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PANEL ON MIGRATION, MOBILITY
AND INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT



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27/02/19



New thematic article on communication of the visa-free regime with the EU is available at our website

The article, written by our expert Iryna Sushko, provides an overview of current trends in developing and implementing the information campaigns aimed at preventing the irregular migration, abuse of the visa-free regime with the European Union and the asylum system in three EaP states – Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The article highlights practical aspects of information campaigns implementation, e.g. coordination between the stakeholders, role of civil society in designing and implementing information campaigns, identification of the right audience and communication channels, etc. The publication was inspired by productive Panel Meeting on information campaigns held in Tbilisi at the end of the last year.

Please find the full article at the following [link](#)

EU SPOTLIGHT

22/02/19



European Commission welcomes agreement to modernize EU visa rules

The EU Member States have endorsed the agreement reached by the European Parliament and the Council on the Commission's proposal to modernize the EU's common visa policy, adapting the rules to evolving security concerns, challenges linked to migration and new opportunities offered by technological developments.

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

19/02/19



EU to introduce tighter security for ID cards

Under the proposed new rules, identity cards will have to be produced in a uniform, credit card format (ID-1), include a machine-readable zone, and follow the minimum security standards set out by International Civil Aviation Organization. ID cards will also need to include a photo and two fingerprints of the cardholder, stored in a digital format, on a contactless chip. ID cards will indicate the country code of the member state issuing them, inside an EU flag.

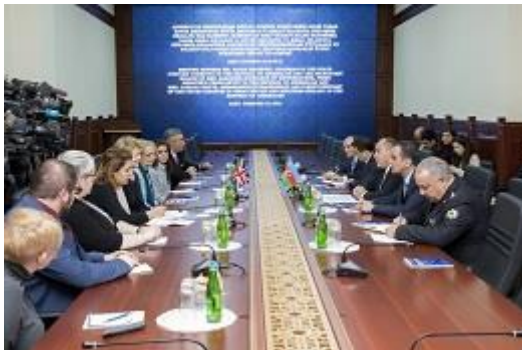
More details on the proposed changes [here](#)

**ARMENIA** | 05/02/19

Population of Armenia decreased in 2018

Armenia's resident population decreased by 7,600 people in 2018, according to the latest numbers, released by the National Statistical Committee of Armenia (NSC). The NSC attributed the drop in resident population to the excess of the negative migration balance, which was 18,500 people, over the natural population growth, which was 10,900 people.

Read the detailed statistics at the [link](#) ➔

**AZERBAIJAN** | 20/02/19

Azerbaijan and the United Kingdom strengthen customs cooperation

The State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the State Secretariat for the Home Office on behalf of the UK Border Guard signed a joint statement on 19 February. The joint declaration was signed as part of the Hunter project funded by the UK border service. The declaration envisages creating international opportunities for analyzing information on cargos and persons crossing borders by simplifying customs and border procedures. Collecting Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR), as well as preventing transportation of goods and persons who are likely to harm the national interests of the countries are also among the goals of the project.

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

**BELARUS** | 15/02/19

IOM, EU support Belarus-Ukraine border demarcation and security

The new initiative of IOM and the European Union supports Ukraine-Belarus common border demarcation that has been pending for over 20 years. Along with the border demarcation, the project will improve infrastructure at the crossing points and strengthen bilateral cooperation and coordination. In addition to the border demarcation support, a new X-ray station will be installed at the Novaya Huta (Belarus) border crossing point to mitigate the risks of illegal cross-border movements.

More information on the project is available at the following [link](#) ➔

**GEORGIA** | 20/02/19

EU to support transport infrastructure upgrading in Georgia

Georgia will be better connected to the EU and enjoy safer travel conditions within the country thanks to financial and technical aid from the EU. On 19 February, the European Investment Bank and other EU institutions announced their support for a wide-ranging programme of transport infrastructure upgrading, approved by the government of Georgia, which includes key works on the country's East-West Highway.

Please find the main goals and outcomes of the project at the following [link](#) ➔



Switzerland to provide EUR 6 million for capitalizing migration potential in Moldova

The Government of Moldova approved the decision on the launch of negotiations and signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation on the Programme "Capitalizing the Potential of Migration in the Republic of Moldova, Phase II". The programme, to be implemented over four years, will maximize the positive impact of migration on the socio-economic development of Moldova through the improvement of the institutional framework and the involvement of the diaspora.

Read the details at the following [link](#) ➔



IOM launches new project on small business and self-employment for Ukrainian labour migrants

IOM, the UN Migration Agency, with financial support from the United States Agency for International Development in Ukraine (USAID), launches a pilot project on small business and self-employment for labour migrants and their families. Grants of up to USD 4,000 the small business development will be provided to participants on a competitive basis (based on the results of business plans presentations) and in co-financing form: for each dollar invested, participants will be able to receive another dollar as an irrevocable grant from IOM. In addition to financial support, the project offers free business-development consultations for participants.

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

Find more news at <http://eapmigrationpanel.org/en/news>

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