



## Project News

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10/03/2015

### **Panel Meeting on Migration Data Management and Migration Trends was held in Budapest**

Close to 60 experts and officials from Eastern Partnership countries, EU Member States, academia, civil society and international organizations came together in Budapest to exchange and review their practices and approaches to migration data management, update each other on methodologies for data analysis and discuss how to establish the right balance between data protection principles and efficient usage of data.

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

## Highlights: Country News

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31/03/2015

### **Official: Armenia has a number of refugees from Ukraine**

There are about 160 refugees in Armenia from the southeast of Ukraine. As per head of the Armenian State Migration Agency, Gagik Yeganyan, even though most of these refugees are ethnic Armenians, there are also non-Armenians, moreover, non-mixed marriage couples.

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



The Project is funded by the EU



The Project is implemented by the IOM



The Swedish Migration Board  
is a partner of the project



27/03/2015

## **Over 5,000 Armenia residents request asylum abroad in 2014**

In 2014, a total of 5,242 residents of Armenia sought political asylum in 44 of the world's most prosperous countries, Haykakan Zhamanak daily reported with a reference to a UN report. Of these, 220 received this status.

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

26/03/2015

## **EU – Armenia: progress on agreements in 2014 and recommendations for more reform**

EU – Armenia relations saw progress on several agreements in 2014, while Armenia continued its democratic transition, though some issues of human rights and rule of law remain to be dealt with, according to the 2015 ENP Country Progress Report, taking stock of relations over 2014. EU-Armenia Visa-Facilitation and Readmission Agreements entered into force in 2014.

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

04/03/2015

## **Ethnographer: Armenia emigration having double effect**

Emigration is having a double impact on Armenia. On the one hand, it is introducing some innovations to the country, on the other hand, the country is losing a quality workforce, noted ethnographer Aghasi Tadevosyan at a press conference on 4 April. A research shows that the main reason for emigration from Armenia is unemployment, in general, and the absence of high-paying jobs, in particular, he stated.

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

16/01/2015

## **Armenia, EU launch agreements worth €77.5mln to promote reforms**

The Prime Minister's Office of Armenia and the EU Delegation to Armenia held Friday, Jan 16, a ceremony on the launch of eight EU – Armenia Financing Agreements, intended to assist development and reforms in Armenia. The new actions entail an EU contribution of € 77.5 million (44 billion AMD). The eight agreements will support progress in some of the main areas of bilateral cooperation – from agriculture and regional development, through capacity building for the implementation of EU programmes, support to migration and integrated border management, anti-corruption and civil service reforms, to water supply improvement, Yerevan metro rehabilitation and nuclear safety.

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



26/03/2015

## **EU – Azerbaijan relations develop in 2014, but report warns of regression on democracy and human rights**

EU – Azerbaijan relations developed in 2014, with the Visa Facilitation Agreement and Readmission Agreement, and Protocol on participation in the EU programmes and agencies, but there was regression in the democratic process and on human rights, according to the 2015 ENP Country Progress Report, taking stock of relations over 2014. The report said the situation of civil society organizations had deteriorated considerably, and a number of prominent human right defenders were detained, travel bans issued and bank accounts of CSOs frozen.

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

18/03/2015

## **Azerbaijan introduces electronic registration of foreigners**

Azerbaijani post offices will not register foreigners and stateless persons from April 1, the State Migration Service reports. Foreigners and stateless persons will have to either visit [www.migration.gov.az](http://www.migration.gov.az) for online registration on location or go to regional departments of the Service, APA reports.

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

13/03/2015

## **Progress observed in Azerbaijan’s combating human trafficking – OSCE**

Progress is observed in Azerbaijan in combating human trafficking, OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings Madina Jarbussynova said. “I would like to particularly highlight recent legislative amendments to improve the government’s response to trafficking in human beings,” she said.

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

05/03/2015

## **Hungary simplifies visa issuance procedure for Azerbaijanis**

Hungary will open a visa center in Baku in the near future, Zsolt Chutora, Hungarian ambassador to Azerbaijan told. The center will render technical services while issuing Schengen visas for the citizens of Azerbaijan.

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



15/01/2015

## **Starting from 2015 Azerbaijan will impose limitations on employment of labour migrants**

The State Employment Service under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population is preparing a plan of action to limit participation of unskilled labour migrants in the local employment market. Vahab Mammadov, the Ministry's Employment Market and Policy Department Manager, says that in accordance with the plan of action, only skilled and experienced migrants will be able to get employment permission in Azerbaijan.

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

09/01/2015

## **Time to issue e-visa in Azerbaijan will be reduced to three days**

The Azerbaijan's Ministry of Culture and Tourism continues to take measures on facilitating the country arrival procedure for tourists. According to Minister Abulfas Garayev, currently about 50 travel companies can issue e-visas. "In future we plan to reduce time required for issue and registration of visa from 5 to 3 days," the Minister said.

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

25/03/2015

## **Belarus welcomes European Commission's proposals for tighter cooperation in migration affairs**

The Belarusian Interior Ministry positively evaluates the European Commission's proposal in favour of stepping cooperation in migration affairs, representatives of the Ministry. Special consultations involving the European Commission and the Latvian presidency in the European Union will take place in Minsk under the aegis of the Belarusian Interior Ministry. The purpose of the visit of the foreign colleagues is to adjust the draft joint declaration on partnership in mobility between Belarus and the European Union. Representatives of concerned central government agencies are expected to take part in the consultations.

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

02/03/2015

## **Belarus, EU may initial visa agreement in May**

Belarus and the European Union may initial an agreement on visa facilitation at the forthcoming Eastern Partnership summit in Riga in May 2015, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to Belgium, Permanent Representative in the EU Andrei Yevdochenko said.

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



20/02/2015

## **UNHCR, IOM study situation with Ukrainian senior migrants in Belarus**

Representatives of the international organizations are in Belarus to study the situation of migrants, particularly migrant pensioners, from Ukraine in Belarus, Mr. Jean-Yves Bouchardy, Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Belarus, said during a working meeting in the committee on labour, employment and social security of the Vitebsk Oblast Executive Committee on 20 February, BelTA has learned. Representatives of the UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) carried out the first joint mission to Belarus regions to study the problems faced by Ukrainian migrants. Jean-Yves Bouchardy said that the main focus is on the conditions for pensioners. He noted that the work with migrants in the regions has been organized at a very good level. The citizens have been informed of their rights; they know where to apply for necessary assistance.

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

19/02/2015

## **UNHCR, IOM offices in Belarus to draft joint project on Ukrainian migrants**

The offices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration in Belarus will work out a joint project to aid displaced persons from Ukraine, announced Jean-Yves Bouchardy, Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Belarus.

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

09/02/2015

## **Belarus, Poland to improve border-crossing procedures**

Belarus and Poland have been monitoring the time spent on carrying out various procedures at the border, the press service of the State Customs Committee of Belarus told BelTA. Results of the monitoring effort will be analyzed by the Belarusian and Polish sides to determine bottlenecks in the border-crossing procedures and take the relevant measures to improve the border-crossing experience.

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

06/02/2015

## **Number of Latvian visas issued in Belarus up 26% in 2014**

The Embassy of Latvia in Belarus issued more than 71,000 Schengen visas in 2014, almost 26% up from 2013, BelTA learnt from the embassy. "Every year the interest in Latvia increases among Belarusians. The number of visas the Latvian embassy in Belarus and the Latvian Consulate in Vitebsk issue testifies to the fact," specialists noted.

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



06/02/2015

### **About 50,000 Ukrainian citizens arrive in Belarus in 2014**

About 50,000 Ukrainian citizens arrived in Belarus in 2014, head of the citizenship and migration department of the Interior Ministry of Belarus Alexei Begun told a press conference.

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

28/01/2015

### **Belarus' Foreign Ministry liberalizes visa regulations**

The Belarusian Foreign Ministry is liberalizing the terms of visiting foreign countries for Belarusians and the terms of visiting Belarus for foreigners, Head of the Main Consular Department of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry Igor Fisenko told a press briefing on 28 January. The event was attended by representatives of diplomatic missions and consular services of the countries of the European Union and Switzerland.

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

19/01/2015

### **Lukashenko approves resolution on Belarus' border protection in 2015**

President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko has approved the resolution on Belarus' state border protection in 2015. The head of state stressed that border security is among the top priorities of the state policy. He asked about the progress in the fulfillment of the instruction in this field which was given to the government, the State Secretariat of the Security Council, the State Border Committee and other law enforcement bodies. The President also noted that all issues concerning the legal framework were solved.

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

29/01/2015

### **First e-visa facility in Georgia**

The Georgian Government is preparing to launch the country's first electronic visa (e-visa) facility – a move officials say will give "a major boost" to the country's tourism sector. Georgia's Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili announced the new e-visa facility would open in February 2015.

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

23/01/2015

### **Georgia introduces special law to regulate labour migration**

Georgia is making moves to introduce a special law to regulate the country's workforce. The law will regulate the employment of Georgian citizens, foreigners who have permanent residence in Georgia or stateless



persons. The law will also regulate the employment and paid work-based activities of foreigners who do not have a permanent residence permit in Georgia.

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

26/03/2015

## **EU – Moldova 2014: a year of steady progress on the European Agenda**

Last year was a period of political stability for Moldova, in which the government worked steadily on the country's European Agenda, according to the 2015 ENP Country Progress Report, taking stock of relations over 2014. The year saw the signature of the Association Agreement including Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (AA/DCFTA), and a new visa-free regime, which saw 360,000 persons travel visa-free to the EU.

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

26/03/2015

## **EU – Ukraine 2014: reforms and progress despite huge challenges**

Reforms were carried out in Ukraine in 2014 in a very difficult political, economic, social and military/security context, according to the 2015 ENP Country Progress Report, taking stock of relations over 2014: Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and destabilization of eastern Ukraine have been major challenges and the number of internally displaced persons and refugees exceeds one million.

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

17/03/2015

## **IOM, EU Launch Hotline for IDPs in Ukraine**

In Kyiv the European Union and IOM have launched a toll-free hotline to provide practical information to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ukraine. The hotline, operated by IOM's implementing partner Donbas SOS, builds on experience gained by the NGO with running a similar project and is part of a comprehensive EUR 6.5 million programme funded by the EU, which also provides cash assistance to IDPs, livelihood support and community stabilization measures, as well as assistance to the Government of Ukraine in registering IDPs.

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

12/03/2015

## **Ukraine to introduce electronic visas – foreign minister**

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry is planning to re-format itself along the lines of the best European foreign-policy departments, Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin said.

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



12/03/2015

## **UN counts nearly 1.8 million internally displaced persons and refugees from Ukraine**

Today, there are almost 1.8 million internally displaced persons and refugees from Ukraine. Such figures were released by the press-service of the UN on its Twitter page. In particular, according to the UN, the number of people internally displaced by the conflict in Ukraine has now reached the 1.1 million mark, while the total number of Ukrainians who have sought asylum, residence permits or other forms of legal stay in neighbouring countries now stands at 674,300, including 542,800 in Russia and 80,700 in Belarus.

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

11/03/2015

## **Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine to have joint vision at Eastern Partnership Summit in Riga**

Deputy Foreign and European Integration Minister of Moldova Iulian Groza paid a working visit to Tbilisi, Georgia, on 10-11 March. He had a trilateral meeting with Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister Gigi Gigiadze and Ukrainian one Olena Zerkal. The officials discussed giving the final touches to a joint vision of the three countries on the Declaration of the Eastern Partnership Summit (EaP), due in Riga on 21-22 May, the Foreign and European Integration Ministry's communication and media relations service has reported.

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

06/03/2015

## **Over 21 000 vulnerable internally displaced persons in Ukraine enabled to buy clothes, medication and other essentials with cash provided by the EU**

The European Union has provided assistance to ensure immediate support to internally displaced persons (IDPs) arriving from the areas affected by the crisis in Eastern Ukraine to Kharkiv Region, which currently serves as a safe haven for over 130,000 people according to the official data. Through the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO) initiative, implemented in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), between December 2014 and February 2015, 6,500 families, or over 21,000 beneficiaries in total, received one-time unconditional cash assistance of EUR 235 in the national currency per household for basic winter needs – warm clothing, utilities, heating, etc. The project focused on the most vulnerable households: with the disabled or the elderly and families with children.

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

17/01/2015

## **Poland issues Ukrainians 15% visas more last year**

In 2014, the Polish consular offices in Ukraine issued more than 831 thousand visas to Ukrainians, which is 15% more than in 2013. Number of visa refusals was 2.66% (over 22 thousands).

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





## Highlights: EU Spotlight

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25/03/2015

### **EUR 1.8 billion to fund Asylum, Migration, Integration and Security**

The European Commission has approved 22 new multiannual national programmes under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the Internal Security Fund (ISF) for the period 2014-2020, worth together approximately €1.8 billion. An additional 36 national programmes will be approved later this year. These two strands of EU funding support Member States' efforts in the fields of asylum, migration and integration, and internal security.

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

25/03/2015

### **EU assesses implementation of European Neighbourhood Policy over 2014: Security main challenge in both regions**

The EU released its annual reports assessing the implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) with the 16 partner countries in the East and South and providing recommendations for the year ahead. 2014 saw the signing of Association Agreements with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, democratic transition in Tunisia and strengthened relations with Morocco. But security and humanitarian problems persisted in both regions and significant support was mobilised to help Lebanon and Jordan cope with the increasing effects of the Syria crisis.

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

04/03/2015

### **Future European Agenda on Migration**

The European Commission launched its work on a comprehensive European Agenda on Migration. The College of Commissioners held a first orientation debate on key actions to step up the EU's efforts to implement the existing tools and cooperation in managing migration flows from third countries.

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

14/01/2015

### **Commissioner: over 276,000 irregular migrants entered EU in 2014**



More than 276,000 irregular migrants entered the European Union last year, more than double in 2013, the bloc's commissioner for migration and home affairs, Dimitris Avramopoulos, said Tuesday, Jan 14, according to EUbusiness. "In 2014, more than 276,000 migrants arrived in the EU, representing an increase of 138 percent compared to the previous year," Avramopoulos told the European Parliament.

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

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