



News Digest Issue 25 (October 2017)

Project News

18/10/17

Expert meeting of the Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum held in Kyiv

On 17-18 October 2017, the expert meeting on preventing facilitation of irregular migration took place in Kyiv. The event was co-hosted by Ukraine and Lithuania with the support of the European Commission and the IOM Mission in Ukraine under the framework of the Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum. The expert meeting provided a unique occasion for discussions and sharing of experiences between representatives from the European Commission, EUROPOL, EUBAM, EU Member States, EaP countries, Serbia, UN agencies and international organizations (IOM, UNODC, ICMPD), academia and civil society.

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

Highlights: Country News

Armenia

25/10/17

Armenia among top-three remittance-receiving countries in Europe and Central Asia

Armenia is one of the three leading countries in Europe and Central Asia in terms of remittances sent home by labour migrants, according to the World Bank's latest Regional Economic Update on Migration and Mobility in Europe and Central Asia. The World Bank claims that remittances account for 13.9% of Armenia's gross domestic product.

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



The Project is funded by the
European Union



The Project is implemented by
International Organization for Migration



Azerbaijan

10/10/17

Azerbaijan attracts twice as many migrants seeking permanent residence than those leaving the country

According to the State Statistics Committee of Azerbaijan, in 2016, twice as many people arrived in the country for permanent residence compared to the number of those who left it (3,233 and 1,711 people respectively).

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

Belarus

23/10/17

56,000 tourists visited Minsk since the launch of the visa free programme

The opportunity of visa free travel to Belarus brought tourists from 68 countries to Minsk. As of 13 October, 56,000 tourists took advantage of visa free travel to Belarus. The biggest numbers of tourists came from Germany, Poland, Italy, the United States and the UK. Passenger traffic at Minsk National Airport increased by 30% in comparison with the same period last year. According to the Presidential Decree “On establishment of visa-free entry and exit of foreign nationals”, which came into force in January 2017, foreign citizens of 80 countries can enter Belarus for up to 5 days and exit from the territory of Belarus through the border checkpoint at Minsk National Airport.

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

16/10/17

Belarusian and Ukrainian customs agencies discuss implementation of an EU-funded project

Representatives of the customs agencies of Ukraine and the Republic of Belarus met in Gomel on 11-12 October 2017 to discuss an EU-funded project titled “Introduction of an Automated Intelligent Video-Control System at the Road Border Crossing Point Novaya Huta – Novi Yarylovychi at the Belarus-Ukraine Frontier (IVCO)”. Specialists from the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus, the State Fiscal Service of Ukraine, technical experts and representatives of the International Organization for Migration discussed the activities planned under the project.

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



Moldova

12/10/17

First meeting of the inter-ministerial committee on diaspora, migration and development held in Moldova

The first meeting of the inter-ministerial committee on diaspora, migration and development took place on 12 October 2017. The event, organized by the State Chancellery through the Diaspora Relations Bureau, brought together representatives of the central administration and development partners.

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

Ukraine

09/10/17

Readmission agreement signed between Ukraine and Moldova

On 6 October 2017, Moldova and Ukraine signed the Readmission Agreement, as well as the Implementation Protocol on the procedure of its implementation in Chisinau. Having signed these bilateral documents, the States successfully completed the readmission negotiations, which began in 2015.

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

08/10/17

Ukraine and Moldova to foster joint border control

On 7 October 2017, Moldova and Ukraine signed an agreement on joint control at the inter-State border. The agreement between the Moldovan Government and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on joint border control at the common Moldovan-Ukrainian state border crossing points was signed during the official visit of Ukrainian Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman to Chisinau.

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

19/10/17

Ukrainian citizens charged with facilitating irregular migration

Four Ukrainian men were charged with facilitating irregular migration and are due to appear at London's Blackfriars Crown Court on 14 November 2017. The crew members were arrested following the vessel's arrival in Southwold, UK. The yacht is alleged to have sailed across the North Sea from the Netherlands. Officers from



the Border Force and National Crime Agency were patrolling the waters and boarded the yacht soon after it arrived.

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

EU Spotlight

13/10/17

Migrants smuggled from Turkey to Italy on sailing yachts

According to Europol, new dangerous migration trends keep appearing. The EU's police agency says migrants are now being smuggled on sailing yachts from Turkey to Italy.

Europol has logged over 160 trips by this route, noting that migrants are paying up to €6,000 per person. Children are usually charged half price. Such prices may vary by nationality, by the type of boat, and by the number of people transported on the same vessel.

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

10/10/17

IOM presents statistics on new arrivals in the Mediterranean

IOM reports that 140,538 migrants and refugees entered Europe by sea in 2017 through 8 October, with over 75 per cent arriving in Italy and the remainder divided between Greece, Cyprus, and Spain. This compares with 318,207 arrivals across the region through the same period last year. Worldwide, IOM's Missing Migrants Project (MMP) recorded 4,590 migrant fatalities so far in 2017. In the Central Mediterranean, at least eight people drowned and an estimated 20 migrants are missing after a boat carrying dozens collided with a navy vessel off Tunisia's southeast coast on 8 October.

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

Global Spotlight

25/10/17

According to International Organization for Migration, more than two thousand migrants voluntarily returned from Greece to their homeland

Over the past 15 months, more than 2,000 migrants who have voluntarily returned home from Greece have successfully reintegrated back into their countries of origin, stated International Organization for Migration.



Breaking down the origins of voluntarily returning migrants, Pakistan had 1,184 – the most by far. Some 342 returned to Georgia and 173 to Iraq while about 1,750 beneficiaries were male and 334 female.

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

20/10/17

The 7th Global Consultations of Principal Regional Consultative Processes on Migration held in Geneva

The Seventh Global Consultations of Chairs and Secretariats of Principal Regional Consultative Processes on Migration (GRCP 7) took place on 10-11 October 2017 in Geneva under the theme “Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration”. The event was organized by IOM. The meeting brought together Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration as well as their regional partners (UN Regional Commissions and Regional Economic Organizations) to jointly review their respective roles and contributions to the preparatory process of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

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

02/10/17

Filippo Grandi: the world's refugees swell as asylum space shrinks

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, more than two million people fleeing wars or persecution have joined the ranks of the world’s refugees this year, but they often face more restrictive asylum policies, including in Europe and the United States.

They include 650,000 from South Sudan and 500,000 stateless Muslim Rohingya who escaped violence in Myanmar and fled to Bangladesh over the past five weeks.

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

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