



## Project News

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10/09/2015

### **New Panel website has been launched**

A new website [www.eapmigrationpanel.org](http://www.eapmigrationpanel.org) has been launched by the EaP Panel on Migration and Asylum to serve even more effectively as an information exchange tool for experts working in the field of migration and asylum the European Union Member States and its Eastern Partners. The appearance of the website has been completely redesigned and its structure was reorganized. The main features became even more handy, functional and user-friendly. The interactive map, country profiles and extended information about the Panel have been updated. The structure of the website is now built around the Panel meetings, being the core activities of the Panel. The information about each Panel meeting is now supplemented by a variety of materials available for downloading.

## Highlights: Country News

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24/09/2015

### **Ukraine, Syria, Iraq and Iran citizens apply for asylum in Armenia**

During January–September 2015, 237 foreign citizens have applied for asylum to the State Migration Service of Armenia’s Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations. The applications on granting asylum were submitted by 78 citizens of Ukraine, 68 citizens of Syria, 47 citizens of Iran and 44 citizens of Iraq. Refugee status was least of all granted to Iran citizens – the application of only 2 out of 47 applicants were satisfied.

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

31/08/2015

### **Armenia to take care about Ukraine refugees**



The Project is funded by the  
European Union



The project is implemented by the  
International Organization for Migration



The Swedish Migration Agency  
is a partner of the Project



Armenia will facilitate the social protection of refugees from the south eastern Ukraine. The package of proposed measures was approved by the Government on 31 August. This group of citizens will receive social benefits in accordance with the legislation of Armenia, Social Affairs Minister Artem Asatryan said.

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

10/08/2015

### **Armenia to develop migration policy with EU aid**

Armenia is in the initial stage of negotiations for a new agreement on EU technical assistance to foster state migration policy, Deputy Head of Cooperation Section at the EU Delegation to Armenia Jose Navarro informed. The agreement is likely to be signed with the International Center for Migration Policy Development, which currently unites 15 member states in Europe. EU assistance will be split between migration and border management.

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

21/09/2015

### **Azerbaijan tightens mechanism of labour migrants recruitment**

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Azerbaijan jointly with the State Migration Service has developed the proposals for the patenting mechanism of recruitment of highly qualified personnel. The proposals imply preference of primarily local experts and permission for attraction of labour migrants only in case of the lack of local professionals in certain areas of activity.

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

17/07/15

### **Visas for foreigners traveling to Azerbaijan to be issued in 3-5 days**

The issue of reducing the time of issuing visas to foreigners traveling to Azerbaijan is on the agenda, the country's Minister of Culture and Tourism Abulfas Garayev told reporters. He said that it is planned to reduce this time from 10 days to 3-5 days. Today, over 60 firms are engaged in issuing visas in Azerbaijan, the minister said, adding that over 10,000 online tourist visas were issued in 2015 alone.

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

10/07/2015

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

First meeting of the Public Council under the State Migration Service of Azerbaijan Republic was held on 8 June 2015. The Head of the "Hayat" International Humanitarian Organization Azar Allahveranov was elected the chair of the Council.

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



23/09/2015

## **Demarcation of Belarusian-Ukrainian border begins**

The demarcation of the Belarusian-Ukrainian border began at the junction of Belarus, Ukraine, and Poland in Brest District. The junction was determined by the agreement between the governments of the three states in 2015. The document came into force in summer. A special Belarusian border sign will be erected at the site.

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

07/09/15

## **UNHCR: Belarus' laws on forced migration are progressive, can be improved further**

Belarus' legislation in the field of forced migration is progressive but can be improved further, Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the Republic of Belarus Jean-Yves Bouchardy said during the thematic roundtable at the International Relations Department, Belarusian State University.

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

21/08/15

## **The number of asylum applications received by Belarus is growing**

The total of 758 foreign nationals and stateless persons applied for international protection in Belarus as of 20 August 2015, Deputy Head of the Citizenship and Migration Department of the Interior Ministry of Belarus Alexander Tatura told journalists during a roundtable at the Council of the Republic on 21 August. "I would like to note that we received around 485 applications over the same period last year. The number has significantly increased due to the events happening in our neighboring states," Alexander Tatura said.

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

18/08/15

## **Belarus will continue strengthening its southern border**

Belarus will continue to strengthen the security on its southern border, Acting State Secretary of the Security Council Stanislav Zas told. According to Stanislav Zas, the southern border will be enhanced at the expense of, first and foremost, the reserves of the State Border Committee. Commenting on the overall situation on the border of Belarus, Stanislav Zas noted it is not 'very favorable', which "should not discourage us but mobilize".

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

14/08/15

## **Belarus plans to enforce single procedure for considering applications for refugee status**

Belarus plans to enforce a single procedure for considering applications for refugee status, additional protection and asylum. This issue was considered at a roundtable on the issue of the improvement of



legislation on forced migration at the Council of the Republic . The corresponding draft law has already been submitted to the House of Representatives, chairman of the permanent commission for international affairs and national security of the Council of the Republic Vladimir Senko informed.

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

29/09/15

### **IOM trains Georgian officials to identify fraudulent documents at border checkpoints**

An EU-funded project implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has held a training course for frontline officers from Georgia's Patrol Police as part of a strategic plan by the Ministry of Interior to create a higher level of document handling expertise at all border checkpoints and to improve standards of fraud detection. During the training, a group of experienced Georgian officials received extensive instruction in document security and fraud.

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

03/08/15

### **Guidebook on visa-free travel to the EU developed in Georgia**

The Government of Georgia continues an information campaign on visa-free travel to the EU in accordance with the requirements of the EC third report on Visa Liberalization Action Plan (VLAP). Campaign aims at informing population of Georgia on opportunities and responsibilities they will have after the successful completion of the visa liberalization process.

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

17/07/2015

### **Georgia approved the rules on setting up a Unified Migration Analytical System**

On 16 July, the Government of Georgia has approved the rule on setting up and administration of a Unified Migration Analytical System. The aim of the ordinance is to create a unified migration data base and analytical system, which is necessary for the proper management of migratory processes. The document defines responsible agencies for data submission and its analysis.

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

10/07/15

### **Chisinau hosts extended meeting of Moldova-EU Mobility Partnership local platform**

The Foreign and European Integration Ministry hosted the traditional extended meeting of Moldova-European Union Mobility Partnership local platform. At the meeting's opening, Deputy Foreign and European Integration Minister Daniela Cujba and Head of the EU Delegation to Moldova Pirkka Tapiola underlined the positive role of this cooperation format for implementation of the Moldova-EU Association Agreement and for visa regime liberalisation.



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

20/08/15

## Ukraine to reduce number of controlling agencies on border

As a part of reform of the State Border Service of Ukraine, as well as the state border crossing procedure, Ukraine intends to reduce the number of controlling bodies at checkpoints from nine to two, Prime Minister of Ukraine Arseniy Yatsenyuk said during the presentation of a new biometric data control system at Boryspil International Airport.

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

13/08/15

## EU allots EUR 8.55 mln to support Ukraine's border management

The European Commission has issued a fourth tranche of EUR 8.55 million under the program of support to the sectoral border management policy in Ukraine, the EU Delegation to Ukraine has reported. Via the sectoral support program, the European Union is contributing to the modernization of the State Border Service and the Fiscal Service of Ukraine through the improvement of laws, norms and regulations and the introduction of better mechanisms for control and the modernization of border crossing infrastructure consistent with EU standards, it said.

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

# Highlights: EU Spotlight

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18/09/2015

## Over 210,000 first time asylum seekers in the EU in the second quarter of 2015

During the second quarter of 2015 (from April to June 2015), 213,200 first time asylum seekers applied for protection in the European Union (EU), up by 15% compared with the first quarter of 2015 and by 85% compared with the second quarter of 2014.

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

17/09/2015

## European Parliament vote on relocation of 120,000 refugees

European Commission Statement following the vote of the European Parliament in favour of an emergency relocation mechanism for 120,000 refugees. The Commission welcomes this vote and is particularly grateful to Parliament for its fast reaction, using an emergency procedure to secure a vote in just a week after the proposal was first made.

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



10/08/2015

## **EUR 2.4 billion to fund Asylum, Migration, Integration and Security**

Over the past weeks the European Commission approved 23 new multiannual national programmes, seven under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and 16 under the Internal Security Fund (ISF). The total funding for the agreed programmes is approximately EUR 2.4 billion. 22 national programmes were approved by the Commission earlier this year and the remaining 13 national programmes will be approved later in 2015.

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

02/07/2015

## **Commission and OECD joint report: Indicators of integration of migrants**

On 2 July 2015, the European Commission (DG Migration and Home Affairs) and the OECD (International Migration Division) released "Indicators of Immigrant Integration – Settling In 2015". This joint report constitutes the first broad international comparison across all EU as well as OECD countries of the outcomes for migrants and their children and covers 34 key indicators in areas such as employment, education and skills, social inclusion, civic engagement and social cohesion.

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

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