



Project News

23/10/2015

Experts meet to discuss unaccompanied minor asylum seekers protection

The two-day expert meeting of the Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum took place on 21-22 October 2015 in Kyiv and was co-hosted by Ukraine and Sweden. The representatives of the EU Member States and agencies such as the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), Eastern Partnership countries, academia and such international organizations as IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, and the Danish Refugee Council, gathered in the Ukrainian capital to compare their policies and practices in relation to the unaccompanied minor asylum seekers.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

30/11/2015

Family reunification in focus of the Panel

The representatives of the EU Member States, Eastern Partnership countries, academia and international organizations gathered in Tbilisi to compare their policies, procedures and approaches to family reunification. The two-day meeting of the Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum took place on 26-27 November 2015 and was co-hosted by Georgia and the Czech Republic.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)



The Project is funded by the EU



The Project is implemented by the IOM



The Swedish Migration Board
is a partner of the project



Highlights: Country News

24/10/2015

17,000 Syrian refugees found shelter in Armenia so far

European Friends of Armenia (EuFoA) published a paper, analyzing the response of the European Union, Armenia and Middle East countries to the Syrian refugee crisis. According to the report, Armenia has taken in up to 17,000 refugees since the start of the Syrian civil war. This makes it the third European country to have hosted the biggest number of displaced people from Syria after Germany and Sweden. However, Armenia is the top country in Europe in terms of refugees welcomed per capita: it hosts 6 Syrian refugees per 1,000 inhabitants, more than Germany (1 refugee) or Sweden (4 refugees).

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

08/10/2015

Armenia and Georgia foster border cooperation

Armenia and Georgia will introduce border representatives. The draft of interstate agreement was approved on 8 October 2015. Representatives will exchange information on illicit border crossing and will take measures to prevent similar incidents, warn each other about danger of fire, epidemics and other natural disasters.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

17/12/2015

Belarus hosts over 26,000 labour migrants in 2015

In 2015, Belarus hosted more than 26,000 labour migrants, Deputy Head of the Citizenship and Migration Department at the Interior Ministry of Belarus Alexander Tatura said during a press conference held on 17 December to mark the International Migrant Day. "I should note that the number of foreign citizens coming to Belarus for work is constantly growing. In a certain sense, this means that Belarus is becoming more and more attractive for migrants. For example, in 2012 the figure stood at over 10,000 people, and in 2014 it reached 38,000. So far this year, Belarus hosted over 26,000 foreign nationals coming for work reasons.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)



14/12/2015

Belarus, Latvia urged to work together to address problems of migration, terrorism

Belarus and Latvia should work together to solve problems that arise from the migration crisis, terrorism and armed conflicts in other countries, Ojars Kalnins, the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of Latvia's Saeima, said as he met with Belarusian colleagues. "Despite the fact that our political views and approaches may differ, I think we have common problems. The first one is the global rise of terrorism, which affects every country. The second one, and it is more of a problem for Europe, is huge migration," said Ojars Kalnins. He also drew attention to the issue of newly emerging armed conflicts not so far away from Belarus and Latvia.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

03/12/2015

Belarus to provide refugees with equal rights for medical care

The House of Representatives of the National Assembly of Belarus passed the amendments to some laws regarding forced migration in the first reading on 3 December 2015. In particular, the draft law envisages the equal rights for medical care with the Belarusian citizens for foreigners who get the refugee status in Belarus. Apart from that, the single procedure of applying for the refugee status, additional protection or asylum will be introduced in the country. Belarus Deputy Interior Minister Nikolai Melchenko, presenting the bill in the House of Representatives, stated that the period to process such requests would not exceed six months.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

03/12/2015

Number of Syrians coming to Belarus remains unchanged

The number of Syrian citizens arriving in Belarus has remained unchanged, head of the Citizenship and Migration Department of the Interior Ministry of Belarus Alexei Begun told media during the regional seminar held on 3 December to discuss the asylum policy. "The number of refugees from Syria remains stable. The interior bodies receive applications mainly from the Syrian citizens that have already been living in Belarus for a long time and had arrived in the country before the start of the conflict in Syria. They are usually students of the country's higher educational establishments," said Alexei Begun.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)



03/12/2015

Main wave of refugees from Ukraine to Belarus subsided

The main wave of refugees from Ukraine has subsided, Alexei Begun, Head of the Citizenship and Migration Department of the Interior Ministry of Belarus, told media during the regional seminar held on 3 December to discuss the asylum policy. More than 45,000 Ukrainians got the status of permanent or temporary residents in Belarus.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

17/11/2015

UN welcomes Belarus' interest in world experience of combatting trafficking in persons

The United Nations Organization welcomes Belarus' interest in studying the world experience of fighting trafficking in persons. The UNDP project coordinator Sergei Lisichenok made the relevant statement during the international seminar held on 17 November to share experience and the best practices used to combat trafficking in human beings.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

21/12/2015

EU opens door for visa-free travel from Georgia

The European Commission adopted the fourth and last progress report on Georgia's implementation of the action plan on visa liberalization. The report highlights the significant headway made by Georgia to meet the criteria for visa liberalization. Following this positive assessment, the Commission will present early in 2016 a legislative proposal to the Council and the European Parliament to lift visa requirements for Georgian citizens holding biometric passports.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)



18/11/2015

Georgian officials trained on document security techniques

An EU-funded border-management project has organized a study visit to the Netherlands for nine representatives of the Georgian authorities on the topic of document examination and identity fraud. Throughout the five-day intensive course, experts addressed the topics of document security techniques, printing techniques, document examination, digital printing techniques, and security elements in documents.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

04/11/2015

Georgian, Armenian and Moldovan officials share experience on labour migration

A two-day regional conference in Georgia has provided a platform for an exchange of experience on the issue of circular labour migration management and reintegration support. The event was organised by an EU-funded project on 'Strengthening the Development Potential of the EU Mobility Partnership in Georgia through Targeted Circular Migration and Diaspora Mobilization'.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

16/12/2015

Moldovan-Israeli agreement on labour migration to be extended until 2019

The acting government of Moldova decided to start negotiations on extending the length of the Moldovan-Israeli intergovernmental agreement on the temporary employment of Moldovan citizens in certain fields in Israel, the government's communication and media relations department has reported. The decision provides for extending the bilateral agreement's availability period for another three years, until 5 January 2019.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

26/11/2015

EU, Moldova and Ukraine strengthen border cooperation

In an agreement signed on 25 November 2015, the EU, Moldova and Ukraine decided to strengthen their border cooperation, with an enhanced mandate strengthening the Memorandum of Understanding establishing the EU Border Assistance Mission to the Republic of Moldova and to Ukraine (EUBAM), as well as



its extension for additional 24 months. The new mandate will support a smooth implementation of border and customs related aspects of the Association Agreements, as well as of the agreements on Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTA), signed with both countries in 2014.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

13/11/2015

Agreements make it easier to move across Moldova-Ukraine border

Two new cross border cooperation agreements were signed between Moldova and Ukraine that will make it faster and easier to move across their joint border. The EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) has long advocated these agreements as a way to facilitate border crossing and boost regional development and trade, and has been working with Moldova and Ukraine to help align them with EU standards of border management.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

09/10/2015

International Labour Organisation to launch new assistance programme for Moldova

Prime Minister Valeriu Strelet met the head of the sub-regional office of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Antonio Grazioni, in Chisinau. The officials exchanged views on the ILO's activity in Moldova and the Decent Work Programme for 2016-2020, the government's communication and media relations department has reported. Mr. Grazioni said the 2016-2020 programme would set up a cooperation framework between the ILO, Moldovan government, employers' associations and trade unions, as the current assistance cycle ends in late 2015.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

06/10/2015

Draft Strategy "Diaspora-2025" is discussed in Moldova

Citizens of Moldova and from abroad are invited to come up with suggestions and proposals on a draft National Strategy "Diaspora-2025", worked out by the Office for Diaspora Relations (BRD) of State Chancellery and published on the government platform: www.particip.gov.md. The Diaspora 2025 strategy aims at developing the sustainable and comprehensive framework on cooperation between the state institutions and diaspora, based on confidence, initiatives and common programmes.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)



21/12/2015

EU opens door for visa-free travel from Ukraine

The European Commission adopted the sixth and last progress report on Ukraine's implementation of the action plan on visa liberalization. The report highlights the significant headway made by Ukraine to meet the criteria for visa liberalization. Following this positive assessment, the Commission will present early in 2016 a legislative proposal to the Council and the European Parliament to lift visa requirements for Ukrainian citizens holding biometric passports.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

03/12/2015

Over 1,100 Ukrainians get additional protection in Belarus

Over 1,100 Ukrainians from the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) zone have received additional protection in Belarus, head of the Department of Citizenship and Migration at the Interior Ministry of Belarus Alexei Begun told media.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

05/11/2015

Ukrainian Parliament adopts Law “On external labour migration”

The legislative act sets legal and organizational fundamentals of state regulation of external labor migration and social protection of Ukrainian citizens who temporary worked or still work abroad (labor migrants), and their family members.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

02/10/2015

Integrated Border Management: officials from EaP countries trained on fundamental rights

Border officials from all six Eastern Partnership countries took part in a three-day training on fundamental rights delivered by the EU border agency Frontex in Minsk, Belarus, as part of the EaP Integrated Border Management Capacity Building project. During the training, border officials considered such issues as



transparency of procedures and information, humane and transparent detention and separation procedures, interviewing techniques, proper treatment of families, children and unaccompanied minors.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

19/11/2015

Collective Security Treaty Organization to start operation countering irregular migration

A session of the coordinating council of chiefs of the agencies in charge of fighting irregular migration of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) member states took place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on 19 November. Participants of the session discussed results of the joint efforts and special operations carried out in 2015 to fight and prevent irregular migration.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

Highlights: EU Spotlight

01/12/2015

Progress of EaP border management project in focus at meeting in Vienna

The progress of the EaP Integrated Border Management Capacity Building Project, launched in July 2014, was presented to senior representatives from the border and customs agencies of all six Eastern Partnership countries at a meeting in Vienna last week. The participants communicated their needs on the next phase of project implementation, and discussed and agreed ways to improve the project's work.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

27/10/2015

Over 700,000 migrants reached Europe's shores in 2015: UN

More than 700,000 refugees and migrants have reached Europe's Mediterranean shores so far this year, amid the continent's worst migration crisis since World War II, the UN refugee agency said. Some 562,355



people desperately fleeing war and misery reached Greece's shores, while around 140,000 arrived in Italy this year.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

23/10/2015

Commission issues opinion on temporary reintroduction of controls at internal borders: Germany and Austria acting in compliance with Schengen Borders Code

The European Commission has published its opinion on the temporary reintroduction of controls at internal borders by Germany and Austria. The Commission has concluded that the initial reintroduction of controls at internal borders by Germany and Austria, as well as the subsequent prolongations, are in compliance with the Schengen Borders Code.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

14/10/15

State of play: European Agenda on Migration

The Commission has adopted a Communication to the European Council describing the State of Play of the implementation of the priority actions under the European Agenda on Migration. Concerning operational measures, the Communication mentions the progress made on the hotspots in Greece and Italy, the first relocations of asylum seekers, as well as return flights for irregular migrants with no right to stay. It also talks about preparations for resettlement of people in need of international protection directly from third countries. The first Syrian refugees have already been resettled to Italy, the Czech Republic and Liechtenstein.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

09/10/2015

Europol supports dismantling of criminal groups involving irregular migration

Europol has supported an international investigation led by France and Portugal, called 'Operation Bouquet', aimed to dismantle an international criminal network involved in facilitating irregular migration within the EU. The operation has led to the arrest of 69 individuals, nine of whom are key figures of the criminal network. The smugglers were being investigated for providing transport for irregular migrants (of Hindustani origin) between Lisbon, Paris and the Belgian border, using their own vehicles and travelling along the main motorways to avoid



detection. In Portugal, law enforcement authorities also investigated marriages of convenience between migrants and Portuguese women.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

06/10/2015

Science for refugees

The European Commission has launched the 'science4refugees' initiative for asylum-seeking and refugee scientists and researchers. This measure will enable a match-making process between refugees and asylum seekers with a scientific background and the scientific institutions that voluntarily declare themselves as "refugee-welcoming organizations".

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

Highlights: International Arena

18/12/2015

Refugee numbers at record levels globally, according to UN

The number of people forcibly displaced worldwide is likely to have "far surpassed" a record 60 million this year, mainly driven by the Syrian war and other protracted conflicts, the United Nations informed. The estimated figure includes 20.2 million refugees fleeing wars and persecution, the most since 1992, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said in a report.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

18/12/2015

International Migrants Day

To mark International Migrants Day 2015, the [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#) called on the international community to come together and remember the refugees and migrants who have lost their lives or have disappeared while trying to reach safe harbour after arduous journeys across seas and deserts.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)



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