



## Project News

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8/06/2015

### **EaP Panel on Migration and Asylum meets to discuss internal displacement challenges**

The representatives of the EU Member States, Eastern Partnership countries, academia and international organizations gathered in Kyiv to compare their practices and approaches to solving the issues of internally displaced persons (IDPs), including their registration and integration. The two-day ad-hoc meeting of the Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum took place on 4-5 June 2015 and was co-hosted by Ukraine and the Czech Republic.

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

12/05/2015

### **EaP Panel on Migration and Asylum discussed admission and control mechanisms in the context of labour migration**

Nearly 50 experts and officials from Eastern Partnership countries, EU Member States, academia, civil society and international organizations came together in Minsk on 6-7 May to compare their practices in labour migration, focusing on the aspects of admission, protection and control. The two-day expert meeting of the Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum was this time hosted by Belarus and Latvia. Different views and approaches to labour migration procedures were expressed in a lively, dynamic and professional discussions of the participants.

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



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## Highlights: Country News

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03/06/2015

### **Georgian and Armenian authorities discuss fighting transnational crime**

Officials from Georgian and Armenian border and customs services held a bilateral workshop in Yerevan on “Transnational Crime – Methods and New Trends” as part of an EU-funded border capacity project. The aim of the meeting was to discuss new methods in fighting against transnational crime used by the European customs services. The officials also learned about the work of the Latvian customs and state border guard, their tasks, responsibilities and competences, operation of mobile groups, corruption issues, and risk analyses for identification of new trends of transnational criminal activities.

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

27/05/2015

### **Armenia Deputy Foreign Minister: Armenia hopes for visa-free regime with EU**

The EU can continue talks on visa-free regime with Armenia, Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Garen Nazarian stated at the Parliament. “Development of mobility remains a priority for Armenia,” he said. In January 2013, Armenia cancelled on a unilateral basis the visa regime for entry of citizens of the EU and the Schengen states. Starting from 1 January 2014, an agreement between the EU and Armenia on the facilitation of visa issuance came into force.

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

18/04/2015

### **Survey to reveal migration situation in Armenia**

A survey aimed at revealing actual state of things in migration will be conducted in Armenia, Ruben Yeganyan, a demographer, announced on 18 April at a news conference. According to him, the poll will be conducted by Russian-Armenian (Slavic) University. Speaking about statistical data on the number of Armenian labour migrants in Russia, Ruben Yeganyan said that the last relevant study was carried out in Armenia in 2003.

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

10/06/2015

### **First meeting of the Public Council under the State Migration Service was held in Azerbaijan**

First meeting of the Public Council under the State Migration Service of Azerbaijan Republic was held on June 8, 2015. The meeting touched upon determination of time-limits of the meetings of Public Council, as well as organizational matters. Member of the Council, head of the “Hayat” International Humanitarian Organization, Azar Allahveranov was elected to the chair of Public Council under the State Migration Service.

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



18/06/2015

## **Belarus Interior Ministry: No decrease in the flow of migrants from Ukraine**

The flow of citizens from Ukraine to Belarus has not decreased this year, Alexei Begun, the Head of the Citizenship and Migration Department of the Interior Ministry of Belarus, reported. In 2014 in the wake of the events in Ukraine Belarus had to deal with a fourfold increase in the number of filed applications for protection in comparison with the previous year. Last year 867 foreign nationals filed applications for protection, of which citizens of Ukraine accounted for 76.5%, citizens of Syria for 11% and citizens of Afghanistan for 3.9%. In January-May this year 563 foreigners applied for protection, of which Ukrainian citizens accounted for 76.9%, Syrian nationals for 11.2% and citizens of Afghanistan for 4.5%.

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

26/05/2015

## **EU/UNHCR project enhances refuge system potential in Belarus**

The regional project for enhancing the quality of refuge systems in Eastern Europe and South Caucasus has helped to develop the potential of the refuge system in Belarus. Designed to run for 2.5 years, the project was financed by the European Union and the UNHCR. It was meant to improve the protection of people, who seek refuge, and refugees in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.

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

25/05/2015

## **Belarus may cancel visas for short-term visits**

Belarus may cancel visas for short-term visits, Head of the Main Consular Department of the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Igor Fisenko said during an online conference. He noted that the decree on visa-free travels (up to 72 hours) to the Belovezhskaya Pushcha national park will enter into force soon.

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

25/05/2015

## **Several technicalities left to address for Belarus-EU simpler visa procedures**

Belarus and the European Union have to address only several technicalities in a bid to streamline visa procedures, Igor Fisenko, Head of the Central Consular Office of the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, informed. "The negotiations are about to complete but there is a number of technicalities that we need to agree on. I cannot say anything specific about the timeframe. The work continues," said the official.

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

11/05/2015

## **Belarus's net in-migration increased by two times**

The migration gain in Belarus made up 2,600 people in the first quarter of 2015, up 2.1 times as against the same period of 2014, as informed the National Statistics Committee of Belarus. As many as 7,177 people came



to Belarus and 2,158 people left the country in January-March 2015. In January-March 2014, the figures stood at 4,332 and 1,900 respectively. The migration surplus in the first quarter of 2015 made up 5,019 people against 2,432 people in 1Q 2014.

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

06/05/2015

### **Belarus Interior Ministry: The majority of migrant workers arrive from Ukraine**

The majority of migrant workers arrive in Belarus from Ukraine, Deputy Head of the Citizenship and Migration Department of the Interior Ministry of Belarus Aleksandr Tatura told. "Statistics speaks for itself. Naturally, the events in Ukraine had an impact on the situation in the Belarusian labour market. In 2014, Belarus welcomed about 40,000 migrant workers from foreign countries, including about 13,500 citizens of Ukraine," Aleksandr Tatura said.

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

29/06/2015

### **EU-funded migration project trains officers from Georgia's Migration Department**

Eighteen officers from Georgia's Migration Department have received training in the Netherlands from members of the Dutch Migration Department on the topic of efficient management of migrant accommodation centres. The training was conducted under the EU-funded project on capacity building of the State in border and migration management, implemented by IOM.

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

08/05/2015

### **Georgia to simplify the law on visa and migration**

A package of amendments to the law on visa and migration was supported by the Parliament. The amendment lifted tightened visa rules for foreigners, which had been recently adopted. The amendments proposed by the Ministry of Economics increased visa-free stay for citizens of some countries from 90 to 360 days. However, this list still has to be approved, and according the law it will be the government's final decision whether to adopt the subsequent decree or not.

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

11/05/2015

### **Moldovan Foreign Minister, GRETA representatives tackle trafficking-related issues**

Moldovan Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign and European Integration Minister Natalia Gherman, as the chair of the National Committee on Fighting Human Trafficking, met representatives of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA). Natalia Gherman specified that the prevention of the trafficking in human beings was one of the government's priorities and highlighted the commitment of the authorities to



continue to implement the National Plan on Preventing and Fighting Trafficking in Human Beings for 2014 – 2016, as well as the international engagements in this area.

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

29/04/2015

### **Government approves Moldova–EUROPOL agreement for ratification**

An agreement on operational and strategic cooperation between Moldova and the European Police Office (EUROPOL) was approved for ratification. The accord was signed in Chisinau on 18 December 2014. The mentioned agreement's ratification is a prerogative of the Moldova-EU Association Agreement. Moreover, Moldova is the first Eastern Partnership state to sign such an accord.

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

19/06/2015

### **UN: Ukraine ranked ninth in the world by number of internally displaced persons**

More than 1.3 million people are now internally displaced in Ukraine, meaning it has the ninth largest internally displaced population in the world, according to new figures from the United Nations. The UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs also reported that some 890,000 people have fled to neighboring countries, adding that people continue to leave their homes to escape the war, according to the UN Radio.

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

18/06/2015

### **About 5,500 Ukrainians apply for asylum in EU**

About 5,500 Ukrainian citizens applied for asylum in the European Union in the first quarter of 2015, Eurostat reports. The number of Ukrainian citizens amounted to 3% among 185,000 of those who seek asylum in the EU Member States. In the first quarter of this year, most of the refugees in the EU were registered from Kosovo (26%), Syria (16%) and Afghanistan (7%). The most popular countries for asylum seekers in the EU were Germany and Hungary. Among Ukrainians, majority of asylum-seekers arrived in Poland (630 persons), Spain (190), the Czech Republic (175) and Portugal (125).

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

08/05/2015

### **Commission assesses implementation of Visa Liberalization Action Plans in Ukraine and Georgia**

The European Commission released its 2015 progress reports on Georgia and Ukraine's implementation of their Visa Liberalization Action Plans (VLAP). On the eve of the Eastern Partnership Summit in Riga on 21-22 May,



"this is a sign of the Commission's commitment and of the pace of the measures being taken by the two countries," a press release said.

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

05/05/2015

### **EUBAM assesses Mission's progress in Moldova and Ukraine**

The Advisory Board of the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) has welcomed progress in customs, border management and trade in Moldova and Ukraine, and discussed future strategies.

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

03/06/2015

### **EaP countries citizens to provide fingerprints for Schengen visa**

New rules have been enacted. The visa information system of the Schengen countries is introduced in six Eastern Partnership countries (Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova) from 23 June. Applicants will have to give their fingerprints and present a digital photo while submitting documents for Schengen visa.

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

08/04/2015

### **EaP countries and EU sign agreement on cooperation in border management training**

Eastern Partnership countries and the EU Member States have signed an agreement on cooperation among border management training institutions, a key achievement of the EU-funded EaP SIPPAP project for cooperation in the fight against irregular migration, which was holding its final event in Tbilisi. The agreement provides a legal and institutional framework for strengthening and facilitating cooperation in the field of education and basic/advanced training of border guards in all EaP countries and the EU Member States.

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



## Highlights: EU Spotlight

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18/06/2015

### **World's displaced hits record high of 60 million, half of them children: UN**

Almost 60 million people worldwide were forcibly uprooted by conflict and persecution by the end of last year, the highest ever recorded number, the UN Refugee Agency said. More than half the displaced from crises including Syria, Afghanistan and Somalia were children, UNHCR said in its annual report.

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

06/05/2015

### **38 million people internally displaced worldwide, study says**

A Norwegian humanitarian group says a record 38 million people have been internally displaced in their countries worldwide, with 2.2 million Iraqis alone forced to flee from their homes in 2014 after the Islamic State group overrun their areas.

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

15/06/2015

### **EU launches consultation on labour migration: contributions sought from both inside and outside the EU**

The European Commission has launched an online public consultation on the EU Blue Card and its labour migration policies, as part of the first package of measures in follow-up to the European Agenda on Migration, adopted on 13 May. The consultation is open to all citizens, organizations and third-country nationals, both inside and outside the EU, with a deadline to submit contributions of 21 August.

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

27/05/2015

### **European Commission makes progress on Agenda on Migration**

Two weeks after the European Commission presented its European Agenda on Migration, the Commission presented the first initiatives of its comprehensive approach to improving the management of migration in all its aspects. Following the terrible loss of life in the Mediterranean, leaders made a firm commitment to solidarity amongst Member States to address the common migratory challenges Europe faces. With these proposals, the Commission is turning words into action and setting out the immediate response to the emergency situation we currently face in the Mediterranean.

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





18/05/2015

## European Council head says EU needs new migrant return policy

European Council President Donald Tusk said that the European Union cannot welcome all migrants fleeing to its shores and will have to work out a new return policy to tackle the problem.

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

13/05/2015

## Europe opens door to 20,000 migrants

The European Union's executive proposed taking in 20,000 migrants over two years and distributing them across Europe, a plan Britain, one of its largest members, has already opted out of. Shocked by thousands of deaths among people trying to reach Europe from North Africa across the Mediterranean, the European Union is trying to put in place a fairer way to resettle asylum-seekers at a time when anti-immigration parties are on the rise.

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

19/06/2015

## Eastern Partnership: border management in focus at Riga meeting

The Latvian State Border Guard organized the 12th meeting of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) Integrated Border Management Panel, which brought together representatives from the EU Member States, the European Commission, and EaP countries, as well as representatives from border guard and customs institutions. Participants discussed issues related integrated border management in the EaP, best practice in the implementation of this system in EU Member States, progress of various projects in the Eastern Partnership countries, and further joint activities to achieve established goals.

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

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