



Project News

05/08/2016

Evaluation of IOM's support to the Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Ukraine together with the European Commission and the Swedish Migration Agency has been supporting the work of the EaP Panel on Migration and Asylum for about four years. Presently IOM is carrying out evaluation of its four-year activities on support to the Panel's work and organization of its meetings. The evaluation findings will demonstrate whether the format of the Panel's work corresponds to the requirements and needs of the participating states and whether any changes are required in the future.

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

Highlights: Country News

16/09/2016

New bridge to be opened at Armenia-Georgia border checkpoint in 2018

A new bridge at the Bagratashen-Sadakhlo checkpoint at the Armenian-Georgian border is set to be launched in 2018. The respective construction working group met at this checkpoint with the representatives of more than a dozen companies that have applied to take part in the tender for the construction of the bridge, the Ministry of Transport and Communication of Armenia informed.

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

26/07/2016

Armenia holds 10th Reintegration Cooperation and Coordination Forum

The Targeted Initiative for Armenia project organized the 10th Reintegration Cooperation and Coordination Forum on 22 July 2016 for supporting inter-institutional cooperation and coordination on return and reintegration. Representatives of state institutions, international organizations as well as non-governmental organizations and foundations took part in this event. Second Secretary of the European Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ms. Zoya Stepanyan and Head of External Relations Division in the State Migration Service Ms. Haykanush Chobanyan shared the questions and topics discussed as well as experience gained.

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

07/09/2016

Rules of temporary residence and labour migration in Azerbaijan amended

Azerbaijani Government has amended the rules of temporary stay and labour migration for foreign citizens and stateless persons. Thus, the Government approved a list of persons entitled to bring foreign nationals to work with no need in special permit.

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

31/07/2016

Azerbaijan Migration Service meets IOM Regional Director

Chief of State Migration Service Mr. Firudin Nabiyeu met with International Organization for Migration Regional Director for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Ms. Argentina Szabados on 30 July. Mr. Nabiyeu expressed his satisfaction with the level of existing cooperation with IOM, and noted visit of Director General of the organization William Lacy Swing to Azerbaijan in September of last year as an obvious example of this. He stressed that this visit created opportunity for further expansion of cooperation between Azerbaijan and IOM.

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

08/07/2016

Foreigners can register their stay in Azerbaijan online

Foreigners and stateless persons intending to stay temporarily in the Republic of Azerbaijan for more than 10 days should get registered upon place of stay within 10 days. The service rendered by the State Migration Service, which has facilitated this process, called "Submission of application and documents on registration upon place of stay" was integrated to the Azerbaijan E-Government Portal. No registration on the portal is required to use the service.

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

27/09/2016

Belarus: EU experts advise on border delimitation and demarcation

EU legislation on border delimitation and demarcation was discussed by experts during an EU-funded expert mission visit on 26-30 September to Belarusian border city Brest. The State Border Committee of the Republic of Belarus and experts in border demarcation, international relations and geodesic surveying and EU experts came together to ensure compliance with the EU legislation and best practice.

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

23/09/2016

European Union doubles package of bilateral aid to Belarus

The funds are supposed to bolster Belarus' efforts to carry out reforms and provide additional support in regional development and the development of the private sector, migration management, sheltering, and other areas. As much as EUR 7 million of additional support will help Belarus to respond to the growing number

of irregular migrants by helping the Belarusian Government in developing and deploying a full-scale strategy to manage irregular migration in compliance with international rights and standards in the area of migration. It will contribute to the observation of human rights and fundamental rights in the area of irregular migration.

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

21/09/2016

Introduction of an automated intelligent video-control system at Belarus-Ukraine frontier is included into the EU new package of development programmes for the Eastern Partnership

The EU will help to introduce an automated intelligent video-control system at land border crossing point Novaya Huta – Novi Yarylovychi at Belarus-Ukraine frontier that aims at reducing time needed to carry out customs and border control and enhance countries' capacity to prevent and fight cross-border crimes. The system will be hooked up to the EU-funded PRINEX Project – an electronic information exchange network, launched in 2015, that sends details of goods, such as weight and type, transported to the customs of the neighbouring country prior to the arrival of a vehicle at other side of the border. New system will provide a plate number, a country of registration, a vehicle make, number of persons in the vehicle and an image of the vehicle to the customs and border guard services of both sides of the frontier by automatically scanning the plate number and photographing the vehicle when it approaches the video-control system before the first boom barrier of the border crossing point.

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

20/09/2016

UNCHR: Forced migrants enjoy all kinds of assistance in Belarus

Belarus provides all kinds of assistance to forced migrants, UNHCR Representative in Belarus Jean-Yves Bouchardy told the media. "Since the beginning of the conflict in Ukraine, Belarus has hosted about 160,000 citizens of that country, which represent about 1.5% of the population of Belarus. If we compare these figures, the ratio will be similar to Germany: I mean that the number of refugees which the 80-million Germany has received. We should express gratitude to the Belarusian Government for allocation of additional funds and making strenuous efforts to help forced migrants, including at the legislative level," Jean-Yves Bouchardy said.

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

26/08/2016

Digital queue introduced Belarusian border checkpoint Brest from 1 September

As from 1 September all the vehicle traffic that crosses the Belarusian-Polish border via the border checkpoint Brest will have to use the digital queue system. Fees will be collected only if the driver books the time of entering the border checkpoint from the waiting area. The operation of the system is regulated by Council of Ministers executive order No. 1130 of 31 December 2015.

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

26/07/2016

Forced migration legislation revised in Belarus

Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko signed the law “Concerning the Introduction of Amendments and Addenda to a Number of Laws of the Republic of Belarus on Forced Migration” which had been passed by the House of Representatives and approved by the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of Belarus. The provisions are aimed at optimizing the procedure of granting a refugee status, additional protection and asylum in Belarus, updating the legislation taking into account the practice of application and the requirements of international agreements which Belarus is party to.

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

30/09/2016

Georgia: UN rights expert to follow up on the situation of internally displaced persons

The United Nations’ Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons Dr. Chaloka Beyani arrived to Georgia on 25 September to review the country’s ongoing crisis regarding thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs). He followed up on the recommendations made in his 2014 report to the UN Human Rights Council. During his four-day visit, Beyani met with the Georgian government officials, civil society organizations and several IDPs. Beyani will later present his findings to the UN in a report compiled after his departure from Georgia.

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

08/09/2016

Belgium adds Georgia to safe countries list

Georgians will find it more difficult to seek asylum in Belgium after Brussels listed Georgia as a safe country of origin. Belgium updated its list of safe countries of 3 August, saying the situation in Georgia remains stable and safe for its citizens. Countries that are listed as safe areas imply that international protection is not needed. As a result, asylum seekers from these countries have a far more difficult task when presenting evidence which clearly proves that their country cannot be considered safe.

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

17/08/2016

Information meeting on reintegration of returned migrants in Sadakhlo Community Centre in Georgia

On 16 August 2016, a meeting focused on supporting reintegration of returned Georgian migrants programme was held in Sadakhlo Community Centre of Marneuli municipality, attended by the first deputy Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia Grigol Giorgadze and the Kvemo Kartli governor Paata Khizanashvili. The meeting aimed at providing detailed information about available services and benefits provided by various non-governmental organizations for returned migrants with support of the Ministry and the local municipality.

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

15/07/2016

EU and IOM share body language skills with Georgia Revenue Service officers

Two experts from Italy visited Georgia last week to share their knowledge and skills on body language with 20 Georgian revenue service officers. Developed in the framework of the EU-funded project for 'Reinforcing the Capacities of the Government of Georgia in Border and Migration Management' (More for More), implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Georgia, the training course aims to highlight the subtleties of assessing the body language of people moving through border checkpoints.

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

08/08/2016

Situation at Moldova border checkpoints can be monitored online

The Border Police of Moldova launched an application, Traffic Online, through which one would be able to monitor, in real time, the average period of waiting time at border checkpoints for all categories of transport means. To watch the situation at any border, people willing to do this, may access the official page, www.border.gov.md. After clicking the column, Traffic Online, Moldova's map will be opened with all the functional checkpoints.

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

20/09/2016

Israel to engage foreign workers from Ukraine

An Israeli delegation from the Centre for International Migration and Integration (CIMI) left for Ukraine on 18 September in order to expedite bringing more labourers to Israel in the framework of an Israel-Ukraine bilateral agreement intended to enable the arrival of thousands of much-needed construction workers to Israel in a regular and authorized manner. There are currently 81,500 regular foreign workers in Israel, and most of them (48,000) are employed as caregivers. There are an additional 21,000 working in agriculture, and 8,200 labour migrants who work in construction.

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

14/09/2016

New checkpoint opened at Ukrainian-Polish border

Pavlovychi checkpoint was opened at the Ukraine-Poland border on 9 September after refurbishment. The reconstruction of the checkpoint was conducted in the framework of an international technical assistance project of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument. The checkpoint was first opened in 1939. The length of the border area its staff is responsible for is over 22 km.

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

14/09/2016

Government of Ukraine plans to carry out population census

The Government of Ukraine has approved a draft resolution on creating an interdepartmental working group to scientifically assess the demographic development of Ukraine. A corresponding decision was taken at a government meeting. "A census of population is carried out once in 10 years in line with the world practice. In Ukraine last time it was taken in 2001," Social Policy Minister Andriy Reva said.

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

09/09/2016

Poland needs Ukrainian workers to compensate labour shortage

According to the Ministry of Labour, Poland could lose up to 1.35 million of workers, or 10% of an employable population, before 2020. Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Labour Mateusz Morawiecki says that the Government needs to compensate this deficit as soon as possible. The decision was made: to invite workers from Ukraine. Mr. Morawiecki mentioned that "things in Ukraine do not go well", so working abroad could support Ukrainian economics during the next several years. Some people may stay in Poland, but most will return home, assures Mateusz Morawiecki.

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

Highlights: EU Spotlight

16/09/2016

State of the Union 2016: Commission targets stronger external borders

"Tolerance cannot come at the price of our security. We need to know who is crossing our borders. We will defend our borders with the new European Border and Coast Guard. We will defend our borders with strict controls on everyone crossing them." – President Juncker, State of the Union 2016. On the occasion of President Juncker's 2016 State of the Union address, the Commission set out how the European Union can enhance security in Europe by improving the exchange of information in the fight against terrorism and strengthening external borders. The measures proposed include the accelerated operational delivery of the European Border and Coast Guard, quick adoption and implementation of an EU Entry-Exit System and upcoming proposals to create a European Travel Information and Authorization System. Additionally, as part of the Commission's efforts to pave the way towards a genuine and effective Security Union, the Communication also proposes to take further actions to improve the security of travel documents to prevent document fraud and to strengthen Europol's European Counter-Terrorism Centre.

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

05/09/2016

New demographic datasheet provides comprehensive details on migration

The European Demographic Datasheet 2016, produced by demographers at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and the Vienna Institute of Demography, provides a comprehensive look at key demographic indicators and main population trends for all European countries, including population projections by 2050. The datasheet was launched at the European Population Conference on 31 August 2016. Available freely online, the data cover fertility, mortality, migration, and population structure for all countries of Europe and for broader European regions, Japan, and the USA. The data sheet features adjusted indicators of total fertility, pension age, and EU-wide population trends. It pays special attention to the importance of migration for current and future population changes across the continent.

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

08/07/2016

Frontex publishes risk analysis for Eastern Partnership for first quarter 2016

In the first quarter of 2016, 840 cases of irregular border-crossing between border crossing points were reported by the Eastern Partnership Risk Analysis Network member countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine). More than half of these cases involved nationals of Eastern Partnership and CIS countries, mostly Ukrainians, Moldovans and Russians. Among these, more than four in five cases were linked to suspected smuggling or other forms of crime not related to migration.

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

06/07/2016

European Parliament endorses creation of a European Border and Coast Guard

Following endorsement by the European Parliament of the Commission's proposal to establish a European Border and Coast Guard, First Vice-President Frans Timmermans and Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Dimitris Avramopoulos, said: "We welcome the endorsement of the proposal for a European Border and Coast Guard by the European Parliament on 6 July. If we want to manage migration better and preserve our Schengen area of free movement, we need to strengthen the common management of the EU's external borders. Decision by the Parliament is a major step forward in that direction. It is also proof that the EU is delivering swiftly and resolutely on its commitments. When the Commission tabled this proposal in December 2015, we asked the Parliament and the Council to treat it as a matter of urgency. Since December, the EU institutions have worked constructively together to make this happen..."

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

20/09/2016

European Commission announces up to EUR 108 million in emergency funding to Bulgaria to improve border and migration management

Following the announcement made by President Juncker at the press conference after the Informal Meeting of the 27 Heads of State or Government in Bratislava and ongoing contacts with the Bulgarian authorities over the past months, the European Commission has decided to respond to requests for emergency funding received

from the Bulgarian authorities and make available up to EUR 108 million in emergency funding to support border and migration management. The funding will be used to strengthen the management of migration flows, increase reception capacities and the capacities of the asylum service as well as strengthen border surveillance and border control activities.

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

20/09/2016

Italy remains under migratory pressure

Italy remained under steady migratory pressure as 23,000 migrants arrived there in August, close to the number from the same month of last year. The total number of migrants detected on the Central Mediterranean route in the first eight months of the year reached 117,900, also close to the figure from the same period of 2015. Libya is by far the main country of departure.

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

Highlights: International Arena

28/09/2016

International Organization for Migration joins United Nations

The mega-trend of the 21st Century now represents unprecedented human mobility, with one of every seven people worldwide living or working somewhere other than their place of birth. More and more vulnerable refugees and migrants are leaving their homes and travelling alone. But the challenge of addressing large movements of refugees and migrants is not insurmountable, if the international community shares responsibility. Therefore, the UN Summit on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants which took place in New York on 19 September 2016 was marked by historic signing of a document formally linking International Organization for Migration (IOM) to the UN. It established IOM as a “related organization” of the UN, giving the UN for the first time, an explicit migration mandate.

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

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