



News Digest **Issue 23 (August 2017)**

Highlights: Country News

28/08/17

The number of asylum seekers increases in Armenia

The number of asylum seekers in Armenia has increased in the first half of 2017, according to the data presented by the National Statistical Service of Armenia. Most asylum seekers were from Syria, Ukraine, Cuba, Iran and Azerbaijan. In addition, 55 people have sought asylum in the first half of 2017 compared to 46 in the previous year.

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

24/08/17

Opinion poll shows that Armenia is the most-accepting state for migrants in CIS

American research-based company, Gallup, created the Migrant Acceptance Index to gauge people's acceptance of migrants based on increasing degrees of personal proximity. The index is a sum of the points across the three questions, with a maximum possible score of 9.0 and a minimum possible score of zero. According to the survey, Armenia (5.78) and Turkmenistan (5.36) are the only countries among the CIS states with rather high scores.

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



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03/08/17

The Ministry of Emergency Situations of Armenia and IOM held joint trainings

Joint trainings were held at the border crossing point of Gogovan by IOM and the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia on the topic *Management of migration flows caused by natural disasters and military actions*. This is the first training on a migration topic under the international aegis and in which Georgia is involved as an observer. The training is part of an Armenian-Georgian cooperation program in the sphere of emergency situations.

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

30/08/17

Foreigners are able to get an e-visa to Azerbaijan within three hours

Starting from 30 August 2017, foreigners and stateless persons can get an electronic visa to Azerbaijan within three hours using the ASAN Visa system. The ASAN Visa system allows for obtaining visa to Azerbaijan in three easy steps – applying, paying a fee and downloading the e-visa.

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

15/08/17

Azerbaijan expelled approximately 1,000 foreigners in July

According to the State Migration Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in July 2017 there were 2803 decisions on violations of migration rules, as well as administrative legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan. These violations by foreigners and stateless persons were uncovered as a result of measures and investigations conducted in Baku city and in other cities and districts of the state.

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

11/08/17

Border services of Belarus and Azerbaijan signed cooperation roadmap

The State Border Service of Azerbaijan and the State Border Committee of Belarus signed a two-year cooperation roadmap for 2018-2019. The document was signed during a meeting between the Chairman of the State Border Committee of Belarus, Anatoly Lappo, and the Chief of Azerbaijan's Border Service, Elchin Guliyev.

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





18/08/17

EU states returned 86 irregular migrants from Georgia

On 18 August 2017, a plane landed in the Tbilisi airport with the first group of Georgian citizens who resided on the territory of the European Union without appropriate documents. The irregular migrants were detained during a large-scale, special operation held in Germany and Greece.

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

16/08/17

379 foreigners have applied for asylum in Georgia this year

The statistics of the Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation of Georgia shows that the majority of requests for asylum were submitted by citizens of Iraq (67), Turkey (41), Egypt (40), Iran (38), India (24) and Russia (22). This year Georgia has refused to grant asylum to 169 applicants. In addition, 121 more cases were dismissed on the basis of a personal statement.

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

08/08/17

Georgia refused entry to about 3,000 foreigners

From January to July 2017 the Georgian authorities denied entry to the country of about three thousand foreigners.

Citizens of India received refusals most often – in the first half of 2017, Georgia refused entry to 571 people. For citizens of Turkey, 492 citizens were refused entry. The citizens of Azerbaijan have also shot into the top three - 418 citizens of this country were not allowed to enter Georgia in the past six months.

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

23/08/17

Moldovan government to step up efforts to reintegrate citizens returning from abroad

On 23 August 2017, the government of Moldova approved the Action Plan for 2017-2020 on the reintegration of Moldovan citizens returning from abroad. The actions envisaged include improvement of school reintegration services and diversification of related measures, youth and elderly programs, as well as employment measures.

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





10/08/17

Moldova to increase funding for migrants returning to start a business

The Program for Attracting Money Transfers to the Economy of Moldova ("PARE 1 + 1"), is increased by MDL 50,000 (nearly USD 2,815). Thus, migrants returning to their homeland to open their own business will receive support from the State in the form of a grant up to MDL 250,000 (nearly USD 14,000).

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

10/08/17

Moldovan government approves draft law on ratification of Agreement on Social Security with Turkey

The purpose of the Agreement is to provide a framework for social security guarantees for Moldovan migrant workers who reside or work in Turkey. According to the document, Moldovan citizens who have been temporarily employed in Turkey, at the age of retirement will receive a pension from the Turkish State and will be insured in the form of social benefits compensatory for the period of their activity in the event of the occurrence of some insured risks, such as disability or loss of the maintainer.

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

09/08/17

More than 3.6 million Ukrainian citizens have received biometric passports since June 2017

Since the visa-free regime came into force with the countries of the European Union (11 June 2017) more than 3.6 million Ukrainian citizens have received biometric passports in order to travel to Europe. At the same time, almost 170,000 Ukrainian citizens took advantage of the simplified system. Thirty-eight per cent of Ukrainians used air transport for travel. The rest used the rail system or crossed the EU border at car checkpoints.

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

07/08/17

Ukraine ratified agreement with Europol

On 7 August 2017, the Law of Ukraine "On the ratification of the Agreement between Ukraine and the European Police Office on Operational and Strategic Cooperation" came into force. The agreement was concluded 14 December 2016 in the Hague and ratified by the Parliament of Ukraine on 12 July 2017.

The agreement provides for the intensification of exchange of operational information and the creation of opportunities for joint crime investigations and search activities.

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





04/08/17

Ukrainian border guards detained more than 1,000 migrants in the first half of 2017

In the first half of 2017, officers of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine detained 1,059 irregular migrants. According to statistics, the largest number of detainees were citizens of Moldova, The Russian Federation, Georgia, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Vietnam, India and Armenia. In addition, more than 2,000 alleged irregular migrants were prohibited from entering Ukraine.

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

Highlights EU Spotlight

24/08/17

The likelihood of dying among people seeking to reach Europe by sea is still “alarming high”

According to the report presented by UNHCR, an estimated 2,253 people died or went missing at sea, and at least 40 died on land routes to Europe in the first half of 2017. Many arrivals, amongst them children, were victims of sexual violence or trafficking.

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

04/08/17

European Commission awards €9.3 million to support refugees in Greece

The European Commission has awarded an additional €9.3 million to UNCHR to provide targeted support to refugees and migrants in Greece. The grant, which will ensure continuity of services on the islands and covers activities including the provision of transportation, accommodation and auxiliary services to relocation candidates, protection and non-formal education for children, interpretation, core relief items and support for victims of sexual and gender-based violence and abuse.

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

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