

# News Digest Issue 21 (June 2017)

### **Project News**

22/06/17

#### Panel meeting on return, readmission and reintegration was held in Yerevan

On 21-22 June 2017, the experts from the EaP countries, the EU Member States, international organizations, representatives of NGOs and academia gathered in Yerevan, to discuss recent trends, developments and challenges in return, readmission and reintegration of migrants as well as to share national practices, experiences and lessons learnt.

For further information, please follow this link

### **Highlights: Country News**

16/06/17

### Armenia and Georgia fostered cross-border cooperation with EU support

Successful achievements of cross-border cooperation between Armenia and Georgia will be the focus of the Closing Conference of the EU-funded Armenia – Georgia Eastern Partnership Territorial Cooperation Programme held in Gyumri, Armenia, on 16 June 2017.

The Closing Conference "Impact on Regional Sustainable Development and Cross-Border Cooperation" brought together representatives of national, regional and local authorities, civil society organizations and opinion leaders, international donors and partners, business and media circles of Armenia and Georgia, as well as cross-border projects' teams from the participating regions.

For further information, please follow this link



The Project is funded by the European Union







22/06/17

#### Azerbaijan to improve the e-visa issuing system

Azerbaijan ready to issue visas within three hours after application and partially privatize e-visa issuing system ASAN Viza. Such changes are provided by the amendments made by the Presidential Decree to the Regulation on ASAN Viza.

The amendments require the State Agency for Citizen Service & Social Innovations to improve a mechanism of management, development and co-financing the ASAN Viza system on the basis of public-private partnership. For further information, please follow this link

14/06/17

#### Azerbaijan, EU and IOM launch counter-trafficking project

On 12 June 2017, the EU launched the project "Enhancement of National Capacities to Combat Human Trafficking in Azerbaijan" (ENCT). The project, which is being implemented together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan and the International Organization for Migration, will enhance judicial capacity to better prosecute traffickers and protect victims, strengthen the National Referral Mechanism and enhance regional and international cooperation.

For further information, please follow this link

21/06/17

#### **EU-Belarus Readmission Agreement: parties agreed on the transition period**

Belarus and its European partners agreed on the transitional period, during which the country will not be accepting the citizens of third countries or stateless persons subject to readmission. The document has been approved and can pass the procedure of preliminary signing by the end of the year. The negotiations featured Belarus' representatives and a delegation from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

For further information, please follow this link

01/06/17

### Belarusian and Ukrainian border guards launch joint contact point "Pinsk-Zhytomyr"

On June 1, 2017 Pinsk hosted the official ceremony on launch of the joint contact point "Pinsk-Zhytomyr", established within the framework of the EU-funded project "Strengthening Surveillance and Bilateral Coordination Capacity Along the Common Border Between Belarus and Ukraine, SURCAP Phase II", implemented by the IOM Missions in Belarus and Ukraine, the State Border Committee of the Republic of Belarus and the State Border Service of Ukraine.

Representatives of border agencies of the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine, the EU Delegation in Belarus and the IOM Mission in Belarus took part in the ceremony.

For further information, please follow this link

09/06/17





### **EU-Georgia Mobility Partnership Local Cooperation Platform meets for the first time** in Tbilisi

On 9 June 2017, the representatives of EU institutions, EU Member States, Georgian authorities and international organizations discussed the mechanisms for dialogue and for monitoring of projects under the Joint Declaration on a Mobility Partnership between the European Union and Georgia.

For further information, please follow this link

25/06/17

# Moldovan migrants contribute to the implementation of Migration and Local Development Programme

More than 200,000 people from 23 Moldovan settlements will benefit from projects on improving the local infrastructure and better living conditions to be carried out within a campaign titled, "Dezvoltăm cu drag ACASĂ" (We Develop with Heart and Soul AT HOME), launched under the aegis of the Migration and Local Development (MiDI) Programme.

The projects will be implemented in 18 villages and 5 towns in Moldova, for which a sum of USD 792,000 will be assigned. As much as USD 118,600 of this sum represent migrants' donation. At the same time, about USD 214,000 was provided by local authorities and USD 460,000 – by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in Moldova, through the MiDl project, implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

For further information, please follow this link

23/06/17

## The Parliament of the Republic of Moldova facilitates recruitment of foreign IT professionals

The Parliament adopted the legislative initiative of Parliament Speaker Adrian Candu, on amendments to the Law no. 200 of 16 July 2010, on the regime of foreigners in the Republic of Moldova and Law no. 180-XVI of July 10, 2008, and on labour migration, which provides for facilitated access to the labour market of the Republic of Moldova for highly qualified foreign IT professionals. This initiative complements the efforts made by the authorities to increase the competitiveness of the Moldovan IT industry, creates an attractive environment in IT field in the context of preparing the creation of IT parks in the country and will stimulate the transfer of advanced technologies to the Republic of Moldova.

For further information, please follow this link

21/06/17

### IOM will help Moldova strengthen diaspora engagement

The General Secretary of the Government of Moldova, Lilia Palii, and the Head of Mission of the International Organization for Migration (OIM) in Moldova, Antonio Polosa, signed the Agreement on the implementation of





the project "Strengthening the Development Capacities of Moldova through the Dialogue of Diaspora with the Country of Origin".

The project's overall objective is to capitalize the migration positive impact upon the socio-economic development of the state through diaspora involvement.

For further information, please follow this link

08/06/17

# EUBAM and Moldova's Bureau of Migration and Asylum launched a campaign aimed at foreigner travelers' awareness of their rights

Moldova's Bureau of Migration and Asylum launched an awareness campaign aimed at foreign travelers to the country. Visitors are being informed on their rights and obligations upon arrival to Moldova. Besides offering information for foreign citizens who decide to live in the Republic of Moldova, the campaign also informs visitors on their rights to work, receive social protection, start a family and access education. For further information, please follow this link

11/06/17

#### EU visa-free travel for Ukraine comes into force

On 11 June 2017, the decision of the Council of the European Union to introduce a visa-free regime for short trips of Ukrainian citizens to 30 countries of the European Union and Schengen zone came into force.

A visa-free regime allows Ukrainians who have a biometric passport to stay and freely travel across Europe for no more than 90 days during any 180-day period.

From now on, Ukrainians can travel to Europe for tourism, visiting relatives, search for business partners, or attending seminars or conferences.

For further information, please follow this link

### Highlights EU Spotlight

20/06/17

## The European Commission releases the EU Skills Profile Tool for Third-Country Nationals

On 10 June 2017 on the occasion of the United Nations' World Refugee Day, the European Commission presented the EU Skills Profile Tool for Third-Country Nationals. It is an off- and online web editor that will make it possible for non-EU nationals to present their skills, qualifications, and experiences in a way that is well understood by employers, education and training providers and organizations working with migrants across the whole European Union.

For further information, please follow this link





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