



## News Digest Issue 22 (July 2017)

### Highlights: Country News

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04/07/17

#### **Azerbaijan simplifies issuance of electronic visas**

ASAN Visa system is improving in Azerbaijan and will be applied not only at airports but also at the customs checkpoints.

In accordance with the presidential decree, ASAN service, Azerbaijan's leading e-Government institution, should ensure consideration of applications of foreigners and stateless persons to obtain a visa for those, who want to visit Azerbaijan, within three hours.

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

20/07/17

#### **Belarus changes the rules of notification on foreigners' stay**

Since 1 October 2017, hotels, sanatoriums, agro-enterprises, as well as legal entities and entrepreneurs who provide accommodation for tourists, will have to inform the internal affairs agencies about the foreigners who move in within three hours. Earlier, the term was 24 hours since the moment of checking in.

Now, if foreigners plan to spend more than five days in Belarus, they need to register. This can be done in a hotel or an agro-hotel. But if tourists rent an apartment or stay with their relatives, they will need contact a local department for citizenship and migration.

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

18/07/17

#### **Belarus and Tajikistan strengthen cooperation in combating transnational crime**

The General Prosecutor's Offices of Belarus and Tajikistan signed a cooperation agreement in Dushanbe. The agreement provides for interaction in protecting the rights and freedoms of citizens, combating crime, including corruption, terrorism, trafficking in arms, drugs and psychotropic substances, irregular migration, trafficking in human beings etc.

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



The Project is funded by the  
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05/07/17

## **Armenia-Georgia cross-border cooperation projects present results**

The results of nine joint Armenian-Georgian cross-border projects have been presented in a brochure entitled “Bridging People and Countries”, to mark the completion of the EU-funded Armenia–Georgia Eastern Partnership Territorial Cooperation (EaP TC) programme.

The brochure provides information about the grant projects, including their main partners, activities, most significant results and lessons learnt, as well as the key cross-border impacts achieved.

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

10/07/17

## **Moldova to open new integration centres for foreigners**

The foreigners coming to Moldova will receive free support and assistance in integration into the social and cultural life of the country, as the Government of Moldova decided to create three integration centers under Migration and Asylum Office of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The centres will be located in Chisinau, Balti and Cahul, and will provide foreigners with information on existing integration activities and programmes. The new structures will be a one-stop shop for receiving requests from immigrants and redirecting them to the authorities and services they need.

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

10/07/17

## **The State Chancellery of Moldova will for the first time independently manage migration project**

On 10 July 2017, the Government of Moldova approved the signing of Amendment I to the Memorandum of Understanding between the State Chancellery of Moldova and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation on Program "Realizing the Migration Potential in the Republic of Moldova".

According to the government’s communication and protocol department, it is for the first time, that in the field of diaspora, migration and development, the donor institution transfers the project management, including financially, directly to the beneficiary institution – the State Chancellery, becoming a unit of implementation..

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

17/07/17

## **Ukraine and Moldova introduce joint border control at Kuchurgan-Pervomaisk crossing**

The joint border crossing is being opened pursuant to an intergovernmental agreement supported by the EU within framework of the bloc's neighbourhood policy aimed at modernizing the integrated management of borders. Control will be exercised on the Ukrainian side at the Kuchurgan control point bordering with





Transdnistria's Pervomaisk crossing point. At the first six-month stage of the project, members of the Customs Service and Border Police of Moldova will jointly control export operations from Transdnistria's region.

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

14/07/17

## Ukraine adopts new Migration Strategy developed in cooperation with UN Migration Agency

On 12 July 2017, the Government of Ukraine adopted a new State Migration Strategy, which will inform national migration policy for the next eight years.

IOM, the UN Migration Agency, contributed to the development of Ukraine's Migration Strategy, at the Government's request and with the support of the EU. The latest migration strategies of seven EU and Eastern Partnership countries – Bulgaria, Georgia, Finland, Hungary, Moldova, Poland and Slovakia – were examined and discussed when drafting Ukraine's Migration Strategy.

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

11/07/17

## European Council adopts EU-Ukraine Association Agreement

On 11 July 2017, the European Council adopted a decision to conclude the Association Agreement with Ukraine on behalf of the European Union.

This is the final step of the ratification process through which the EU and Ukraine commit to a close, long-term relationship in all the main policy areas. It will allow the full implementation of the agreement as of 1 September 2017.

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

# Highlights EU Spotlight

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25/07/17

## EU extends mandate of Mediterranean Anti-smuggling Operation

On 25 July 2017, the European Council extended the mandate of the EUNAVFOR MED Operation Sophia until 31 December 2018. EUNAVFOR MED Operation Sophia is the EU naval operation disrupting the business model of migrant smugglers and human traffickers in the Southern Central Mediterranean. The operation has two supporting tasks: training the Libyan Coastguard and Navy and contributing to the implementation of the UN arms embargo on the high seas off the coast of Libya in accordance with UNSCR 2292 (2016) and 2357 (2017).

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

07/07/17





## **IOM presents its Recommendations to the EU Council Presidency**

Human rights, social cohesion and international cooperation are the focus of recommendations that IOM made to the Estonian Government. Estonia has now taken the helm of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union from July to December 2017.

IOM's twice-yearly recommendations to the rotating EU Presidencies are guided by its Migration Governance Framework which is the first, and so far only, detailed articulation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

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

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