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News Digest Issue 1

Project Activity Update

11/09/2012

Best practices on Country of origin information exchanged in Bucharest

The Expert Workshop dedicated to the country of origin information (COI) in refugee status determination (RSD) process, organised within the framework of the Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum, was held in Bucharest, Romania. Participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia and Moldova and 9 EU Member States, the European Asylum Support Office, the European Court of Human Rights, the Dutch Council for Refugees as well as the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development attended the meeting. The workshop was co-organized by Romania, Armenia and the European Commission with the thematic focus on COI in RSD process in the EU MS and EaP countries in order to look at the sources of COI and to identify gaps and best practices in the area.

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

19/10/2012

The EaP Panel on Migration and Asylum met in Chisinau

The Panel Meeting was dedicated to the information exchange on general developments in the area of migration and asylum with particular focus on circular migration in the EU and Eastern Partnership countries. The Panel's work programme for 2013 was also discussed and approved. The objective of the meeting was therefore to look at circular migration trends in the EaP region and between the EU and EaP, including in the times of economic downturn, and to identify concrete policy solutions that can be implemented both in the country of origin and country of destination. The meeting was held in Chisinau and co-organized by the Republic of Moldova, Poland and the European Commission (EC).

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

New web-portal of the EaP Panel on Migration and Asylum launched

The new website of the EaP Panel on Migration and Asylum is now functional. Along with a new design and updated structure, the website keeps the legislative, statistical and other useful data gathered within the framework of the former Soderkoping Process initiative. Completely new features, such as an extended interactive map and a password protected intranet section were developed to make the web portal an even more effective information sharing tool, particularly in the framework of the new Panel. The new web portal can be found at: www.eapmigrationpanel.org

News Highlights

07/11/2012

Commissioner takes stock of Eastern Partnership and looks ahead

"The EU should be as ambitious as possible with those who spearhead on reforms and have clear European aspirations", Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Commissioner Štefan Füle has said during a meeting of the informal Information and Coordination Group of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) in Brussels.

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

26/11/2012

Moldova-EU association agreement to be signed in November 2013

Negotiations on an association agreement between Moldova and the EU are expected to be completed by summer 2013, and the text of the future agreement is expected to be signed during the Eastern Partnership Summit due in Vilnius at the end of November 2013.

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

27/11/2012

Azerbaijan-EU Cooperation Committee holds next meeting in Brussels

The Azerbaijan-EU Cooperation Committee held its 13th meeting in Brussels on November 22-23. The parties underlined the progress made in negotiations on the association, readmission and visa facilitation agreements between EU and Azerbaijan and noted the importance of continuing the discussions. Moreover, cooperation on energy, transport and education were discussed.

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

27/11/2012

EU and Georgia meet for Association Agreement negotiations

Deputy Foreign Minister of Georgia David Zalkaliani participated in the 12th plenary session of negotiations in connection with the development of the text of the Association Agreement between Georgia and the EU. The sides discussed the preamble of the agreement, political dialogue and reform, cooperation in the field of common foreign and security policy, justice, freedom and security, and institutional, general and final postulates.

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

01/12/2012

Armenia, EU to sign visa regime facilitation deal in near future

The agreement for Armenia-EU visa regime facilitation will be signed in the days to come, to enter into force in mid-2013, the Armenian President said. As Serzh Sargsyan told during the joint news conference with the President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso, the agreement will be followed by the launch of negotiations for lifting entry visa requirements for EU citizens.

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

10/12/2012

EU ready to sign association agreement with Ukraine in 2013 if progress made

The European Union is ready to sign the association agreement with Ukraine in 2013 if the country shows progress in a number of areas, including solving the problem of selective justice.

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



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