



News Digest Issue 24 (September 2017)

Highlights: Country News

Armenia

12/09/17

Armenia to enhance status of ICMPD branch office

Armenia is ready to grant diplomatic status to the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) branch office.

The National Assembly of Armenia unanimously ratified the respective draft agreement on 11 September 2017.

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

02/09/17

Armenia's State Migration Service presented data on readmission from EU countries

According to Gagik Yeganyan, Head of the State Migration Service of the Republic of Armenia, the number of Armenians deported from EU countries has increased considerably over the past two years.

Armenia and the EU signed the Readmission Agreement, which regulates the process of deportation of Armenian nationals who stay in European countries without legal grounds, in 2013.

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

Azerbaijan



The Project is funded by the
European Union



IOM • OIM
The Project is implemented by
International Organization for Migration



25/09/17

Azerbaijan and Georgia keen to strengthen cooperation on border protection

The European Union, United Nations Development Programme and the Governments of Azerbaijan and Georgia summarized the results of a three-year initiative which aimed to enhance land border protection between Azerbaijan and Georgia.

International partners assisted the countries in introducing Integrated Border Management as an effective way to tackle smuggling and trafficking, ease people's mobility across the borders, and enhance regional and global cooperation.

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

Belarus

26/09/17

Labour migration to Belarus decreases significantly

Last year, the rules for hiring migrant workers were tightened for foreign companies that operate in Belarus. This was done in order to protect the national labour market. However, experts and representatives of foreign companies expressed concern that they would hardly find the necessary personnel among the citizens of Belarus.

The reduction affected labour migration flows from all countries, except China which still tops the list of countries by the number of labour migrants working in Belarus. Labour migrants from the CIS was significantly reduced to almost 7,700 in 2016. This is 2.2 times less than in 2015.

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

25/09/17

Belarus attracts 52,000 visitors with visa-free entry

As many as 52,000 tourists have taken advantage of the visa-free entry to Belarus, Deputy Minister of Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Belarus, Mikhail Portnoi, said at a press conference on 25 September 2017.

He also said the country is now looking into extending the five day duration of visa-free stay to ten days. According to the Deputy Minister, the country is also considering extending the visa-free entry through other checkpoints in addition to Minsk National Airport.

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



Moldova

20/09/17

Moldova directs efforts to integrate citizens returning from abroad

According to the Bureau for Diaspora Relations of the Republic of Moldova, 2,900 citizens who returned to the country from abroad were registered in 2016. They were provided with a full range of employment and social protection services in cases of unemployment. Thus, according to the National Agency for Employment, about 1,000 citizens who returned to the country in 2016 are employed.

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

14/09/17

Government of the Republic of Moldova to establish interministerial committee on diaspora

The mechanism for coordination and implementation of the state policy on diaspora, migration and development in the Republic of Moldova was officially presented on 15 September 2017.

The document envisages the creation of an interministerial committee that will coordinate the elaboration and implementation of state policies in this field.

The new diaspora policy coordination structure was developed on the basis of research carried out with the support of the International Organization for Migration, Mission in Moldova.

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

12/09/17

Joint IOM/UNDP Global Migration Programme for Moldova proceeds to the third phase

The Joint IOM/UNDP Global Migration Programme “Integration of Migration in National Development Strategies” (MOMID) aims to support the Government of Moldova and its partners in their efforts to integrate migration issues into national development planning processes and provide qualified expertise in monitoring and adapting approaches to migration and development. The Programme is implemented by IOM Moldova in partnership with UNDP Moldova, with financial support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. The implementation period is from 1 February 2014 to 31 January 2018.

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



Ukraine

11/09/17

Over 6 million foreigners entered Ukraine in the first half of 2017

According to the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine, 6.3 million foreigners entered Ukraine in the first half of 2017, which is 8.7% more than in the same period of 2016.

Most foreigners who entered Ukraine in the first half of 2017 were from Moldova, Belarus, Russia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Turkey, Israel, and Germany.

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

02/09/17

President of Ukraine signs decree on biometric control for foreigners

President Petro Poroshenko has signed Decree No. 256/2017, which enacts the decision of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine of 10 July 2017 "On Strengthening Control over Entry into Ukraine, Departure from Ukraine of Foreigners and Stateless Persons, Compliance with the Rules of Staying on the Territory Ukraine".

The Government was instructed to take measures to improve the legislation on the procedure for registration of residence/stay in the territory of Ukraine for foreigners, including citizens of the Russian Federation, and stateless persons from the countries of migration risk. It was instructed to update the list of migration risk countries and include the Russian Federation.

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

EU Spotlight

29/09/17

Smugglers begin to use a Black Sea route more actively

A migration route to Europe via the Black Sea, north of Turkey, is seeing more activity. In less than a month, 500 migrants were intercepted in Romanian waters in their desperate attempts to reach the European mainland. Human rights activists are trying to warn of the perils involved in the dangerous crossing.

According to the Head of the IOM Mission in Romania, Mircea Mocanu, the Black Sea migrant route is not new, "In 2014, almost 430 migrants took it, and so far in 2017, 482 people, mostly Iraqis and Iranians, have taken it."

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



27/09/17

European Commission presented a new plan for migration flow management

The European Commission presented a plan on the EU's migration policy, a continuation of the European Migration Programme adopted in 2015.

It is proposed to ensure, as a matter of priority, the resettlement of migrants arriving before 26 September 2017, of whom a total of about 37,000 people are dependent on the asylum systems of Italy and Greece.

In addition, the European Commission recommends a new scheme for the resettlement in the EU, according to which over the next two years, no less than 50,000 of the most vulnerable people in need of international protection will be accepted.

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

06/09/17

EU court rejects Hungary-Slovakia appeal of refugee quotas

On 6 September 2017, the European Court of Justice decided to dismiss the claims of Hungary and Slovakia, which demanded to abandon the compulsory distribution of migrants among the EU member states.

In particular, the decision refers to the Article 78(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. This provision provides for the possibility of introducing such measures without prior consultations with the parliaments of the Member States.

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

Global Spotlight

19/09/17

More than 40 million people fell victim to modern slavery in 2016

New research developed jointly by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Walk Free Foundation, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), has revealed the true scale of modern slavery around the world. The data, released during the United Nations General Assembly, shows that more than 40 million people around the world were victims of modern slavery in 2016. The ILO have also released a companion estimate of child labour, which confirms that about 152 million children, aged between 5 and 17, were subject to child labour.

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



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