

NEWS DIGEST

PANEL ON MIGRATION, MOBILITY
AND INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT



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PROJECT NEWS

19/03/18

The Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration, Mobility and Integrated Border Management presents the new "Experts Speaking" rubric

The Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration, Mobility and Integrated Border Management is happy to present the first issue of the "Experts Speaking" rubric dedicated to the topic of economic integration of migrants. The experts representing both the EU Member States and the Eastern Partnership countries share their views on the topics of economic integration in Italy, issues with legal employment of labour migrants from Ukraine, benefits of inclusive education for immigrant children, etc.

Willing to explore what our experts have to say on economic integration of migrants? We cordially invite you to do so by following [this link](#) ↻

GLOBAL SPOTLIGHT

28/03/18



International Dialogue on Migration took place in New York

The first of the two events scheduled by IOM in 2018, as part of IOM's commitment to helping Member States address various aspects of migration governance and policy-making, was held in New York on 26-27 March 2018. International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) was attended by participants from the UN Member States, civil society and international organizations. IOM Director General, William L. Swing, stressed the importance of partnerships in addressing challenges related to the global governance of migration and keeping the rights of migrants and their families at the forefront.

Curious to know what were the five main takeaways from IDM 2018? They are presented in the following news update: [this link](#) ↻

21/03/18



UNODC, IOM launch new initiative to counter migrant smuggling

On 28 March, at the UN in Vienna, IOM, the United Nations Migration Agency, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) organized an event centring on a Joint Platform on Countering Migrant Smuggling. The new IOM-UNODC initiative encourages the main stakeholders to join forces against the smuggling of migrants. This may include joint research; reinforcing Member States' capacities – upon request – to dismantle criminal networks engaging in migrant smuggling; enhancing assistance to smuggled migrants; or supporting the development of prevention strategies and action plans.

To learn how exactly two UN agencies contribute to preventing and combatting the problem of migrant smuggling as well as to read more about the new initiative, please follow [this link](#) ➔

EU SPOTLIGHT

26/03/18



EU provides additional funds to boost cross-border cooperation between Azerbaijan and Georgia

On 30 March, the EU officially launched six cross-border cooperation projects between Azerbaijan and Georgia, all of which have received grants under the Eastern Partnership Territorial Cooperation Programme (EaP TC). The launching ceremony was held in Tbilisi. The total amount of funding made available by the European Union for implementation of projects is EUR 1.35 million.

If you are interested to learn about the main goals of the EU-funded projects described above please follow [this link](#) ➔

21/03/18

EU Member States' legal and practical responses to migrants and refugees implicate several of their fundamental rights, as enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (EU). The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) has regularly reported on these issues since September 2010. This report highlights key trends and persistent concerns between October 2016 and December 2017. It focuses on five areas: access to territory, reception conditions, asylum procedures, unaccompanied children and immigration detention.

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European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights: Migrant rights increasingly flouted in Europe

In a report recently published by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) the state of migrants' and asylum seekers' rights in the EU Member States is was closely examined. Research relates to the period from October 2016 to December 2017. Despite improvements in some countries, the Agency notes that "several issues persist – and some have even deteriorated."

Curious to know what issues are a source of pressing concerns for the FRA? Please follow [this link](#) ➔

08/03/18

European Parliament released a study dedicated to the Schengen Governance Framework

The study named "The Future of the Schengen Area: Latest Developments and Challenges in the Schengen Governance Framework since 2016", commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE-Committee), analyses the legitimacy of a number of States' decisions to maintain internal border controls. Also, most recent policy proposals in the field of internal police checks are assessed in light of relevant EU legal standards. The paper also questions the legality of the border walls and fences, which have been recently erected at the EU external borders and within the Schengen area.

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



ARMENIA | 16/03/18



Number of pensioners is increasing in Armenia

According to the UN Population Fund, Armenia is close to reaching the threshold of aging population. The Fund predicts that the country will soon go beyond that threshold: people aged 65 and over are expected to make up about 22-23% of the country's total population by 2050.

Curious to learn what are the key two factors transforming Armenia into the state with aging population and what exactly the Government of Armenia is doing to address this problem? Detailed yet succinct answer [by the link](#) ➔



ARMENIA | 01/03/18

Bringing the Colours

The effects of Syrian Armenian economic integration in Armenia



Study on the effects of Syrian Armenian economic integration released

The report on a study on the effects of Syrian Armenian economic integration in Armenia was published on 1 March 2018 on the website of the Netherlands Institute of International Relations. In an exceptional response to the ongoing crisis in Syria, the Republic of Armenia in the past seven years has offered protection to an estimated 22,000 Syrian Armenians, including access to nationality prior to their departure from Syria.

If you are interested to read the full report, please visit [this link](#) ➔



BELARUS | 23/03/18



IOM Belarus organized events dedicated to the issue of human trafficking

Belarus has been hit hard by human trafficking, with 5,500 known cases since 2002, mostly sexual and labour exploitation. The country is taking a dynamic approach to countering the problem by prioritizing protection of victims, prevention of modern-day slavery and prosecution of traffickers. Over the last 16 years, there have been 600 trafficking-related convictions in the country. These tendencies were discussed during the two recent events organized by IOM Belarus in Minsk. On 20 and 21 March, a follow-up event for young people who had participated in a summer camp under the auspices of the UN Migration Agency's IOM X campaign was held. IOM X is a campaign to encourage safe migration and public action to stop exploitation and human trafficking.

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

 **BELARUS** 02/03/18

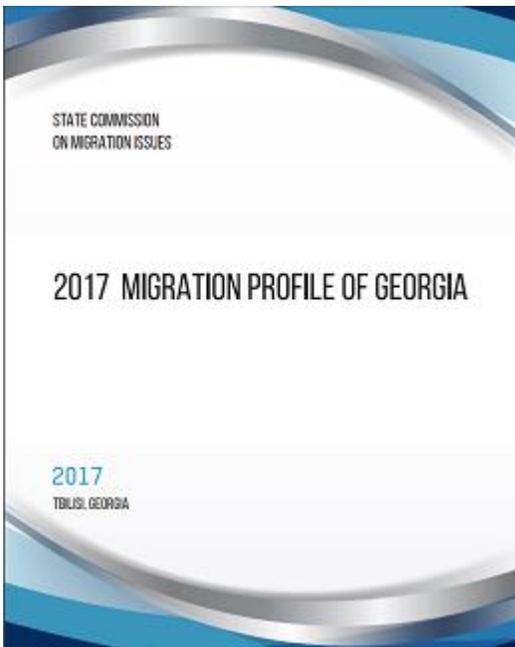


IOM supports Belarusian border guards on readmission issues

Readmission issues, including facilitated readmission, are important for the Republic of Belarus in light of the preparation for signing of the Readmission agreement with the European Union. In this regard, during the period of 18-24 February 2018, the IOM Mission in Belarus organized a study visit on facilitated readmission to Macedonia and Albania for the Belarusian border guard officers.

What exactly Belarusian border guards learned during the visit? The answer is [here](#) ➔

 **GEORGIA** | 15/03/18



Georgia releases 2017 Migration Profile in English

The State Commission on Migration Issues of Georgia released the English version of the country's 2017 Migration Profile.

The document primarily describes the migration-related statistical data for the period of 2015-2016, analyses migration data with regard to its impact in demographic, economic and social areas, and consequently reveals the main trends and changes in the different migratory groups and flows. The document is based predominantly on data obtained from the National Statistics Office of Georgia (Geostat), the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat), the United Nations (UN), the World Bank, and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX), as well as administrative statistics from various Georgian state entities.

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

 **GEORGIA** | 01/03/18



MINISTRY OF LABOUR,
HEALTH AND SOCIAL
AFFAIRS OF GEORGIA

IOM signs Memorandum with the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia

The Memorandum for Successful Regulation and Management of Labour Migration Processes was signed between the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The document was signed by the Deputy Minister of Health, Tamila Barkalaia, and Chief of the IOM Mission in Georgia, Iliana Derilova. Georgia is currently negotiating on the implementation of temporary and circular migration schemes with several EU Member States.

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

UKRAINE | 29/03/18

BORDER SECURITY REPORT

VOLUME 5
MARCH / APRIL 2018

FOR THE WORLD'S BORDER PROTECTION, MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY INDUSTRY
POLICY MAKERS AND PRACTITIONERS

Irregular Migration in Ukraine is in focus of the new issue of Border Security Report

The new issue of Border Security Report covering March-April 2018 states that the migration situation in Ukraine is not threatening and irregular migration has not become a significant problem for the Ukrainian state. The report notes activation of the usage of legal channels to enter Ukraine by the potential irregular migrants from India, Algeria, Morocco, Livia, Pakistan, and Turkey.

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

UKRAINE | 23/03/18



IOM and the State Fiscal Service of Ukraine join efforts for integrated border management

On 23 March 2018, the Chief of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mission in Ukraine, Dr. Thomas Lothar Weiss, and the acting Head of the State Fiscal Service (SFS) of Ukraine, Mr. Myroslav Prodan, signed a Memorandum of Understanding between IOM and the SFS.

The document sets the framework for the expansion of cooperation between the IOM and SFS into an even broader range of issues of common interest, such as customs modernization in Ukraine, simplification of border crossing formalities, harmonization of border crossing procedures and their adaptation to the EU best practices, improvement of inter-agency cooperation on border management, enhancement of risk management and capacity to counter illicit movement of goods, irregular border crossings and corruption.

More information about fruitful cooperation between the State Fiscal Service of Ukraine and the International Organization for Migration since 2013 may be accessed by [this link](#) ➔

UKRAINE | 21/03/18



Ukraine to introduce preliminary verification of the grounds for entering the state

The President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, signed a decree enacting the National Security and Defense Council Resolution dated 1 March 2018 "On Urgent Measures to Neutralize Threats to National Security in the Field of Migration Policy," reports the President's press service.

Under the decree, the Government of Ukraine is entrusted within one month to develop and submit for the Parliament's consideration several bills, including amendments to the laws "On Legal Status of Foreigners and Stateless Persons" and "On Border Control". The amendments would introduce a mechanism for preliminary checks of the grounds for entering Ukraine via electronic notification of intention to visit the country in respect of foreign citizens, primarily Russian, and stateless persons.

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

 UKRAINE | 20/03/18



Ukraine and Qatar sign agreement on visa-free regime

Ukraine and Qatar signed an agreement on the mutual abolition of visa requirements. "The agreement provides that citizens of Ukraine and Qatar who use passports for travelling abroad, valid for at least six months from the date of entry into the states of the other party, can enter, leave, transit and stay without visas on its territory for up to 90 days within 180 days," the press service of the Ukrainian President noted.

What is expected of the document so far? The answer is right at your fingertips! Please follow [this link](#) →

 UKRAINE | 16/03/18



Ukrainians working in Poland transferred about USD 4 bln home

Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Bartosz Cichocki has said the amount of remittances transferred by Ukrainian citizens from Poland to Ukraine grew by almost one and a half times in 2017, to PLN 13 billion, or about USD 3.84 billion. As reported, the National Bank of Poland forecasts that from 200,000 to 300,000 Ukrainians will annually come to Poland for work until the end of 2020.

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

 UKRAINE | 15/03/18



132 Ukrainian citizens detained in Greece on charges of illegal transportation of migrants

As stated by the official representative of the Directorate General for Consular Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Vasyl Kyrylych, 148 citizens of Ukraine were detained in Greece, 132 of them – on charges of illegal transportation of irregular migrants.

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

 UKRAINE | 07/03/18



Poland establishes a hotline to protect the rights of Ukrainian labour migrants

A hotline for questions concerning legal employment and protection of rights has been established in Poland for Ukrainian workers, Polish Press Agency reports. According to Polish Chief Labour Inspector, Wiesław Łyszczek, there are cases where Polish entrepreneurs who employ Ukrainian migrant workers are paying them lower salaries or not ensuring adequate working conditions.

What foreign citizens can learn by calling the hotline and when exactly consultations are available? You can find the answers by the following [link](#) →

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP
Panel on Migration and Asylum

Experts Speaking: Economic Integration of Migrants in Spotlight

The Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum is happy to present you the first issue of the "Experts Speaking" rubric. It is dedicated to the topic of the Panel's most recent event held in Warsaw.

The growing immigrant population in the EU as well as in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) states intensifies the need to develop more comprehensive and effective policy measures in the sphere of economic integration of migrants. Currently, there are around 20 million third country nationals in the EU – or 4% of the total EU population. Seventy-five per cent of them are in France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK, while in countries such as Poland, Romania or Slovakia third country nationals make up less than 0.5% of the population.

The evolution of migration trends is gradually transforming EaP states from origin countries to receiving countries, which brings new challenges. Access to national labour markets in the hosting states plays a vital role for ensuring the well-being of migrants and could be beneficial for the national economies and hosting societies in general.



The Article 39 of the New-York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants, adopted in 2016, reinforced the commitment of the United Nations Member States to combat xenophobia, racism and discrimination against refugees and migrants. The signatory states committed to take measures to improve integration and inclusion, with particular reference to access to education, health care, justice and language trainings.

ON LABOUR MIGRATION

"If labour migration is well managed by host societies, then there will be the opportunity to build up a relationship of complementarity and reciprocal convenience in this process, which will strengthen the economy of the countries of origin, also offering benefits to the host countries. In particular, circular migration managed within a co-development paradigm could create international trade flows and value chains, based on the social network that migrants have in countries of origin, as well as on the cultural and economic capital they can acquire in the destination countries."

ON ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN ITALY

"The economic trend in 2016, which turned out to be blandly positive, brought certain improvements for immigrants: their employment rate rose to 29.2% (2.2 percentage points higher than the Italian nationals); number of businesses run by people born abroad has increased and now stands at 271,000. Current figures confirm the added value for the Italian economy represented by migrant workers, thanks to their positive contribution to public budget and especially to social security sector. Given the young age of immigrants, Italy will be able to count on this advantage for many years to come. But as Italians say: "not all that glitters is gold". In fact, such problems as the use of illegal work and the trafficking of foreign workers are widespread."



Antonio Ricci, Centro Studi e Ricerche IDOS, Immigrazione Dossier Statistico, Italy

ON LABOUR MIGRATION

The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, and specifically the Working Group "Social & Labour Policies and Social Dialogue" operating in its framework, focuses on labour migration from EaP countries to the EU. Trade union representatives and experts who participate in the Working Group point to both positive and negative effects of labour migration on the region's economy. Although there is no demand from the side of civil society organizations to restrict labour migration, they often insist that policies should be in place to make it a win-win scenario for both sending and receiving countries. The list of issues we need to work on includes proper defense of human and labour rights of migrants, including the right to equal pay, decent working and living conditions; fighting "Dutch disease" and other negative effects of migration in sending countries; further regulation of social security issues on bilateral level."



Dzmitry Babicki, CASE Belarus (Center for social and economic research Belarus)

ON THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION

"European educational institutions have an important role to play in bridging the gap in educational attainment between native and immigrant populations. Institutional features such as preschool and school entry age, teacher-pupil ratios, class composition and school tracking can represent useful instruments to enhance immigrant integration. Preschool attendance and the recruiting of teachers originating from abroad, who can help immigrant children by establishing positive role models, might be particularly beneficial for immigrant children."



Maria De Paola, University of Calabria, Italy

ON ECONOMIC INTEGRATION, UKRAINE IN FOCUS

"The economic integration of migrants, based on organized and safe movements, equal status in the labour market, non-discrimination and respect for labour rights, is in the best interests of both migrants themselves (as it provides them with adequate guarantees) and of destination and origin countries that may use migration potential for their development. In this regard, economic integration can and should be the subject of mutual attention and cooperation. Collaboration with the host countries, ensuring legal employment of Ukrainians abroad, their coverage by social insurance and the possibility of transferring social rights to their homeland are important for Ukraine, which is a prominent labour supplier to the EU labour market."



Olena Malynovska, National Institute For Strategic Studies, Ukraine

ON PARTICIPATION IN LABOUR MARKET

"Participation in the labour market is crucial for the social integration of people and the most powerful means to combat exclusion. Integration may take many years, but the failure of new immigrants to enter the labour market early and secure appropriate jobs may have detrimental effects over a lifetime. Conversely, investments to support timely labour-market entry and decent work hold the promise of long-term benefits."



Christiane Kuptsch, International Labour Organization, Switzerland

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. This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The content of this publication can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union. The news and views contained in this media monitoring dispatches, which are provided for information purposes only, do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of IOM or its Member States, nor does IOM represent or endorse the accuracy or reliability of any advice, opinion, statement or other information provided herein.



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