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## News Digest Issue 2

### Project Activity Update

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25/03/2013

#### **Return, readmission and reintegration discussed in Tbilisi**

The Panel Meeting on the return, readmission and reintegration, organized by Georgia, Hungary and the European Commission within the framework of the Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum, took place in Tbilisi. The meeting gathered representatives of all Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries, the EU, international organizations, civil society and academia with to discussion return, readmission and reintegration as an important part of migration management within regional dialogues context.

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

### Highlights: Country News

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26/03/2013

#### **EU will continue to help Georgian refugees**

The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia held a meeting of the supervisory board. Representatives of international organizations and government agencies discussed the implementation of the EU-financed "Refugees Programme 3" and planned "Refugees Programme 4".

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

26/03/2013

#### **EU allocates €1 Million to Armenia for dealing with return migration and reintegration problems**

The European Union has allocated €1 million to Armenia for implementation of the Support for Return Migration and Reintegration program, which was presented in Yerevan. Head of EU Delegation in Armenia Traian Hristea, speaking at the presentation, said that this is part of the European Union's efforts to strengthen Armenia's ability to regulate migration flows, to develop its institutions for regulating migration flows and reintegration under the Armenia-EU joint declaration on mobile partnership.

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

21/03/2013

## EU official hails intensification of Armenia-EU dialogue

Armenia continues the implementation of cautious macroeconomic policy and constructive reforms, the head of the EU delegation to Yerevan said. At a press conference on March 21, ambassador Traian Hristea briefed on Armenia's 2012 report on European Neighborhood Policy, hailing the intensification of the political dialogue, as well as the progress reported in Association Agreement and Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) talks.

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

19/03/2013

## EU views Moldova, Georgia more successful than Ukraine in carrying out reform

The European Union believes that last year Moldova and Georgia worked better than Ukraine in implementing reforms in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy among Eastern Partnership countries, a high-ranking EU diplomat told, speaking of the general conclusions of the European Commission's package of reports on the progress of the European Neighbourhood Policy in 2012.

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

12/03/2013

## Azerbaijan and EU close to signing agreement on easing visa regime

The recent negotiations between the representatives of Azerbaijan and the EU on easing visa regime were successful. The statement came from the head of the EU delegation in Baku Roland Kobia on the sidelines of the presentation of the book 'EU's Eastern Partnership Initiative: General Frameworks or Broad Opportunities', commenting on the process of negotiations to ease visa regime between Azerbaijan and the EU. According to the head of the delegation, Azerbaijan and the EU came closer to the final stage on agreement signing.

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

12/03/2013

## Georgia to adopt migration strategy prepared with EU involvement

The government is to approve a migration strategy soon, Minister of Justice Tea Tsulukiani told journalists before the beginning of the sixth extraordinary meeting of the government commission. According to her, Georgia should have a strategy for a migration policy. This was developed mainly by three structures: the Ministries of Justice and Internal Affairs and the administration of the Minister on Diaspora issues.

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

08/03/2013

## Azerbaijan to simplify registration of foreigners

The Azerbaijani government is working to improve and develop migration services in order to meet the needs of both its own citizens and foreigners. Discussions over the simplification of the procedures for registration of foreign citizens and stateless persons recently took place.

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

27/02/2013

## **Number of foreign citizens seeking asylum in Armenia increased**

The number of foreign citizens seeking refuge in Armenia increased for approximately eight times. In the period of 2009-2011 the number of foreign citizens seeking refuge in Armenia did not exceed 100.

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

25/02/2013

## **Georgia receives visa liberalization action plan from EU**

Georgia has obtained a plan of action for a dialogue on the easing of visa restrictions with the EU. The EU Commissioner for Home Affairs Cecilia Malmström delivered it to the Georgian Foreign Minister Maia Panjikidze.

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

25/02/2013

## **EU-Ukraine Summit held in Brussels**

The 16th EU-Ukraine Summit took place in Brussels on 25 February. The Summit was hosted by Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council and José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission. Ukraine was represented by President Viktor Yanukovich.

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

18/02/2013

## **EU to accelerate finalizing of Association Agreement with Armenia, Moldova, and Georgia**

The EU Foreign Affairs Ministers called to accelerate finalizing of the Association Agreements with Armenia, Moldova, and Georgia at the meeting held in Brussels. At the same time the Council also welcomed the progress underway in the Association Agreement negotiations with Azerbaijan.

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

13/02/2013

## **Belarus-EU dialogue discussed in Budapest**

Belarus-EU dialogue was discussed in a meeting between the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to Hungary Alexander Hainovsky and the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the National Assembly of Hungary Mihaly Balla, informed the press service of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry.

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

01/02/2013

## **Belarus border guard resolution for 2013 approved**

President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko has approved the resolution on the protection of the state border of Belarus in 2013. The bulk of the border protection efforts will be focused on outside risks and challenges.

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

18/01/2013

## **Up to 40% of Moldova's active population has left the country**

Between 25% and 40% of Moldova's active population has left the country, announced the chief of the International Organization for Migration Mission in Moldova, Antonio Polosa, at an international seminar. The number of Moldovans who go abroad to seek a job has risen in the past ten years.

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

09/01/2013

## **Armenia to unilaterally lift visa requirements for EU citizens**

On 10 January 2013, Armenia unilaterally lifted visa requirements for EU citizens. From now on they will be able to stay in Armenia without visa for 90 days a year.

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

01/01/2013

## **Ukraine starts its OSCE chairmanship**

Starting on January 1, 2013, Ukraine assumes the chairmanship of the 57-member Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). During its chairmanship, Ukraine will make every effort to settle protracted conflicts, strengthen the control over the conventional arms and the fight against human trafficking, reduce the impact of energy sector on the environment and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms.

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

# Highlights: EU Spotlight

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28/03/2013

## **Asylum applications continue to increase in EU**

The EU27 registered 332,000 asylum applicants in 2012, compared with 302,000 in 2011. It is estimated that around 90% were new applicants and around 10% repeat applicants, Eurostat reported.

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

20/03/2013

## **ENP progress 2012: results delivered and cooperation stronger, despite turbulent political and economic conditions in the East**

The "ENP annual package", presented by High Representative Catherine Ashton and Commissioner for Enlargement and ENP Štefan Füle, shows that many partners remain committed to strengthening relations with the EU and that the EU has deepened its support to those partners embarking on important reform agendas.

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

18/02/2013

## **EU foreign ministers underline support for Eastern Partnership**

EU foreign ministers meeting in the Foreign Affairs Council in Brussels have underlined “*the particular role of the Eastern Partnership to support those who seek an ever closer relationship with the EU.*” The Council conclusions said the EaP, as a specific dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy, aimed at accelerating the political association and deepening the economic integration of the Eastern European partner countries with the EU.

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

14/01/2013

## Commissioner sets out vision for New Neighbourhood Policy

2012 has been a challenging year in the EU’s neighbourhood, with democratic transitions proving long and often difficult in the South and uneven in the East, EU Neighbourhood Policy Commissioner Štefan Füle told Heads of EU Delegations of the Neighbourhood region during their meeting in Brussels. However, he cited some advances on democratic elections in the South and more signs of positive developments in the East, from Moldova in particular.

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



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