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Ukraine to issue e-visas according to more convenient procedure

From November 1, 2020, Ukrainian electronic visas (e-Visas) will be issued according to a new and convenient procedure, the press service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine reports.

"For many foreigners, a meeting with our country begins with obtaining a Ukrainian visa. This first impression should be positive. Foreigners should associate Ukraine with convenient, fast electronic services. So we will not only restart the tourism industry, but also stimulate foreign investment in Ukraine, development of trade, strengthening of contacts between people, and generally making the Ukraine brand more modern and attractive," said Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba.

According to the innovations, the applicant will be able to choose the desired procedure for issuing an e-visa: a usual or an urgent procedure (with a doubling of the tariff rate in case of an urgent procedure). E-Visas will be issued much faster: an urgent electronic visa processing will take only one working day, and the usual processing procedure will be three working days (so far, the processing time for visa applications has reached nine days). In addition to the existing one-time e-Visa, there will be a new type of visa: e-Visa for double entry.

In addition, the differentiated tariff rates of the consular fee are significantly reduced: instead of \$85 for a single e-visa, now the consular fee for a single e-Visa will be \$20, for a double one – \$30.

HEADLINES



INDEX OF CRYPTOCURRENCY USE BY UKRAINIAN POPULATION HIGHEST IN WORLD



UKRAINE INTENDS TO ATTRACT \$100 MLN LOAN FROM IBRD



METINVEST TO INVEST UAH 2.3 BLN IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MEASURES



UIA CANCELS FLIGHTS TO EIGHT DESTINATIONS DUE TO RESTRICTIONS ON ENTRY OF FOREIGNERS TO UKRAINE



ENERGOATOM SIGNS MEMO WITH H2 ON BUILDING DATA CENTER FOR \$700 MLN



MAN OPENS ONE MORE SERVICE CENTER IN UKRAINE

Index of cryptocurrency use by Ukrainian population highest in world

The index of use of virtual assets by the population of Ukraine is the highest in the world, according to a study by the analytical blockchain company The Chainalysis, posted on the website of the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine.



According to the report, when calculating the index, analysts took into account the cost of sent crypto assets per capita, the balances of crypto assets at the addresses (wallets) of Internet users in Ukraine, as well as the volume of P2P and retail transactions (<\$ 10,000), calculated at purchasing power parity.

It is noted that the high performance of Ukraine is due, among other things, to the world's largest (the top three) community of blockchain developers, a significant crypto community, a high level of digital awareness of the population, as well as a high-quality educational intellectual basis and a significant number of small businesses that mediate on international marketplaces where cryptocurrency is used for payments. In addition, the primacy was influenced by the presence of legal and banking system restrictions on international transfers and a number of restrictions in more traditional areas, in particular the non-availability of a stock market, limited access to the global capital market, and high entry into the real estate market.

"The market of virtual assets in Ukraine is quite developed and has a significant turnover even on a global scale, but most of it is concentrated in the shadow zone, which creates potential risks for both the state, business and users," the press service of the ministry said. It added that the ministry continues to create a legal framework for regulating the cryptocurrency market in Ukraine and hopes that in September the profile draft law on virtual assets will be considered by the parliament.

The Chainalysis is the leading blockchain analytics company that provides blockchain data and analytics to government and financial institutions, as well as participants in the virtual asset market.



Ukraine and China plan to boost cooperation

First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Emine Dzhamparova during a video conference with her colleague, First Deputy Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China (PRC) Le Yucheng, agreed to step up cooperation in the political and economic plane. "The parties assured each other of the invariability of the fundamental principles of mutual respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence, enshrined in the political documents concluded since the establishment of diplomatic relations," the press service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine said.

In addition, among other topics that were in the spotlight became further interaction on the fields of international organizations, ways to intensify trade and economic cooperation, joint participation in the implementation of projects within the framework of the global Chinese initiative "One Belt, One Road."

The parties also exchanged invitations to visit Beijing and Kyiv.

Japan rating and investment information upgrades Ukraine's foreign currency rating region of Ukraine

Japan Rating and Investment Information, Inc. (R&I) has upgraded Ukraine's foreign currency issuer rating from B to B+, rating outlook is stable.



"When fiscal consolidation efforts to date and enhanced resilience to external shocks are also taken into account, economic and fiscal conditions are expected to recover in 2021 and beyond," R&I said in press release.

R&I said that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) financial support for Ukraine, together with loans from the World Bank and the European Union (EU), will help stabilize the government's funding, which R&I views favorably.

R&I believes that the improved political and social stability under the leadership of President Volodymyr Zelensky will allow the government to focus on rebuilding the economy.

R&I said that among other positive moments is that foreign reserves are on the rise, standing at \$28.8 billion as of end-July 2020, which covers 4.9 months of imports. Gross external debt is declining as a percentage of GDP. As of end-March 2020, the ratio was 75.8%. With external debt maturing within one year falling to 29.3% of GDP, the short-term external debt to foreign reserves ratio declined to around 1.6x from more than 2x seen until the previous year.

Ukraine intends to attract \$100 mln loan from IBRD

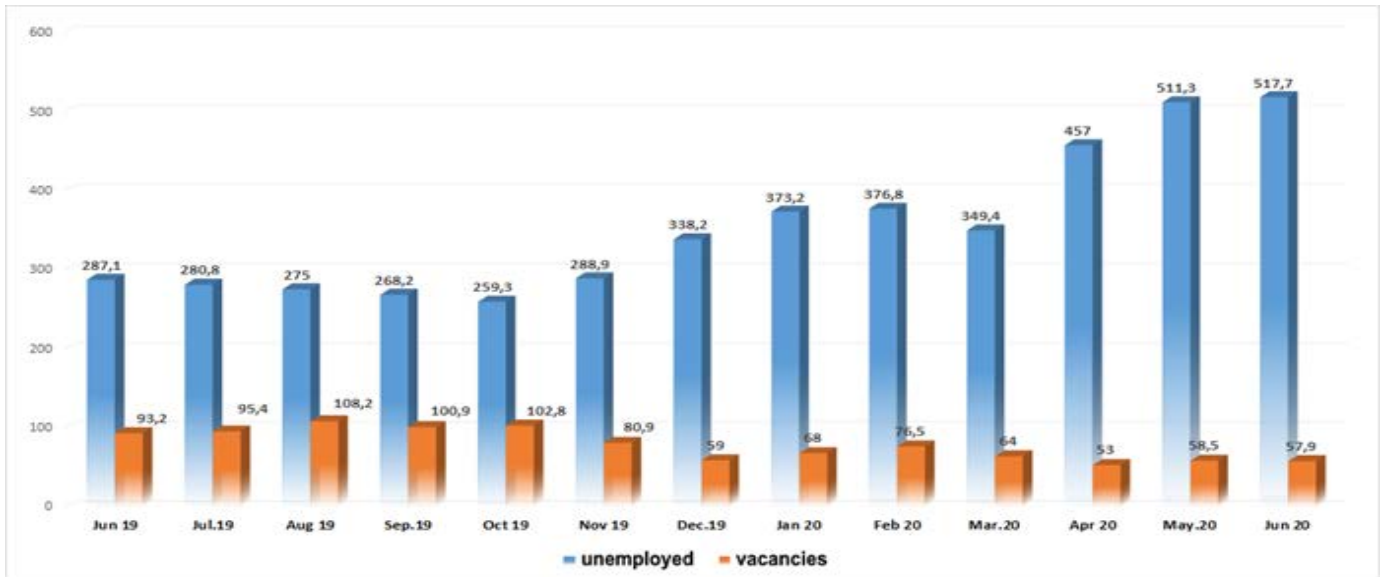
The Cabinet of Ministers intends to attract a \$100 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) for the Eastern Ukraine: Reconnect Recover Revitalize (3R) Project. In addition, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the composition of the delegation to participate in negotiations with the IBRD.

According to the draft resolution, the loan is planned to be attracted for a period of 27 years with a grace period of 12 years with a floating rate of LIBOR plus a variable spread.

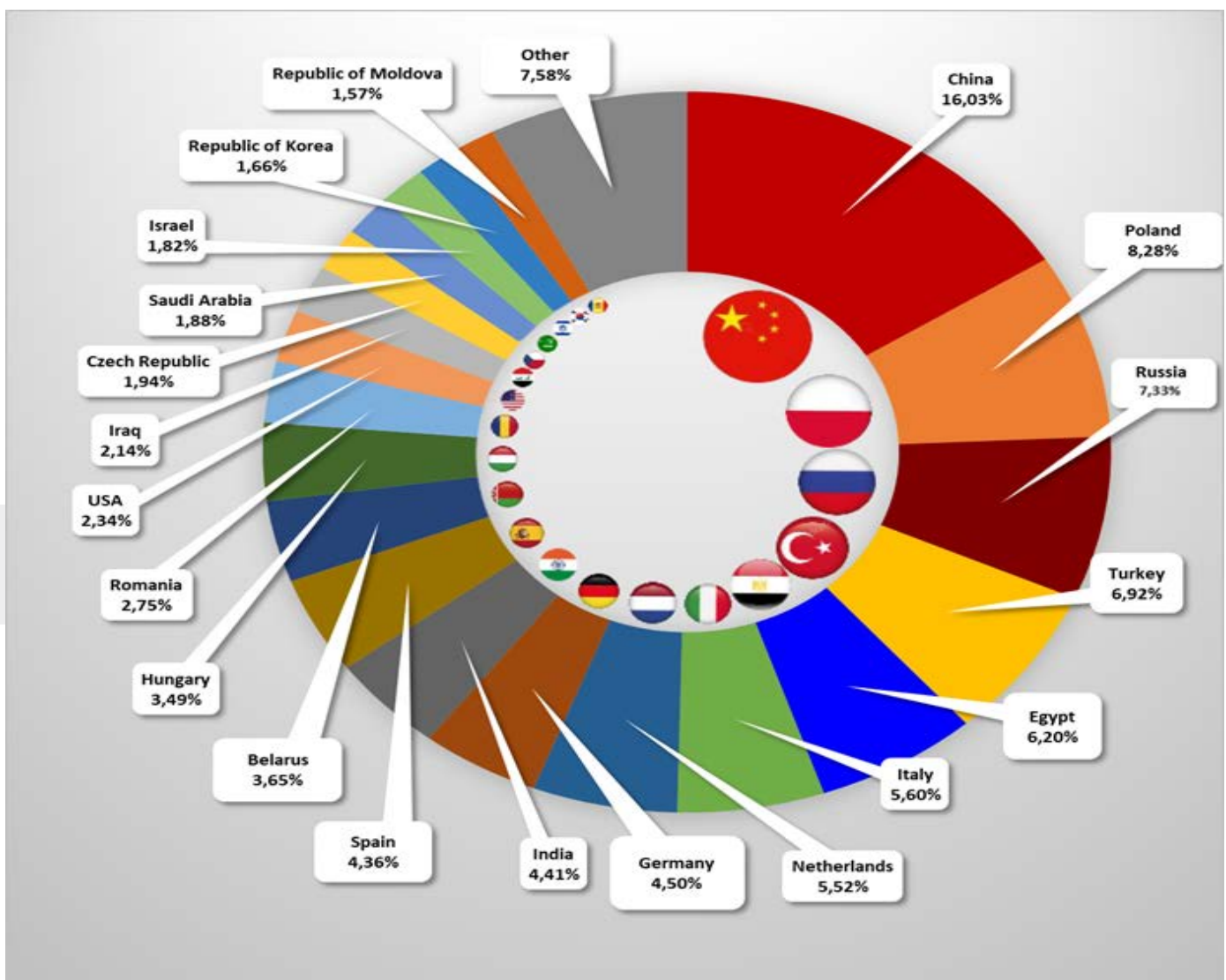
According to the data on the website of the Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporary Occupied Territories, the project envisages investments in the resumption of agriculture through the implementation of private agricultural sub-projects aimed at overcoming the consequences of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation on the territory of Luhansk region controlled by the government of Ukraine.



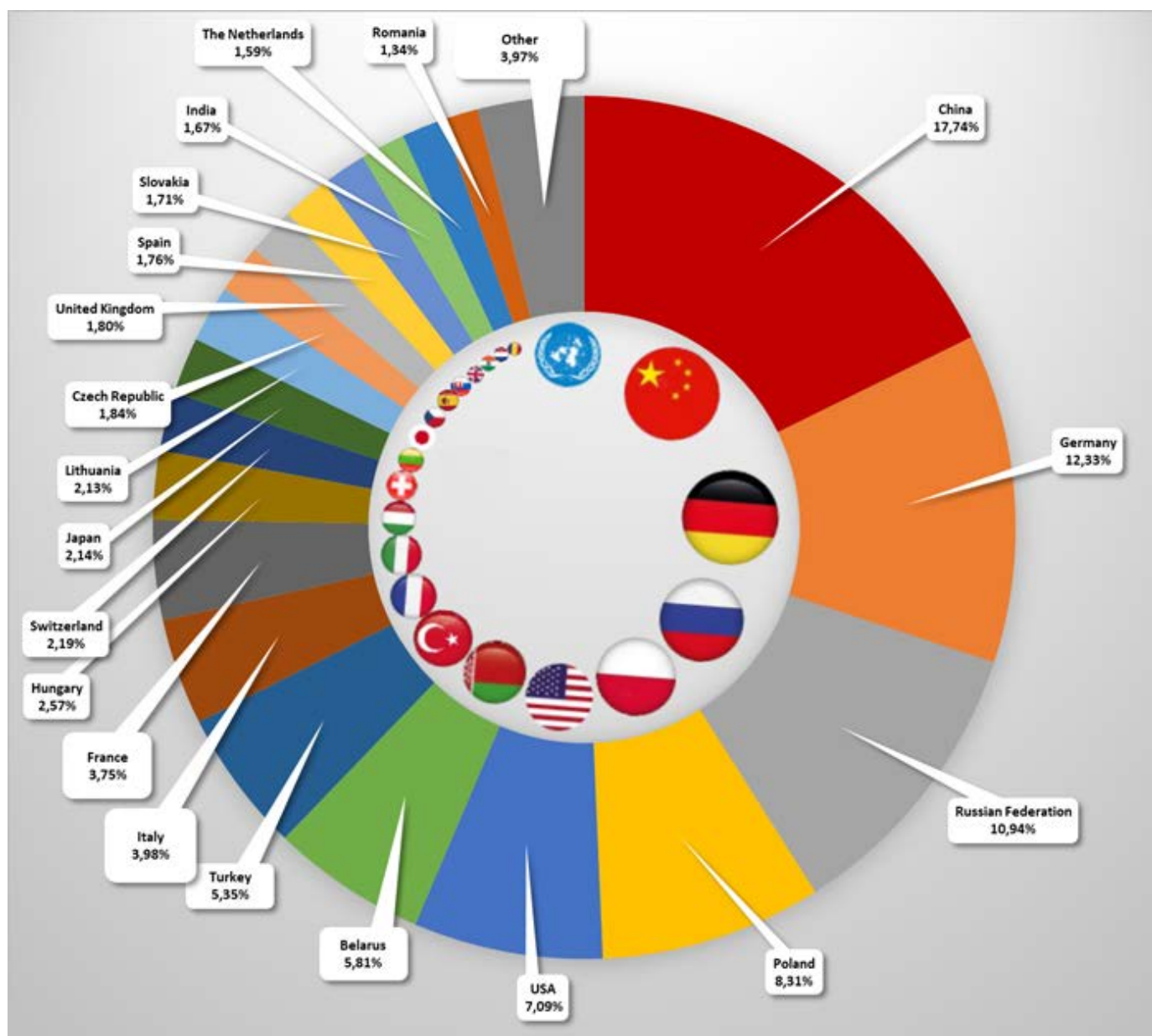
Number of unemployed in Ukraine and job opportunities, May 2019 – June 2020



Main trade partners of Ukraine in % from total volume (export from Ukraine to other countries) in Jan-May



Main trade partners of Ukraine in % from total volume (import from other countries to Ukraine) in Jan-May



Metinvest to invest UAH 2.3 bln in environmental protection measures

The Northern Mining and Processing Plant (Northern GOK, Kryvy Rih, Dnipropetrovsk region), which is the part of the Metinvest Group, will invest UAH 2.3 billion in environmental protection measures in 2020. Metinvest Kryvy Rih said on Facebook, August 20, that Northern GOK continues seeking effective ways of environmental protection.





"This time peat hydroxide reagent was successfully tested during the blasting operations in the mine. Earlier, spraying of the reagent in the Hannivsky mine helped to reduce dusting by 30% and gas emission by 70%," it said.

As reported, Metinvest plans to invest UAH 3.1 billion in the modernization and overhauls of equipment and construction of strategic facilities at Northern GOK in 2020.

Northern GOK is a part of the Metinvest Group, the main shareholders of which are JSC System Capital Management (SCM, Donetsk) (71.24%) and Smart Holding group of companies (23.76%).

The holding company of the Metinvest Group is Metinvest Holding LLC.

ArcelorMittal passes 50 mln tonnes of smelter slag for road construction in Ukraine

PJSC ArcelorMittal Kryvyi Rih (Dnipropetrovsk region) has passed 50 million tonnes of smelter slag to state-run enterprise New Technologies of Road Construction.

The metallurgical complex said on Thursday that after processing into slag crushed stone and sand smelter slag will be used for road construction and repairs under the Big Construction state program.

"We want Ukravtodor and local authorities to use more actively smelter slag provided by ArcelorMittal Kryvyi Rih the characteristics of which fully comply with the national standards of road construction. It can be used in the base layer and as fine and coarse aggregate for concrete and asphalt roads," the enterprise's chief engineer, Andriy Babenko, said.

He also noted that active use smelter slag will improve the quality of road surface, as well as resolve the environmental problems related to accumulation and disposal of waste.



Ferrexpo ramps up pellet output by 3.5%

Ferrexpo Plc, which controls Poltava and Yeristovo mining enterprises in Ukraine, ramped up pellet production by 3.5% in January-July 2020 year-over-year, to 6.38 million tonnes.

A representative of the company told Interfax-Ukraine that over the period concentrate production grew by 4.3%, to UAH 8.04 million tonnes.

In July alone, the company made 780,000 tonnes of pellets, 1.04 million tonnes of concentrate, while in June, some 860,000 tonnes of pellets and 1.115 million tonnes of concentrate were produced.



Scandinavian airlines restart flights to Ukraine



Scandinavian airlines have resumed regular flights to Boryspil International Airport (Kyiv region). The airport's website said on Tuesday that the airline plans to operate flights from Boryspil International Airport to Oslo International Airport once a week on Tuesdays. Scandinavian airlines is a multinational airline company, the leading carrier of the Scandinavian countries, based in Stockholm (Sweden), owned by SAS AB. Founding member is Star Alliance.

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Ukraine International Airlines (UIA) cancels flights to eight destinations due to restrictions on entry of foreigners to Ukraine

Ukraine International Airlines (UIA, Kyiv) canceled flights on eight destinations, reduced their frequency on seven more destinations. According to the airline's website, as a result of such measures, UIA is forced to revise the flight schedule and significantly reduce them. Starting from September 14, the following flights will be completely canceled: Kyiv-Zaporizhia, Kyiv-Madrid, Kyiv-Barcelona, Kyiv-Geneva, Kyiv-Delhi, Kyiv-Berlin, Kyiv-Chisinau, and also Kyiv-Athens (except for two flights). Flights on the route Kyiv-Kherson will be canceled from September 20.

In addition, the airline reduced the frequency of flights on the following routes: Kyiv-Odesa, Kyiv-Paris, Kyiv-Dusseldorf, Kyiv-Brussels, Kyiv-Dubai, Kyiv-Istanbul, and Kyiv-Tel Aviv.

"We now have to make a decision on the airline's plans for the coming days, without having enough time or enough information. Of course, we will wait for the publication of the Cabinet of Ministers resolution and make a decision to cancel flights, based on the content of the document. We are considering several options, including radical," CEO of the airline Yevhen Dykhne said.

According to the airline, in the total current UIA passenger traffic, the percentage of foreigners transported is about 60%.

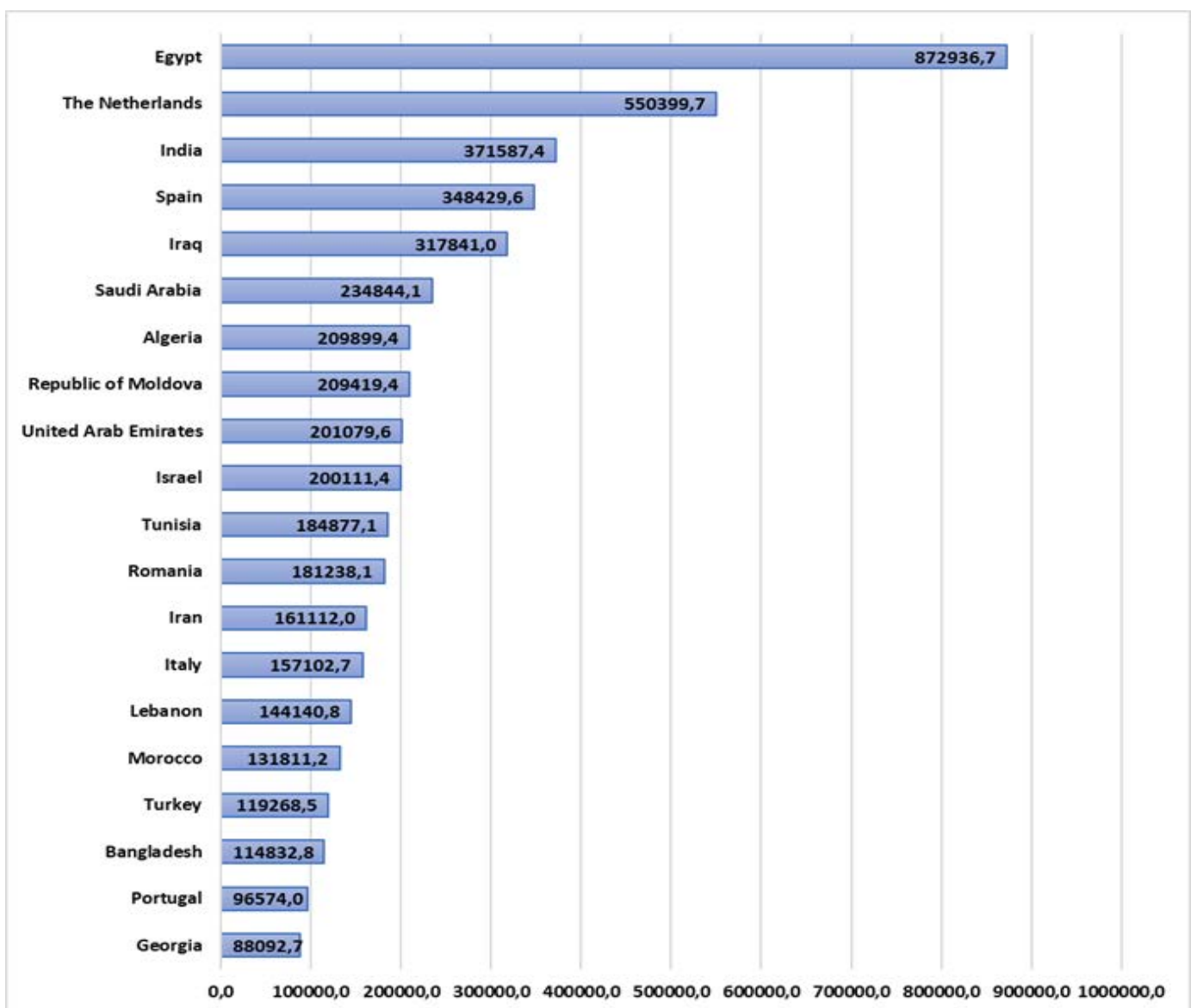


Ryanair launches flights from Ukraine to Cologne, Dusseldorf

Irish low-cost airline Ryanair (Dublin) has announced the launch of two new flights from Kyiv to Cologne and from Odesa to Dusseldorf as part of its winter schedule. According to the airline's posting on Friday, both flights will be operated twice a week as part of the Ryanair Ukraine Winter 2020 schedule, which the airline continues to expand. Flights from Kyiv to Cologne will be operated from October 26 to Mondays and Fridays in both directions. Flights from Odesa to Dusseldorf will be operated from November 6 to Mondays and Fridays in both directions.



Top 20 countries of Ukraine's foreign trade partners in Jan-May of 2020 (thousand USD)



Energoatom signs memo with H2 on building data center for \$700 mln

Acting President of National Nuclear Generation Company Energoatom Petro Kotin and the H2 company have signed a memorandum of cooperation on the construction of a computing data center near Zaporizhia Nuclear Power Plant (NPP), the press service of Energoatom said on Thursday, August 20.

“ **According to the press service, the data center will become one of the largest in Europe, and the investment will amount to \$700 million.**

In turn, PrJSC Ukrhydroenergo during the same visit of the president announced the signing of a memorandum of cooperation with H2 LLC on the construction of a hydrogen electrolysis plant. The expected investments in the project may amount to about EUR 300 million. The cooperation envisages “the construction of production facilities with constant electricity consumption”.

As reported, during his working trip to Zaporizhia on August 19, Zelensky attended the presentation of an action plan for the implementation of the Development Strategy of Zaporizhia region for the period until 2027, which provides, in particular, for the construction of data centers.



Man opens one more service center in Ukraine

A new service center of the European manufacturer of automotive equipment MAN Truck and Bus has been opened in Zhytomyr, it has become the eighth center in Ukraine, Man Trucks and Bus Ukraine LLC reports on Facebook.

The Agrotruckservice center covers an area of 2.5 hectares (including a parking lot for trucks), it includes the main building (with workshops) with an area of 3,020 square meters, a spare parts warehouse with an area of 310 square meters.

The service station has three 25-meter inspection pits equipped with five 16-tonne jacks, a diagnostic line with German equipment from MAXA. It is equipped with four plunger lifts with a total lifting capacity of 60 tonnes, and a mobile column lift with six autonomous supports with a lifting capacity of 7.5 tonnes each.

The first MAN Truck and Bus service station in Ukraine was opened in Bucha in 2007. Also, in particular, the company has service stations in Kyiv, Dnipro, Odesa, Mukachevo.

The subsidiary company Man Trucks & Bus Ukraine has been operating in Ukraine since 2006.



Average period of settlement of OSAGO insurance cases up by eight days

The average period of settlement of insurance claims for damage caused to property declared under compulsory insurance of civil liability of motor vehicle owners (OSAGO) in the second quarter increased by 8 days compared to the previous one and amounted to 77 days (for claims settled within 365 days), the Motor (Transport) Insurance Bureau of Ukraine (MTIBU) reports.

The bureau also notes that the reason for this is the quarantine introduced in Ukraine in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic, which affected the work of insurers' offices, claims settlement processes, as well as the ability of victims to promptly submit the documents necessary to receive insurance payments. According to the MTIBU, within the framework of the direct claims settlement system, the average settlement period increased slightly, amounting to 43 days (in the first quarter of 2020 some 41 days). Despite the impact of quarantine measures, OSAGO insurers in annual terms have improved the speed of settlement: compared to the second quarter of last year, the average settlement period decreased by 2 days, and within the direct settlement system by 13 days. In April-June 2020, within 60 days from the date of an accident 55.3% of claims were settled, up to 90 days some 69.9% of claims, and up to 120 days some 77.4% of claims.



Ukraine threshes 38.4 mln tonnes of grain

As of September 1, Ukrainian farmers harvested 38.4 million tonnes of grain and leguminous crops from an area of 9.68 million hectares (63% of the forecast).

According to a report on the website of the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Agriculture, 29,800 tonnes of millet were threshed from an area of 15,900 hectares (11%), 221,500 tonnes of sunflower from an area of 150,000 hectares (2%).

Harvesting of crops such as wheat, barley, peas and canola has been completed.

In addition, according to the ministry, the harvesting of buckwheat has begun in six regions, which has already harvested 19,700 tonnes from an area of 11,290 hectares.

In general, Ukrainian agricultural producers have already harvested 41.2 million tonnes of basic crops from an area of 10.94 million hectares.



Ukreximbank provides loan to exporter of nuts

The state-owned Ukreximbank (Kyiv) provided a EUR 500,000 loan to Nutsi LLC, which specializes in the sale of walnuts and pumpkin seeds, to export the 2020 harvest, the bank's press service said on Thursday.

According to the bank, Nutsi has an extensive network of points to purchase nuts and seeds throughout Ukraine and exports raw materials throughout Europe.

According to the unified public register of legal entities and private entrepreneurs, Viacheslav Yanchiy is the ultimate beneficiary of Nutsi LLC, the size of the charter capital of the company is UAH 44,000.

Ukreximbank was established in 1992, the only owner is the state.

According to the National Bank of Ukraine, as of July 1, 2020, in terms of total assets, Ukreximbank ranked third (UAH 226.729 billion) among 75 banks operating in the country.



EBRD provides \$200 mln loan to Olam for subsidiaries including Ukraine

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has provided Olam International Ltd. (Singapore) with a \$200 million loan to finance the company's working capital needs in Ukraine, Turkey, Egypt, Georgia and Poland.

"The EBRD loan will finance purchases of agricultural commodities such as hazelnuts, dry dairy products, grain and onions in selected countries of operation. Local subsidiaries of the company will take on the processing, storage and distribution of these goods," the bank said on its website.



"The European Union and the TaiwanBusiness-EBRD Technical Cooperation Fund will provide donor support for the development of new methodologies and processes for climate-related risk management and stress testing in Egypt and Turkey," it says.

Olam International is a major food and agricultural products manufacturer headquartered in Singapore.



Cost value is a priority in food production process – scientist

Doctor of Biological Sciences Sviatoslav Morozov, who is also a healthy nutrition expert, says food producers first of all aspire to reduce their products' cost value and often ignore the harm they may cause to consumers' health. Otherwise, they will be simply unable to withstand the market competition.

"Speaking about monotonous diet for farm animals and various chemical additives, they are used not to poison consumers. Nobody pursues such a goal. The task is different – to cut the cost value and make products with a very long shelf life," Morozov said.

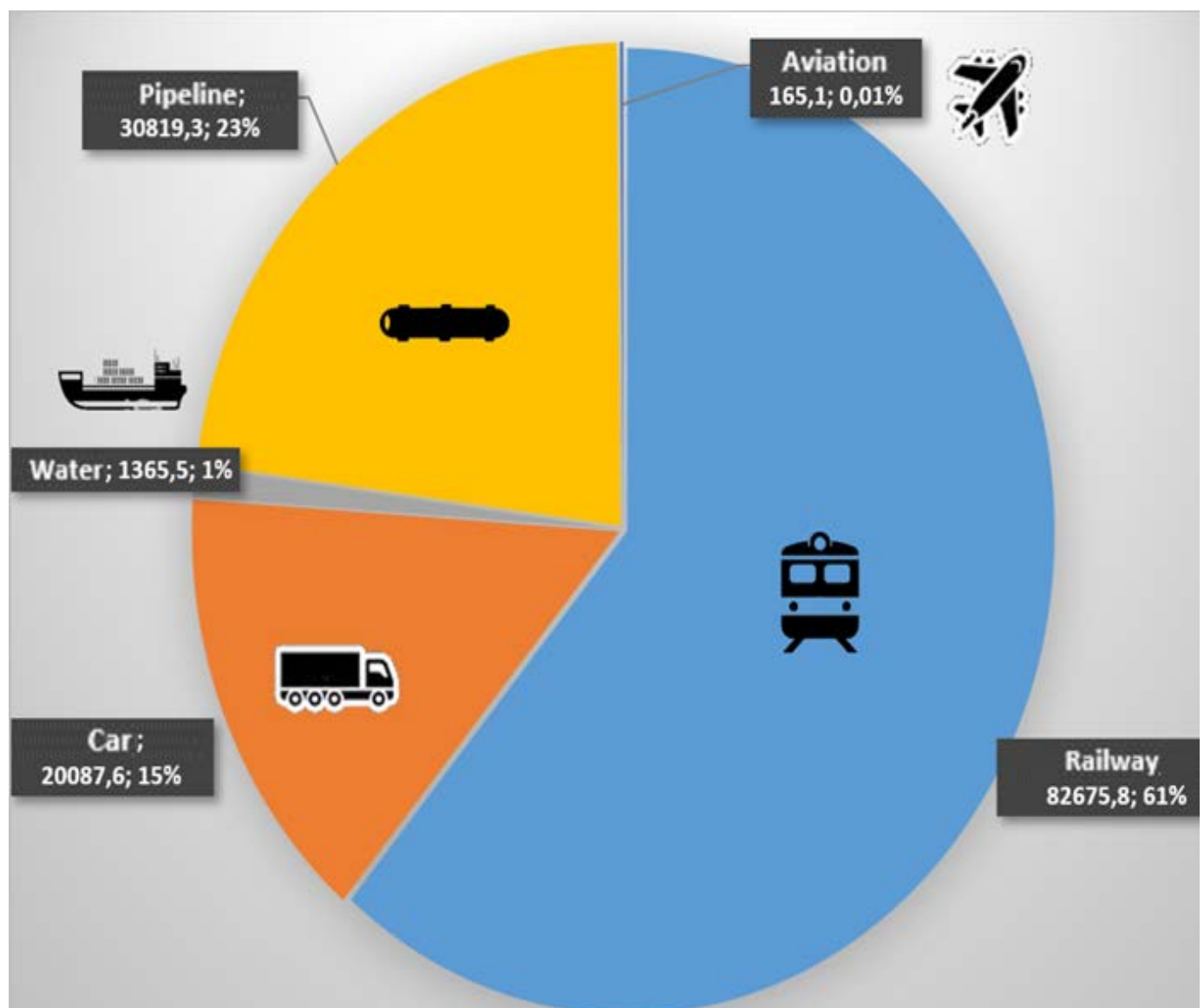
In a commentary to the Expert Club YouTube channel, the scientist also noted that these rules are used for all categories of food, including meat, dairy and vegetarian products.

"The problem of chemical additives and foreign substances, which could get into food in the process of animal or plant breeding as well as during their processing, is very topical today. For example, natural wine from the wood can be stored for only three days, after which yeast appears in it. It can be stored for a very long time only due to chemical additives," the biologist said.

According to Morozov, in order to make sure that the food is clean, one should know the brands which are certified to make products without harmful additives. Today, this can be easily done through the Internet.

The full video is available on the Expert Club YouTube channel

Volumes of cargo transportation in Jan-June



MHP working on carbonic acid plant, waiting for certainty in 'green' power industry for investment in biogas

Myronivsky Hliboproduct (MHP), one of the largest agricultural holdings in Ukraine, is working on a carbon dioxide plant project, deputy chairman of the board Oleksandr Dombrovsky has said when signing a memorandum of partnership between the agricultural holding and Organic Ukraine.

"This is an innovative project, I can't tell you much. We are now doing a very professional feasibility study, considering various options. Today it is too early to say that we are ready for this project. We are working on it," he said.

Dombrovsky clarified that the plant is being designed both for the needs of MHP itself, and for the domestic market and export. According to him, today about 70% of carbonic acid in the domestic market is imported, mainly from Poland and Hungary.

He also said that MHP, which has already built two of the world's largest biogas complexes for processing poultry manure, has another ready-made similar project and a permit for its construction.

"But we are thinking to start or not to start. And if to start, then when, given that the "green" industry in Ukraine has not been paid money at all for six months," Dombrovsky explained.

He stressed that investments in biogas are significantly higher than in solar energy, and range from EUR3 million to EUR3.5 million per 1 MWh of capacity.

The expert noted that the agricultural holding is also working on other innovative projects, in particular, on "green" hydrogen.



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Vegetarians should be careful when buying seasonal fruit and vegetables - expert

Many people, who have become vegetarians, risk gaining negative experience of eating poor quality seasonal fruit and vegetables, says nutrition expert Veronika Vero, who is also an author of health improvement programs.

"In my practice, I often noticed the presence of nitrates in seasonal fruit. Since vegetarians often have an increased sensitivity to tastes, such people may have a stronger reaction to nitrate-containing food than 'omnivorous' people," Veronika said.

According to the expert, after long body purification, consumption of any contaminated food may cause at least an allergic reaction or even a serious poisoning. This is connected with changes in vegetarian's metabolic processes.

"The body of a person consuming both animal and plant food can accumulate toxins for years, but finally this may cause liver cirrhosis or another serious disease. As to vegetarians, their bodies response immediately as they do not accumulate toxins," Vero said in a program on healthy nutrition on the Expert Club YouTube channel.

She said people, who decided to become vegetarians, first of all should focus on self-improvement and self-education, because learning healthy nutrition programs is one of the most important tasks of a person, who decided to refuse from eating meat.

Veronika Vero, a vegetarian and healthy nutrition expert, spent more than eight years of training at a research and development center. She is the author of several programs, seminars, as well as physical, mental and energy retreats.

The full video is available on the Expert Club YouTube channel

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