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News Digest Issue 5

Project News

15/12/2013

Statelessness issues reviewed by the Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum

The Eastern Partnership (EaP) Panel on Migration and Asylum expert meeting on statelessness took place in Budapest on 12-13 December 2013. The meeting was organized jointly by Hungary and Moldova, it brought together experts from the six EaP countries as well as from Hungary, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland and Sweden.

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

15/11/2013

EU and Eastern neighbours focus on the rights of migrants, refugees and IDPs

The Eastern Partnership (EaP) Panel on Migration and Asylum met in Prague on 13-14 November 2013 to discuss integration of migrants and refugees, and the rights of the internally displaced persons (IDPs). The meeting was hosted by the Czech Republic and co-organized by Azerbaijan. Representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine as well as participants from the 11 EU Member States, international organizations, civil society and academia spent two days sharing their experience and best practices in the sphere of integration and internal displacement challenges.

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

Highlights: Country News

18/12/2013

Most of Armenians leaving country go to Russia

There is no exact information about migration, even the respective service does not have exact information about the number of people who left the country and who came back, Tatevik Bezhanyan, migration programs coordinator of the People in Need NGO told. She noted that 73.1% of migrants leave for Russia, 7.9% for the United States and 4.4% for Ukraine.

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

09/10/2013

European Parliament gives green light to EU-Armenia visa facilitation agreement

Armenian citizens will face fewer hurdles to travel to the EU for short stays, under an EU-Armenia visa facilitation agreement backed by the European Parliament. MEPs also gave the green light to an EU-Armenia agreement on readmission.

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

05/12/2013

Mobility Partnership launched between the EU and Azerbaijan

The EU and the Republic of Azerbaijan officially launched a Mobility Partnership and signed a Joint Declaration establishing a framework for future cooperation in the field of migration and mobility.

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

29/11/2013

Azerbaijan and EU sign visa facilitation agreement

Azerbaijan and the European Union have signed an agreement on visa facilitation as a part of the 3rd summit of Eastern Partnership in Vilnius. The document was signed by the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Elmar Mammadyarov, the Foreign Minister of Lithuania Linas Linkevičius and the EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Stefan Füle.

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

27/11/2013

Azerbaijan presents its best practices to combat human trafficking at OSCE event

An international seminar organized by the OSCE Office on protection mechanisms for victims of human trafficking was held in Baku. In his opening speech, Ambassador Koray Targay, Head of the OSCE Office in Baku, said Azerbaijan has the best practices in the fight against human trafficking. He said it is important to ensure that all parties involved in counter-trafficking acknowledge the vulnerability of victims.

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

19/12/2013

Belarus reviewing foreigners registration regulations

The upper chamber of the Belarus parliament passed the bill on amendments and addenda to several Belarusian laws on the legal status of foreign citizens and stateless persons. The bill introduces mandatory state fingerprinting during the identification of foreign citizens and stateless persons, who seek refugee status or additional protection in Belarus.

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

13/12/2013

Belarus eager to embark on agreement on easing visa regulations with EU

Belarus will not delay work on the agreement on easing visa regulations with the European Union, Deputy Foreign Minister of Belarus Yelena Kupchina told reporters. Earlier the Belarusian Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei noted that the matter can be dealt with pretty fast provided both parties are interested.

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

13/12/2013

EU and Georgia look ahead to signing Association Agreement next autumn

The EU has congratulated Georgia on the continuing consolidation of democracy as revealed by the recent presidential election, during the EU-Georgia Cooperation Council meeting in Brussels. Both sides looked ahead to the signature by autumn 2014 of the Association Agreement initialed at the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius, at the earliest opportunity, with a view to pressing forward with implementation in order to bring their benefits to their citizens.

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

24/12/2013

Georgia-EU Action Plan for 2014 approved

The Commission on Integration of Georgia into the European Union approved the Action Plan with the EU for 2014. The document is a part of the 2014–2017 Strategy of the Government of Georgia for Communication and Information on European Integration.

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

20/11/2013

Georgian Government changes immigration policy

Georgian government comes to a conclusion to tighten its visa regime and its immigration policy. Former government of Georgia and President Mikheil Saakashvili were promoting visa free regime with 118 countries. According to the planned amendments, the law will not list the countries the citizens of which can travel to Georgia visa-free. Alternatively, a list will be established through a government decree. The draft offers short-term visas to be issued according to the number of days pointed out by the visitor in the visa application form. However, the number of days indicated in the application cannot exceed 30 days.

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

12/11/2013

Georgian, French Interior Ministers sign agreement on circular migration between two countries

Interior Ministers of Georgia and France signed an agreement in Paris on circular migration between the two countries. The sides noted that the agreement will foster regular migration and provide additional employment opportunities for Georgian migrants in France.

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

02/12/2013

Georgia and Moldova one step closer to privileged relations and increased trade with EU

The EU's Association Agreements, including provisions establishing Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas, which were initialed with Georgia and Moldova at the Eastern Partnership summit in Vilnius, open a new chapter in bilateral relations with both countries and pave the way to establishing a privileged trade relationship with them, according to a factsheet released by the European Commission.

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

14/10/2013

Moldova to set up migration posts on Transnistria border

Moldova's parliament has simultaneously passed at two readings a draft law to set up six Migration and Asylum Bureau posts on the country's border with its breakaway Transnistria region.

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

13/11/2013

Belarus–Ukraine border demarcation may take 5-7 years

The demarcation of the Belarus–Ukraine border might take from five to seven years, Belarus' Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei told reporters. He took part in a ceremony to unveil the first border marker on the Belarus–Ukraine border in Dobrush District, Gomel Oblast.

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

31/10/2013

Ukraine will not revise immigration quotas for foreigners

Ukraine does not plan to revise the immigration quotas for foreigners in the near future, first deputy head of the State Migration Service of Ukraine Viktor Sheibut told.

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

Highlights: EU Spotlight

11/12/2013

Parliament approves new European Neighbourhood Instrument with more than €15 billion in funding for 2014–2020

A deal with the EU member states on six foreign policy funds – including more than €15 billion for the new European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) – was endorsed by the European Parliament. The total funding for the six instruments is worth over €51 billion for the period 2014–2020, and covers neighbouring and partner countries, pre-accession assistance, as well as peacekeeping, democracy and human-rights actions.

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

29/11/2013

Eastern Partnership: Joint Declaration outlines roadmap from Vilnius to Riga

The fourteen-page document takes stock of the achievements of the Eastern Partnership (EaP), in particular the initialing of the Association Agreements (AA) with Georgia and Moldova, and outlines its goals ahead of the next summit in Riga, due to take place in the first half of 2015.

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

10/10/2013

New rules for calculating short stays of non-EU citizens in the Schengen area

A clearer definition of short stay of non-EU citizens in the Schengen area ("90 days in any 180 days period") is applicable from 18 October 2013. Since then, a new method of calculation of short stays applies.

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



The Project is funded by the EU



The Project is implemented by the IOM

This information sheet is produced by the Support Project to the EaP Panel on Migration and Asylum, implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mission in Ukraine and the Swedish Migration Board.

This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The content of this publication can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

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