



News Digest **Issue 20 (May 2017)**

Highlights: Country News

04/05/17

30,000 people leave Armenia annually, – Head of State Migration Service

An average of 30,000 people leave Armenia annually, Head of the country's State Migration Service, Gagik Yeganyan told reporters following a Government session on 4 May. According to Mr. Yeganyan, fighting emigration means eliminating the reasons behind the phenomenon, which he said come from the social and economic environment. "If we want the volume of migration to decrease, we must eliminate these reasons. This is exactly what the entire government's activities are directed at, but this issue cannot be resolved in a year," Mr. Yeganyan said.

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

04/05/17

Armenia to start modernization of Meghri border crossing

Armenia's State Revenue Committee (SRC) started the modernization of a border crossing near the southern town of Meghri on the border with Iran. According to Armen Sakapetoyan, the deputy chief of the State Revenue Committee, the modernization of the border crossing is part of a larger programme designed to modernize all border checkpoints of Armenia. He said the Meghri border checkpoint will have a one window, one stop system to allow freight carriers and persons crossing the border to negotiate with one structure. He added that the modernized premises of the checkpoint will help speed up the servicing of cargo transportation.

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



The Project is funded by the
European Union



The Project is implemented by
International Organization for Migration



25/05/17

Baku hosts joint business forum with State Migration Service and Caspian European Club

Key aspects of Azerbaijan's migration policy were discussed on 24 May during a business forum organized by the Caspian European Club and Caspian American Club with the participation of Head of the State Migration Service of Azerbaijan Firudin Nabiyev. Mr. Nabiyev briefed the business forum participants about the activities and further plans of the State Migration Service. He said the Service successfully implements state supervision over the attraction of foreigners to paid work in the framework of the labour migration quota allocated every year by the Cabinet of Ministers.

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

04/05/17

Migration issues discussed during the Fourth World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue in Baku

The integration of migrants in cities, countering the rise of violent extremism, and youth radicalization on the Internet are just some of the issues discussed at a United Nations conference opening on 4 May in Baku, Azerbaijan. The Fourth World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, hosted by the Government of Azerbaijan in partnership with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), provided an opportunity to examine effective responses to challenges facing human security, including massive migration, violent extremism and conflicts.

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

17/05/17

Minsk hosts national consultations on Global Compact on Migration

National consultations on preparation for the negotiation process for the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration were held in Minsk on 17 May under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Interior Ministry and the International Organization for Migration office in Belarus. Representatives of the government bodies of Belarus, UN agencies and civil society organizations discussed a wide range of issues related to capacity building and improvement of the national migration policy, along with the interrelation between migration and development. Special attention was paid to the development of international cooperation for the effective management of migration at the national, regional and global levels, and combating irregular migration and human trafficking.

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



11/05/17

EU will assist Georgia to meet conditions set out in Association Agreement and Visa Liberalization Action Plan

State Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, Victor Dolidze, and Commissioner for European for Neighborhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations, Johannes Hahn, signed a Financing Agreement launching the Technical Cooperation Facility, which will run until 2024. Through this programme, the European Union will allocate GEL 83 million (EUR 32 million) to Georgian public institutions to help them comply with commitments set out in the EU-Georgia Association Agreement, Visa Liberalization and Readmission Agreement as well as support the participation of Georgian beneficiary institutions in selected EU Programmes.

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

19/05/17

Moldova initiates additional control rules regarding state border crossing

The Government's decision on implementation of the law No 215 of 4 November 2011 on state border crossing of the Republic of Moldova is published in the Official Journal of Moldova on 19 May. The decision complies with the rules applicable to the control on persons crossing the state border and aligns the national legislation with the EU best practices, set out in the EU Regulation 2016/399 of the European Parliament and Council of 9 March 2016 on the Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code). The document introduces the additional rules on state border crossing control, the regime rules at state border crossing points, list of state border crossing points of Moldova, technical equipping of the state border crossing points, rules for issuing work permits at the border crossing points and specific rules of the border area regime.

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

22/05/17

The citizens of Ukraine are able to enter the EU countries without visa from 11 June 2017

The official bulletin of the European Union on 22 May published a [decision on visa-free regime for Ukrainian citizens](#). Thus, citizens of Ukraine will be able to enter the EU countries in 20 days – starting 11 June.

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



19/05/17

Ukraine and Slovakia to strengthen cooperation in the field of readmission

During the consultations held on 18-19 May, the experts of Ukraine and Slovakia agreed on an article-by-article basis of the draft Implementation Protocol to the Agreement between Ukraine and the Slovak Republic on readmission. The further signing of this international treaty will positively affect the development of neighbourly relations between Ukraine and the Slovak Republic, determine on the basis of reciprocity the quick and effective procedures for the identification and safe and organized return of persons not complying with the rules of entry, exit and stay in the territories of Ukraine and Slovakia.

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

12/05/17

IOM Ukraine releases National Monitoring System Report on the situation of internally displaced persons

Employment and housing remain the key challenges for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ukraine, according to [the latest round](#) of the IOM National Monitoring System on Situation of IDPs in Ukraine, funded by the European Union. Three years into the conflict and displacement, the income situation remains one of the major challenges for many IDPs. According to the IOM survey, 45 per cent of IDP households have only enough funds for food. Some 21 per cent of displaced families have total incomes ranging from UAH 1,500 (USD 56) to UAH 3,000 (USD 113) per month, while the income of another 47 per cent is ranging from USD 114 to USD 264. Average IDP level of income per individual currently is UAH 1,991 (USD 75).

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

11/05/17

Highlights: EU Spotlight

02/05/17

EU to renew full functioning of Schengen within next 6 months

The European Commission recommended that Austria, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Norway phase out the temporary controls currently in place at some of their internal Schengen borders over the next six months, as said in its press release of 2 May 2017. Whilst the overall situation continues to stabilize, there are still a significant number of irregular migrants and asylum seekers in Greece. That is why, as a precautionary measure



and whilst alternatives are put in place, the Commission is recommending that the Council prolong controls for the last time, meaning they will have to be lifted in six months' time. During this time, as in the previous periods, controls should only be carried out in a targeted and limited manner and only as a means of last resort. At the same time, the Commission is calling on Member States to increasingly make use of alternative measures that can provide the same level of security, such as proportionate police checks in border areas and along main transport routes. To that effect, the Commission has also presented a Recommendation on proportionate police checks and police cooperation in the Schengen area.

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

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.

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