appeal with Ukraine's Finance Ministry over a new budget program to provide this category of population with housing¹¹⁶.

On 27 February 2019, the Grand Chamber of the Supreme Court of Ukraine rejected motion to explain its judgment in the model case No. 806/3265/17 (Пз/9901/2/18) that recognized unlawful the refusal of the SMS to issue a passport of a citizen of Ukraine in the form of a booklet and obliged it to issue such passport to a person who, because of his/her religious beliefs, refuses from the Taxpayer Identification Number and biometrics capture¹¹⁷. The SMS substantiated the need to provide the explanatory note by the fact that to enforce the court decision, the SMS has to violate legal clauses since there is no mechanism for implementing the Regulation on the passport of a citizen of Ukraine of 26 June 1992. The court ruled, referring to relevant provisions of the current legislation of Ukraine, that the court decision was clear, understandable, and well-motivated, and thus did not require explanation.

The legal position of the Grand Chamber of the Supreme Court of Ukraine expressed in the Ruling of 19 September 2018 (model case No. 806/3265/17 (Пз/9901/2/18)) is used by courts in the consideration of typical cases^{118,119,120,121,122}; courts also refer to the position of the Grand Chamber of the Supreme Court of Ukraine regarding refusal to explain its ruling in the model case¹²³.

3.2. Allocation and distribution of resources, infrastructure developments

This month, through prozorro.gov.ua, the SMS and its regional departments have announced tenders for data processing services — the transfer of applications for the 1994-style passport of a citizen of Ukraine, applications for the 1974-style passport of a citizen of the USSR into digital form¹²⁴; administration of the Unified State Demographic Register¹²⁵; creation (development) of the upgraded version of specialized software for the national system of biometric verification and identification of persons¹²⁶.

Territorial departments of the SMS are working to improve conditions of premises where services are provided to clients. In February, a renovated administrative office of the city department of the SMS has opened up in Yaremche¹²⁷, as well as two offices of the SMS in Poltava oblast¹²⁸ and one office in Luhansk oblast¹²⁹. A renovated service center has opened in Ternopil oblast in February¹³⁰.

¹¹⁶ <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/ua/news/problemu-zabezpechennya-zhitlom-uchasnikiv-ato-i-vpo-mozhe-virishiti-nova-byudzhetna-programa-lev-parchaladze>

¹¹⁷ <http://reyestr.court.gov.ua/Review/80523617>

¹¹⁸ <http://reyestr.court.gov.ua/Review/80109373>

¹¹⁹ <http://reyestr.court.gov.ua/Review/80109330>

¹²⁰ <http://reyestr.court.gov.ua/Review/80035771>

¹²¹ <http://reyestr.court.gov.ua/Review/79672003>

¹²² <http://reyestr.court.gov.ua/Review/79671603>

¹²³ <http://reyestr.court.gov.ua/Review/80383947>

¹²⁴ <https://www.dzo.com.ua/tenders/3572481>

¹²⁵ <https://www.dzo.com.ua/tenders/3571253>

¹²⁶ <https://www.dzo.com.ua/tenders/3481354>

¹²⁷ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4031.html>

¹²⁸ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4017.html>

¹²⁹ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4001.html>

¹³⁰ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4113.html>



The SBGS continues to work on the restructuring of the border and maritime security system, and strengthens the marine component of its activities^{131,132}. Specifically this year, up-to-date radar and video surveillance systems are to be installed on the coast of the Sea of Azov¹³³. On 20 February, the Izmail coastguard detachment has been formed¹³⁴, one of its tasks being enhancing control over navigation on the Danube river.

In late February, Oleh Slobodian reported on measures to develop facilities at the Ukrainian-Russian border. During 2015–2018, UAH 1.3 billion was allocated for the implementation of the border development project. These funds have been spent to equip around 30% of the length of the Ukrainian-Russian border.¹³⁵ Specifically, the project is almost completed in Kharkiv oblast and the level of border control is almost 100%¹³⁶. UAH 400 million is planned to be earmarked in 2019 for the development of border facilities¹³⁷.

International partners are also involved in the infrastructure development in the sphere of migration. In mid-February, the UNHCR have handed over 150 videorecorders and 4 laptops to be used at entry-exit checkpoints in Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts¹³⁸. The EU Delegation to Ukraine and the IOM provide resources for the demarcation of the Belarusian-Ukrainian border and development of the infrastructure of border crossing points¹³⁹.

From June, Ukrzaliznytsia's trains will start to run from Ukraine's Mukacheve to Slovakia's Košice¹⁴⁰. In February, Wizz Air announced the opening of new destinations from Kyiv to Athens and Thessaloniki, Greece¹⁴¹. Ryanair low-cost air carrier has announced the opening of a new flight route from Kyiv to Madrid, Spain, in October 2019¹⁴². Ernest Airlines is going to open new destinations from Kyiv International Airport to Italy's Tirana, Rome, and Genoa (Italy)¹⁴³.

Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, regulating the issues of remuneration of employees of centres for social integration of refugees and persons in need for complementary or temporary protection¹⁴⁴ and officials of the diplomatic service placed under orders of the Ministry of Foreign

¹³¹ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/oleg-slobodyan-na-uzberezhzhi-azovskogo-morya-budut-vstanovleni-suchasni-radiolokaciyni-kompleksi-ta-sistemi-videosposterezhennya/>

¹³² <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/vid-visvitlennya-nadvodnoi-obstanovki-do-rozgartannya-novih-obktiv-infrastrukturi/>

¹³³ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/oleg-slobodyan-na-uzberezhzhi-azovskogo-morya-budut-vstanovleni-suchasni-radiolokaciyni-kompleksi-ta-sistemi-videosposterezhennya/>

¹³⁴ <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/ua/npas/pro-utvorennya-byudzhethoviy-ustanovi-izmayilskij-zagin-morskoyi-ohoroni-derzhavnoyi-prikordonnoyi-sluzhbi-ukrayini>

¹³⁵ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/na-kordoni-z-rosiyu-prodovzhasya-roboti-z-inzhenerno-tehnichnogo-oblashtuvannya/>

¹³⁶ <https://mvs.gov.ua/ua/news/18055-Derzhprikordonsluzhba-Proekt-Stina-na-kordoni-z-RF-realizovaniy-na-3-0.htm>

¹³⁷ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/na-kordoni-z-rosiyu-prodovzhasya-roboti-z-inzhenerno-tehnichnogo-oblashtuvannya/>

¹³⁸ [https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/predstavniki-uvkb-oon-vruchili-prikordonnkam-tehnichni-zasobi-dlya-zabezpechennya-nalezhnogo-rivnya-bezpeki-v-kpvv-/](https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/predstavniki-uvkb-oon-vruchili-prikordonnkam-tehnichni-zasobi-dlya-zabezpechennya-nalezhnogo-rivnya-bezpeki-v-kpvv/)

¹³⁹ <http://iom.org.ua/ua/mom-ta-yes-pidtrymuyut-demarkaciyu-ta-bezpeku-ukrayinsko-biloruskogo-kordonu>

¹⁴⁰ <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/news/2019/02/20/7093069/>

¹⁴¹ <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/news/2019/02/19/7093015/>

¹⁴² <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/news/2019/02/21/7093144/>

¹⁴³ <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/news/2019/02/4/7092394/>

¹⁴⁴ <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/84-2019-%D0%BF>

Affairs¹⁴⁵, and the Order of the Ministry of Interior, amending the pay grade scheme for the officer personnel of the SBGS, have entered into force¹⁴⁶.

In February, the Administration of the SBGS has hosted a roundtable for its employees and trade union organization members¹⁴⁷. Participants in the action have discussed the remuneration of employees of various categories, HR policy towards civilian personnel, provision of medical services, and possibilities for health resort treatment. Under 2019 social protection programs for SBGS officials, it is planned to allocate UAH 200 million for housing for border guards. These funds will be partly spent to complete the construction of more than 400 apartments in 2019¹⁴⁸.

3.3. Organizational and managerial changes

A number of personnel and organizational changes took place in February. Viktoria Voronina was appointed as Ukraine's Deputy Minister of Temporarily Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons¹⁴⁹. In accordance with the Cabinet Resolution, a working group has been formed to coordinate issues of integrated border management (IBM)¹⁵⁰ that has to improve the coordination of authorities engaged in the implementation of the IBM policy and create an interdepartmental group for this purpose. At a constituent assembly of the SBGS Public Council, a decision on a new composition of the Council for 2019–2021 was made¹⁵¹.

The SMS¹⁵² and its territorial bodies in Volyn¹⁵³, Zakarpattia¹⁵⁴, Poltava¹⁵⁵, Rivne¹⁵⁶, Ternopil¹⁵⁷, Kherson¹⁵⁸, Khmelnytskyi¹⁵⁹, Cherkasy¹⁶⁰, Chernivtsi^{161,162}, and Chernihiv^{163,164} oblasts, the SBGS Administration^{165,166}, and regional coastguard detachments¹⁶⁷ discussed their progress in 2018 as well as priorities for 2019.

¹⁴⁵ <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/ua/npas/pro-umovi-oplati-praci-posadovih-osib-diplomatichnoyi-sluzhbi-zarahovanih-u-rozporjadzhennya-ministerstva-zakordonnih-sprav>

¹⁴⁶ <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z0017-19>

¹⁴⁷ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/v-administracii-derzhprikordonsluzhbi-vidbuvsya-krugliy-stil-mizh-kerivnictvom-vidomstva-i-profspilkovoyu-organizaciyu-sluzhbi/>

¹⁴⁸ https://mvs.gov.ua/ua/news/18028_Cogorich_na_budivnictvo_zhitla_viyskovosluzhbovcyam_Derzhprikordonsluzhbi_zaplanovano_200_milyoniv_griven.htm

¹⁴⁹ <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/ua/npas/pro-priznachennya-voroninoyi-v-v-zastupnikom-ministra-z-pitan-timchasovo-okupovanih-teritorij-ta-vnutrishno-peremishchenih-osib-ukrayini>

¹⁵⁰ <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/83-2019-%D0%BF>

¹⁵¹ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/gromadska-rada-pri-administracii-derzhprikordonsluzhbi-provela-ustanovchi-zbori/>

¹⁵² <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/dms/4060.html>

¹⁵³ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4124.html>

¹⁵⁴ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4093.html>

¹⁵⁵ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4094.html>

¹⁵⁶ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4088.html>

¹⁵⁷ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/3983.html>

¹⁵⁸ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4095.html>

¹⁵⁹ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4096.html>

¹⁶⁰ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4003.html>

¹⁶¹ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4008.html>

¹⁶² <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4084.html>

¹⁶³ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4062.html>

¹⁶⁴ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4077.html>

¹⁶⁵ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/petro-cigikal-zavdyaki-pidtrimci-prezidenta-ukraini-ta-uryadu-nashe-vidomstvo-sistemno-rozvivatsya/>



The introduction of ID cards continues in Ukraine. It is accompanied with awareness-raising campaigns carried out by SMS departments in most oblasts. Specifically, school children in Rivne¹⁶⁸ and Cherkasy¹⁶⁹ oblasts were informed about the need for ID cards for taking the final exams, in Zaporizhzhia¹⁷⁰ and Kherson¹⁷¹ oblasts — about the importance of the passport validity before the presidential election. Officials in Vinnytsia oblast¹⁷² have reported the interim results of the introduction of ID cards.

On 5 February, amendments to the Instruction for processing by the SMS of materials on administrative violations have come into force¹⁷³. In particular, from now on, an administrative protocol will be drawn up no later than 24 hours from the moment of the detection of an offender. The new document also determines who can be an interpreter during the completion of the protocol, and regulates the issue of taking measures for the identification and verification of identity of foreigners and stateless persons.

In February, the SMS conducted a series of workshops and meetings in various areas to address acute issues and improve qualifications. Internal training and meetings to improve knowledge and skills took place at the SMS branches in Donetsk^{174,175}, Zakarpattia¹⁷⁶, Zaporizhzhia¹⁷⁷, Poltava¹⁷⁸, Rivne¹⁷⁹, Ternopil^{180,181}, Khmelnytskyi¹⁸², Cherkasy^{183,184}, and Chernihiv^{185,186,187} oblasts. Training sessions and meetings on irregular migration prevention have been carried out for migration officers in Dnipropetrovsk¹⁸⁸, Zhytomyr¹⁸⁹, and Chernihiv¹⁹⁰ oblasts.

In February, border guards have conducted a combat coordination training, exercising a full range of operational tasks¹⁹¹. On 6 February, Odesa has hosted a training and methodological meeting, with the

¹⁶⁶ https://mvs.gov.ua/ua/news/18106_Vadim_Troyan_Zatverdzheno_osnovni_napryami_diyalnosti_ta_rozvitku_DPSU_u_2019_roci.htm

¹⁶⁷ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/regionalne-upravlinni-morskoi-ohoroni-viznachilo-napryami-diyalnosti-2019-roku/>

¹⁶⁸ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/3990.html>

¹⁶⁹ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4085.html>

¹⁷⁰ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/3995.html>

¹⁷¹ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/3994.html>

¹⁷² <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4002.html>

¹⁷³ <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z0037-19>

¹⁷⁴ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4039.html>

¹⁷⁵ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4043.html>

¹⁷⁶ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4105.html>

¹⁷⁷ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4010.html>

¹⁷⁸ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4047.html>

¹⁷⁹ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4063.html>

¹⁸⁰ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/3997.html>

¹⁸¹ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4028.html>

¹⁸² <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4019.html>

¹⁸³ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4009.html>

¹⁸⁴ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4013.html>

¹⁸⁵ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4098.html>

¹⁸⁶ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4107.html>

¹⁸⁷ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4052.html>

¹⁸⁸ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4000.html>

¹⁸⁹ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4067.html>

¹⁹⁰ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4052.html>

¹⁹¹ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/prikordonniki-provydyat-boyove-zlagodzhennya-z-oboroni-uzberezhzhya-azovskogo-morya/>



participation of SBGS senior officials¹⁹². On 23 February, a three-day meeting with senior officials and officers of departments of some regional recruitment centres of SBGS was finished¹⁹³.

Reforming and training of SBGS mobile units continues in line with the EU and the U.S. standards and with the assistance of international partners. In these units, the functions of mobile forces are divided, in particular, the performance of tasks associated with the higher life risk, the system of personnel selection for the main departments of the DOZOR mobile unit is normalized, and a procedure for the use of forces and means is clearly specified¹⁹⁴. In February, a series of training exercises were conducted for SBGS marksmen¹⁹⁵. In late February, Kyiv hosted a training on the work with hostages and negotiation aspects. The event was carried out by Polish police experts for the DOZOR unit of the SBGS, KORD unit and rapid response unit of Patrol Police¹⁹⁶.

On 19–21 February, joint consultations on building a national resilience system in Ukraine were held in Kyiv between the border guards and NATO Expert Group¹⁹⁷. In late February, a governmental delegation of Ukraine and representatives of the European Commission discussed joint control with neighboring countries. Relevant draft international agreements are already signed with Hungary and Slovakia, and talks with Romania are to be launched in the near term¹⁹⁸.

28 graduates of the senior staff training faculty of the National Academy of the SBGS have been appointed to offices¹⁹⁹. Also, 47 contract military graduates, as well as 32 graduates of law enforcement, foreign languages, humanitarian disciplines, and engineering faculties of higher education institutions have received diplomas²⁰⁰. A two-week specialized course on risk analysis was held for experts of information and analytical units on the basis of the Academy²⁰¹.

On 1 February, an application process was launched for service in units of Kyiv special checkpoint as part of the New Face of the Border project^{202,203}; some 100 project participants have started service at Odesa

¹⁹² <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/v-odesi-prohodit-navchalno-metodichniy-zbir-z-kerivnim-skladom-derzhavnoi-prikordonnoi-sluzhbi-ukraini/>

¹⁹³ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/v-akademii-derzhprikordonsluzhbi-vidbulisya-tridenni-zbori-z-oficerskim-skladom-okremih-regionalnih-centriv-komplektuvannya/>

¹⁹⁴ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/u-derzhprikordonsluzhbi-mobilni-pidrozdili-reformuyutsya-vidpovidno-do-krashchih-standativ-ssha-ta-vrosoyuzu/>

¹⁹⁵ https://mvs.gov.ua/ua/news/18400_Prikordonniki_proyshli_pidgotovku_visokotochnih_strilciv_marksmeniv.htm

¹⁹⁶ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/u-kivi-specpriznachenci-vchilisya-vesti-peregovori-dlya-vizvolennya-zaruchnikiv/>

¹⁹⁷ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/prikordonniki-vzjali-uchast-u-spilnih-konsultacijah-shchodo-rozbudovi-sistemi-nacionalnoi-stiykosti-iz-grupoyu-ekspertiv-nato/>

¹⁹⁸ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/uryadova-delegaciya-ukraini-i-predstavniki-vrokomisii-obgovorili-organizaciju-spilnogo-kontrolyu/>

¹⁹⁹ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/u-nacionalniy-akademii-vidbuvsya-chergoviy-rozpodil-oficeriv-na-posadi/>

²⁰⁰ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/u-nacionalniy-akademii-derzhprikordonsluzhbi-vidbuvsya-vipusk-oficeriv-magistriv-viyskovosluzhbovciv-za-kontraktom-ta-studentiv/>

²⁰¹ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/u-derzhprikordonsluzhbi-triva-vprovadzhennya-spilnoi-integrovanoi-modeli-analizu-rizikiv-vropeyskih-krain-ciram-20/>

²⁰² <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/1-lyutogo-startuvalo-anketuvannya-dlya-prohodzhennya-sluzhbi-v-pidrozdilah-okpp-kiiv-u-ramkah-novogo-oblichchya-kordonu/>

²⁰³ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/u-prikordonnomu-vidomstvi-triva-nabir-u-ramkah-proektu-nove-oblichchya-kordonu/>



airport²⁰⁴. In mid-February, a training session was conducted in Lviv for servicemen of the project to identify forged documents²⁰⁵.

During operation of the SBGS Internal Security Service, a female border guard of Mukacheve border unit was arrested for bribe taking²⁰⁶. On 26 February, the police have detained a border guard near Mukacheve who organized the so-called green corridor for irregular migrants²⁰⁷. According to the SBGS, some 40 border guards were detained in criminal proceedings in 2018 over abuse of office²⁰⁸. However, according to a nationwide survey by Razumkov Center, 52% of Ukrainians trust the SBGS²⁰⁹.

3.4. Interagency cooperation

In preparation for the presidential elections, oblast branches of the SMS held working interagency meetings and meetings with other organizations, involved in the conduct of elections, in Vinnytsia²¹⁰, Zaporizhzhia²¹¹, Kirovohrad^{212,213}, Lviv²¹⁴, Ternopil²¹⁵, Khemnytsky²¹⁶, and Chernivtsi^{217,218} oblasts.

Officers of the SMS district department in Uman conducted a training session on new skills in the provision of services for their colleagues from administrative services centres²¹⁹. Officers of SMS branch in Uzhhorod met with representatives of civil registration offices to address the issue of registration of marriages with foreigners²²⁰. A working meeting of an SMS representative with head of the state registration department of the executive committee of Smila City Council, Cherkasy oblast, took place to tackle the problems of residence registration/de-registration²²¹. In Zastavna, Chernivtsi oblast, a conference took place with the participation of head of the local office of the SMS, heads and secretaries of executive committees of local councils, and principals of educational institutions²²².

On 27 February, Uzhhorod hosted a press briefing on protection of the rights of asylum seekers, stateless persons, and persons at risk of statelessness with the participation of representatives of the SMS, the SBGS, experts of the Coordination Centre for providing free legal aid, and members of international

²⁰⁴ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/v-aeroportu-odesi-blizko-100-predstavnikiv-novogo-oblichchya-kordonu-pristupili-do-sluzhbi/>

²⁰⁵ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/u-lvovi-vidbuvsya-trening-dlya-viyskovosluzhbovciv-proektu-nove-oblichchya-kordonu-z-pitan-viyavleniya-pidroblenih-dokumentiv-/>

²⁰⁶ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/na-habari-u-680-dolariv-ssha-vnutrishnya-bezpeka-derzhprikordonsluzhbi-vikrila-spivrobotnicyu-mukachivskogo-prikordonnogo-zagonu/>

²⁰⁷ <https://www.npu.gov.ua/news/korupcziya/na-zakarpatti-policziya-zatrimala-prikordonnika-za-organizacziyu-zelenogo-koridoru-dlya-nelegalnix-migrantiv-ta-kontrabandi-tyutyunovix-virobiv/>

²⁰⁸ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/u-2018-roci-zatrimano-mayzhe-40-spivrobotnikiv-derzhprikordonsluzhbi-yaki-vikoristovuvali-svo-sluzhbove-stanovishche-u-zlochinnih-namirah/>

²⁰⁹ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/sociologi-fiksuyut-visokiy-riven-doviri-gromadyan-do-derzhavnoi-prikordonnoi-sluzhbi-ukraini/>

²¹⁰ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4046.html>

²¹¹ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4079.html>

²¹² <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4030.html>

²¹³ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4051.html>

²¹⁴ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4108.html>

²¹⁵ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4020.html>

²¹⁶ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4066.html>

²¹⁷ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4012.html>

²¹⁸ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/3999.html>

²¹⁹ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4053.html>

²²⁰ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/3847.html>

²²¹ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/3980.html>

²²² <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4056.html>



organizations²²³. On 21 February, the SMS held a press briefing in Odesa on the legal status of foreigners and stateless persons²²⁴. Officers of the SMS branch and officials of the local authorities of Chernihiv oblast addressed the problems of labour migration²²⁵.

During the month of February, events were held in Donetsk²²⁶, Chernihiv²²⁷, and Chernivtsi oblasts²²⁸, upon the initiative of the SMS and with the participation of representatives of other authorities, to discuss and tackle the problems of IDPs.

On 14 February, Sumy hosted an expanded meeting with the participation of representatives of the local SMS branch and the Main Directorate of the State Pension Fund in Sumy oblast to improve the prevention of misappropriation of pensions funds²²⁹.

The same month, an expanded meeting on gender equality of the Coordination Council took place at the Zakarpattia Oblast State Administration with the participation of experts of the Main Directorate of the State Migration Service and the Gender Education Center²³⁰. In early February, border guards of Luhansk oblast, servicemen and law enforcement officers from the Joint Forces have discussed with representatives of international organizations the gender issues in the area of security²³¹.

At a roundtable in Volyn in February, SMS representatives have discussed the issues of Roma registration with civil society organizations and the regional coordinator on public relations of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights in Volyn oblast²³².

On 12 February, officers of the SMS and the SBGS detected and stopped activities of a tourist company that provided services for illegal migration²³³. In February, the SBGS and law enforcement officers apprehended a foreigner engaged in human trafficking²³⁴.

The coast guards from the Joint Forces in coordination with the Naval Forces boats of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and other JFO units conducted joint drills in the Sea of Azov²³⁵.

3.5. International cooperation

The Hungarian government continued confrontation: in February, they declared the Law of Ukraine “On Education” as “semi-Nazi” and insisted that it should be amended²³⁶. The NATO Deputy Secretary General Rose Gottemoeller claimed that allies were in solidarity with Hungary as regard the Ukrainian Law and urged Ukraine to implement the recommendations of the Venice Commission²³⁷. In response,

²²³ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4128.html>

²²⁴ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4090.html>

²²⁵ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4129.html>

²²⁶ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4032.html>

²²⁷ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4004.html>

²²⁸ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4083.html>

²²⁹ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4044.html>

²³⁰ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4099.html>

²³¹ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/na-luganshchini-v-rayoni-operacii-obdnanih-sil-obgovorili-enderni-pitannya-u-sferi-bezpeki/>

²³² <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4006.html>

²³³ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4054.html>

²³⁴ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/%20video%20-na-odeshchini-prikordonniki-zatrimali-greka-yakiy-verbuvav-zhinok-dlya-nadannya-intimnih-poslug-za-kordonom-/>

²³⁵ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/%20video%20-morski-prikordonniki-u-vzamodii-z-katerami-vms-zsu-ta-inshimi-silami-oos-vidpracyuvali-vidbittya-vorozhogo-napadu-/>

²³⁶ <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/news/2019/02/22/7093171/>

²³⁷ https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_164058.htm



the MFA of Ukraine stated that the manipulations of the Hungarian government and Hungary's further requirements on Ukraine's Law "On Education" were inadmissible²³⁸.

On 18 February, the EU Foreign Affairs Council issued a decision on the "Azov package" of sanctions against the Russian Federation and determined areas in the Azov region that would receive support from the EU²³⁹. In particular, the EU focuses on the support for rail and road transportation service in the region, establishment of training centres, projects aimed at supporting small and medium business²⁴⁰.

On 15 February, 35 Israeli citizens were denied entry to Ukraine at Boryspil airport due to the lack of sufficient funds or unconfirmed purpose of visit²⁴¹. In response, Israel detained an aircraft arriving from Ukraine with 140 Ukrainian citizens²⁴². The situation was resolved, and detained persons were allowed to enter the country of destination²⁴³. The MFA claimed that if the rights of Ukrainians who travel to Israel were systematically violated, a visa-free regime with Israel would be reviewed^{244,245}. Soon after, Petro Tsyhykal, Head of the SBGS, held a working meeting with Joel Lion, Israeli Ambassador to Ukraine²⁴⁶; on 20 February, the Ambassador got familiarized with the terms of border crossing for foreigners at Boryspil airport²⁴⁷.

In February, the launch of projects with international organizations was announced. The IOM with support of the USAID started a project related to development of small business and self-employment for labour migrants who want to invest in their business in Ukraine²⁴⁸. The governments of Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland announced a social project in the east of Ukraine to promote justice, security, environmental protection and social cohesion, with over USD 14 million allocated²⁴⁹.

In February, a number of multilateral international meetings took place. The 6th Budapest Process Conference took place in Istanbul on 20 February, where Ukraine was represented by Petro Tsyhykal, Head of the SBGS²⁵⁰. On 31 January, in Warsaw, Ukrainian border guard officers participated in the annual key threat overview of the Eastern Partnership Risk Analysis Network organized by Frontex²⁵¹. On 22 February, in Dushanbe, officers of the SBGS participated in the round table on combating corruption

²³⁸ <https://mfa.gov.ua/ua/press-center/comments/9955-vidpovidy-rechnici-mzs-ukrajini-na-zapiti-zmi-shhodo-ostannih-vislovyuvany-ugorsykih-posadovciv-pro-ukrajinu>

²³⁹ <https://ua.interfax.com.ua/news/political/566946.html>

²⁴⁰ <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/news/2019/02/18/7092980/>

²⁴¹ https://lb.ua/news/2019/02/15/419888_aeroport_borispil_pitalsya.html

²⁴² <https://www.unian.net/politics/10448616-v-aeroportu-izrailya-uderzhivali-140-ukraincev-v-otvet-na-otkaz-vo-vezde-35-izrailtyanam-v-borispole.html>

²⁴³ <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2134248863554577&set=a.1499897280323075&type=3&theater>

²⁴⁴ <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/experts/2019/02/17/7092917/>

²⁴⁵ <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/news/2019/02/28/7093411/>

²⁴⁶ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/golova-derzhprikordonsluzhbi-petro-cigikal-proviv-robochu-zustrich-iz-poslom-derzhavi-izrail-v-ukraini-panom-dzhoelom-lionom/>

²⁴⁷ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/posol-derzhavi-izrail-v-ukraini-v-aeroportu-borispil-oznayomiv-sya-z-umovami-peretinu-kordonu-inozemcyami/>

²⁴⁸ <http://iom.org.ua/ua/mom-rozpochynaye-proekt-iz-rozvytku-malogo-biznesu-y-samozaynyatosti-dlya-trudovyh-migrantiv-ta>

²⁴⁹ <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/news/2019/02/8/7092634/>

²⁵⁰ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/u-stambuli-petro-cigikal-vzvav-uchast-u-6-y-konferencii-visokogo-rivnya-v-ramkah-budapeshtskogo-procesu/>; <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/petro-cigikal-ta-mihael-shpindelgger-proveli-zustrich-pid-chas-6-i-konferencii-visokogo-rivnya-v-ramkah-budapeshtskogo-procesu/>

²⁵¹ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/predstavniki-derzhprikordonsluzhbi-vzyali-uchast-u-shchorichnomu-oglyadi-osnovnih-zagroz-merezhi-analizu-rizikiv-krain-shidnogo-partnerstva/>



at the borders organized by the OSCE Border Management Staff College²⁵². On 19–20 February, anti-trafficking workshop took place in Kyiv which was attended by representatives of nine OSCE members²⁵³.

Cooperation with international partners continues to improve qualifications of migration and border guard officers. On 9 February, in Kyiv, heads of territorial bodies of the SMS participated in the leadership training organized by the IOM Mission in Ukraine²⁵⁴. In the second fortnight of February, a planning conference for the Ukrainian-American Sea Breeze 2019 took place in Odesa²⁵⁵. On 20 February, Ukrainian and Slovak border guard officers started a three-day joint patrolling training²⁵⁶.

In February, a number of bilateral international meetings took place as attended by Ukrainian high ranking officials.

- Petro Tsyhykal, Head of the SBGS, signed a cooperation plan for 2019–2020 with the Georgian border guard service²⁵⁷ and discussed Ukraine-Georgia cooperation in the area of border security with the Georgian Minister of Interior²⁵⁸.
- On 20 February, HR managers of the SBGS and the Estonian Police and Border Guard Board met and discussed Estonian experience in implementation of the automated HRM system²⁵⁹.
- On 22 February, government delegations from Ukraine and Slovakia met in Bratislava and discussed current cooperation in the area of irregular migration and transport connectivity²⁶⁰.
- On 26 February, at Krakovets BCP, representatives of the SBGS participated in the meeting of the Ukrainian-Polish Commission on combating border crossing offences²⁶¹.
- On 22 February, consultations on cooperation took place at the level of directors of relevant departments of Ukraine's and Lithuania's Foreign Affairs Ministries²⁶².
- Isabelle Dumont, French Ambassador to Ukraine, visited units of Mariupol Coastguard Detachment and learnt the tasks entrusted to the Coastguard²⁶³.

²⁵² <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/u-dushanbe-spivrobotniki-derzhprikordonsluzhbi-vzlyali-uchast-u-kruglomu-stoli-z-pitan-bezpeki-kordoniv/>

²⁵³ <https://www.msp.gov.ua/news/16713.html>

²⁵⁴ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/dms/4027.html>

²⁵⁵ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/v-odesi-proyshla-konferenciya-z-pidgotovki-ukrainsko-amerikanskih-navchan-sibriz-2019/>

²⁵⁶ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/ukrainski-ta-slovacki-prikordonniki-vdoskonalyuyut-navichki-zi-spilnogo-patrulyuvannya/>

²⁵⁷ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/petro-cigikal-v-konteksti-agresivnoi-politiki-rosii-vzamodiya-prikordonnih-vidomstv-ukraini-ta-gruzii-nabuva-osoblivoi-aktualnosti/>

²⁵⁸ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/u-gruzii-petro-cigikal-proviv-zustrichi-z-ministrom-vnutrishnih-sprav-gruzii-ta-poslom-ukraini/>

²⁵⁹ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/estonski-prikordonniki-podililisy-dosvidom-u-sferi-rozvitku-kadrovogo-menedzhmentu/>

²⁶⁰ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/u-slovachchini-vasil-servatyuk-vzyav-uchast-v-uryadoviy-delegacii-dlya-obgovorennya-aktualnih-pitan-spivpraci-/>

²⁶¹ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/prikordonniki-vzlyali-uchast-u-zasidanni-ukrainsko-polskoi-komisii-z-protidii-pravoporushenniam-v-punktah-propusku/>

²⁶² <https://mfa.gov.ua/ua/press-center/news/70683-u-mzs-vidbulisy-ukrajinsyko-litovsyki-konsulytaciji-z-pitany-spivrobotnictva-v-ramkah-mizhnarodnih-organizacij>

²⁶³ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/dlya-profesionala-morskoi-ohoroni-vazhlivi-vsi-aspekti-pidgotovki-vid-silovoi-dopravovoi/>



- On 19 February, during the visit of Frontex delegation to the National Academy of the SBGS, possible knowledge sharing and further cooperation areas were discussed²⁶⁴.

A number of meetings between regional bodies of the SMS and representatives of international organizations took place. At the beginning, a working meeting between representatives of the SMS in Ternopil oblast and the OSCE took place²⁶⁵. CANADEM, international accredited organization for election monitoring, made a working visit to the Department of the SMS in Ternopil oblast²⁶⁶.

On 1 February 2019, the Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Moldova on Readmission of Persons and the Implementation Protocol on the procedure of its implementation entered into force^{267,268}. On 17 February, the Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia on Visa Exemption for the Nationals Holding Diplomatic and Service Passports entered into force²⁶⁹. On 15 February, a simplified visa regime for short-term visits of Ukrainians to Uruguay was introduced: Ukrainians will be able to stay in the territory of Uruguay without visa during 90 days; this period can be extended for another 90 days²⁷⁰. On 21 February, high-ranking officials of the Ministry of Interior of Ukraine and the Japanese Embassy to Ukraine discussed the results of the facilitation of visa regime with Japan since the beginning of 2018 and reported an increase in the number of Ukrainian tourists by 30% last year²⁷¹.

3.6. Mass media coverage, researches, public opinion on the migration issues

On 17 February, *Yevropeyska Pravda* published an article by Serhiy Kyslytsia, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, on the border crossing conflict between Ukraine and Israel²⁷². *Yevropeyska Pravda* published an article analysing why Hungary puts pressure on Ukraine as regards the Law "On Education"²⁷³.

Radio Liberty discussed labour migration of Ukrainians abroad and ways to make up for the lack of labour force in Ukraine²⁷⁴. In February, *Obozrevatel* discussed labour issues of Ukrainians abroad and potential migrants from Asia and Africa to Ukraine due to economic growth in the country^{275,276}. *Segodnya* published an article that analysed migration to Ukraine and ways of its development²⁷⁷. *Dzerkalo*

²⁶⁴ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/nacionalna-akademiya-derzhprikordonsluzhbi-pridnalasya-do-merezhi-partnerskih-akademiy-frontex/>

²⁶⁵ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4007.html>

²⁶⁶ <https://dmsu.gov.ua/news/region/4087.html>

²⁶⁷ <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/shchodo-pidpisannya-ugodi-mizh-uryadom-ukraini-ta-uryadom-respubliki-moldova-pro-readmisiyu-osib/>

²⁶⁸ https://mvs.gov.ua/ua/news/17947_SHCHodo_pidpisannya_Ugodi_mizh_Uryadom_Ukraini_ta_Uryadom_Respubliki_Moldova_pro_readmisiyu_osib.htm

²⁶⁹ <https://mfa.gov.ua/ua/press-center/news/70308-bezvizovij-rezhim-z-respublikoju-indonezija-dlya-vlasnikov-diplomatchnih-i-sluzhbovih-pasportiv-zapracyuje-z-17-lyutogo>

²⁷⁰ <https://argentina.mfa.gov.ua/ua/press-center/notices/9094-pochatok-diji-bezvizovogo-rezhimu-mizh-ukrajinoju-ta-urugvajem>

²⁷¹ https://mvs.gov.ua/ua/news/18508_Ukraina_ta_YAponiya_prodozhuyut_spivpracyu_v_napryamku_liberalizacii_vizovogo_rezhimu_Arsen_Avakov.htm

²⁷² <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/experts/2019/02/17/7092917/>

²⁷³ <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/articles/2019/02/22/7093197/>

²⁷⁴ <https://www.radiosvoboda.org/a/29772194.html>

²⁷⁵ <https://www.obozrevatel.com/ukr/tv/udar-po-sotsialnomu-imidzhu-sotsiolog-poyasnila-chomu-ukraintsi-obirayut-robotu-zakordonom.htm>

²⁷⁶ <https://www.obozrevatel.com/ukr/tv/potoku-migrantiv-z-azii-ta-afriki-do-ukraini-ekspert-rozpovila-do-chogo-prizvede-ekonomichne-zrostantnya.htm>

²⁷⁷ <https://ukr.segodnya.ua/economics/enews/trudovaya-migraciya-v-ukrainu-kto-k-nam-edet-i-zachem-strane>



Tyzhnya published an interview about migration processes with Ella Libanova, Director of the Institute for Demography and Social Studies of the National Academy of Sciences²⁷⁸, and *RBK Ukraine* published the material on ways of development of state social policy to support legal business in Ukraine²⁷⁹.

The Federation of Employers urged the state to take action and influence a destructive migration trend in Ukraine²⁸⁰, and published the Statement of Employers of Ukraine²⁸¹.

UNHCR published information for February 2019, including the overview of legislative amendments that directly influence the IDPs²⁸², the statistical report on persons who crossed the contact line²⁸³, the Protection Cluster Factsheet on issues and protection measures for persons who suffered from military action and armed conflicts²⁸⁴, the report of the Protection Cluster on voting rights of IDPs in Ukraine²⁸⁵.

On 7 February, Vostok SOS Charity Fund published an overview of human rights infringements in the temporarily occupied territories of Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts in January, including unlawful arrests, establishing a concurrent legal system, breaches of property rights and of the freedom of belief²⁸⁶. On 13 February, the Democratic Initiatives Fund published the findings of the survey on ways of restoring the control over the territory of Donbas²⁸⁷.

The Polish *Forsal.pl* published an article on Ukrainian migrants²⁸⁸. According to the Public Opinion Research Centre (CBOS²⁸⁹), negative perception of Ukrainians in Poland (41%) prevails over positive one (31%)²⁹⁰. According to the findings of the Centre's studies in 2018, 24% of Poles have a positive attitude to Ukrainians while 40% have a negative one²⁹¹.

[migranty-1217634.html](#)

²⁷⁸ https://dt.ua/interview/ella-libanova-krayina-gluhih-299997_.html

²⁷⁹ <https://www.rbc.ua/ukr/news/sotspolitika-gosudarstva-dolzha-podderzivat-1549375520.html>

²⁸⁰ <https://podrobnosti.ua/2281957-federatsja-robotodavtsv-ukrani-zaklika-vladu-pdtrimati-manfest-robotodavtsv.html>

²⁸¹ http://fru.ua/images/Manifest_1.pdf

²⁸² <https://www.unhcr.org/ua/wp-content/uploads/sites/38/2019/04/2019-02-Legislative-Update-UKR.pdf>

²⁸³ https://www.unhcr.org/ua/wp-content/uploads/sites/38/2019/04/EECP-Report-February_UKR.pdf

²⁸⁴ https://www.unhcr.org/ua/wp-content/uploads/sites/38/2019/04/2019_02_protection_cluster_factsheet_ukr.pdf

²⁸⁵ <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ukraine/document/advocacy-note-voting-rights-internally-displaced-persons-ukraine>

²⁸⁶ <https://vostok-sos.org/oglyad-porushen-prav-lyudini-v-okupovanih-luganskij-ta-doneckij-oblastyah-sichen-2019/>

²⁸⁷ <https://dif.org.ua/article/poshuki-shlyakhiv-vidnovlennya-suverenitetu-ukraini-nad-okupovanim-donbasom-stan-gromadskoi-dumki-naperedodni-prezidentskikh-viboriv>

²⁸⁸ <https://forsal.pl/artykuly/1399705,praca-ukraincow-za-granica-przelewy-od-nich-odpowiadaly-za-prawie-14-proc-ukrainskiego-pkb.html>

²⁸⁹ <https://www.cbos.pl/PL/home/home.php>

²⁹⁰ <http://www.polradio.pl/5/38/Artykul/405481>

²⁹¹ <http://www.polradio.pl/5/115/Artykul/295778>