



News Digest Issue 27 (December 2017)

EaPPMA News

22/12/17

Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum met in Warsaw to discuss economic integration of migrants

The meeting was co-hosted by Poland and Georgia with the support of the European Commission and the IOM Mission in Ukraine. The event provided experts from the EU Member States, the Eastern Partnership countries, the European Commission, UN agencies, OSCE, and the International Centre for Migration Policy development (ICMPD) with an opportunity to share their experiences, as well as assess the effectiveness of the existing policy frameworks and tools in the sphere of economic integration at both the EU and national levels.

Some useful materials were prepared specifically for this event, namely a compilation of the latest policy and legislative developments of participating states and its comprehensive analysis.

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

Global Spotlight

03/12/17

U.S. quits UN Global Compact for Migration

The United States notified the United Nations that it will no longer take part in the UN Global Compact for Migration, saying the agreement undermines the nation's sovereignty.



The Project is funded by the
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The Project is implemented by
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The U.S. has been part of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants since its adoption last year. The declaration aims to ensure the rights of migrants, help them resettle and provide them with access to education and jobs.

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

EU Spotlight

21/12/17

EU reports on implementation of visa liberalisation for Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine

On 20 December 2017, the European Commission (EC) reported on the continuous fulfillment of the visa liberalization for Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. The report, which also includes Western Balkan countries, shows that, whilst the visa liberalization requirements for the countries concerned continue to be fulfilled, action is required in a number of specific areas to preserve their sustainable implementation.

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

12/12/17

The European Commission criticizes Tusk for a proposal to abolish quotas for migrants

In his paper published on the eve of the EU leaders summit, the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, noted that the mandatory quotas, as proposed by the commission under broader asylum reforms, are "highly divisive" and "turned out to be ineffective."

Tusk made similar comments in October when he announced that obligatory quotas have "no future" given the outright defiance from the so-called Visegrad group of countries composed of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia.

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



Highlights: Country News

Armenia

25/12/17

Armenia's negative migration balance slashed by one-third in January-September 2017

Arka news agency recently provided fresh insights into migration trends in Armenia. Specifically, Armenia's negative migration balance was slashed by 37.8% in the first 9 months of 2017, said Gagik Yeganyan, the Head of the State Migration Service. According to the National Statistical Service, Armenia's population as of 1 October 2017 decreased by 14,300 people compared to the same period in 2016 and compared with 1 January 2017, it was down by 6,500 people.

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

Azerbaijan

28/12/17

Citizens of 14 more countries to obtain electronic visas to Azerbaijan

Fourteen more countries were added to the list of countries whose citizens may obtain electronic visas through the ASAN Visa system for visiting Azerbaijan.

This step was taken to promote and develop the country's tourism industry.

The terms of issuing and using electronic visas through the ASAN Visa system were developed jointly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

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



Belarus

09/12/17

Russia and Belarus to share data on citizens banned from travel

On 8 December 2017, during the Union State of the Russian Federation and Belarus Council of Ministers meeting in Gomel, the Belarusian and Russian interior ministries signed a protocol on the exchange of information on Belarusian and Russian citizens banned from travelling abroad.

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

Georgia

25/12/17

Georgia approves Migration Profile 2017 and the Migration Strategy Action Plan for 2018

The Migration Profile of Georgia 2017 and the Migration Strategy Action Plan for 2018 were approved by the State Commission on Migration Issues of Georgia on 4 December 2017.

The Migration Profile 2017 is an informational and analytical document. Its previous edition was published in 2015 and analyzed migration-related statistics covering the period from 2010 to 2014.

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

Moldova

06/12/17

Data on people crossing Moldova's border to be included into integrated system

Data on people crossing the border will be included into an integrated system of the Border Police, under a decision approved by the Government of Moldova on 6 December 2017.

According to the document, the integral information system will be meant for the collection, processing, stocking, updating and analyzing data about the private persons and transport means crossing Moldova's border, including of those who were denied the entrance or exit from Moldova.

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



Ukraine

11/12/17

Number of Ukrainians visiting Europe grew by 15% since introduction of the visa-free regime

The visa-free regime with the EU encourages more Ukrainians to discover European Union countries. There have been nearly 11 million crossings into EU member states by Ukrainians since entry into force of the visa-free regime between Ukraine and the EU in June 2017, which is 15% more compared to June – November 2016, states the EU Delegation to Ukraine.

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

08/12/17

Ukrainian and Moldovan border guards started joint patrols at the border

Ukraine and Moldova have begun joint protection of the so-called “Transdnestrian segment” of the Ukrainian-Moldovan boundary, the State Border Service of Ukraine reports. Joint patrols involving the participation of Moldovan border guards is a new form of border protection that is aimed at counteracting cross-border crime.

The border guards are trained and have mastered the legal and practical subtleties of implementing this type of border patrol. The State Border Service of Ukraine also noted that joint patrols are taking place exclusively from the Ukrainian side.

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

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