

NEWS DIGEST

PANEL ON MIGRATION, MOBILITY
AND INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT



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GLOBAL SPOTLIGHT

08/04/19



Record high remittances sent globally in 2018

Remittances to low- and middle-income countries reached a record high in 2018, according to the World Bank's latest Migration and Development Brief. The Bank estimates that officially recorded annual remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries reached USD 529 billion in 2018, an increase of 9.6 per cent over the previous record high of USD 483 billion in 2017. Global remittances, which include flows to high-income countries, reached USD 689 billion in 2018, up from USD 633 billion in 2017. Banks were the most expensive remittance channels, charging an average fee of 11 per cent in the first quarter of 2019. Post offices were the next most expensive, at over 7 per cent.

Eager to know the top remittance recipients and average remittance costs? The answer is [here](#)



Almost 20,000 unaccompanied minor asylum seekers registered in the EU last year

In 2018, 19,700 asylum seekers applying for international protection in the Member States of the EU were unaccompanied minors. This is down by more than one third compared with 2017 (31,400) and below the 2014 level (23,100), when the first increase was observed after remaining at a relatively constant level of around 12,000 per year between 2008 and 2013. In 2018, at the EU level, unaccompanied minors accounted for 10 per cent of all asylum applicants younger than 18.

Over half of asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors in the EU in 2018 were the citizens of six countries. Which ones? Find the answer at the following [link](#) ➔

EaP COUNTRY NEWS

 ARMENIA | 16/04/19



Armenia and Iran to exchange information on customs value of goods and vehicles

Armenia and Iran signed a memorandum on the exchange of information on the customs value of goods and vehicles transported across the borders of the two states. Cooperation and mutual support will be implemented through the exchange of data, as well as the effective organization of customs control over goods transported through borders.

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

 AZERBAIJAN | 24/04/19



Azerbaijan removes HIV question from visa application form

Azerbaijan has responded to international calls to remove the necessity of visa applicants to confirm that they are HIV negative when applying for visas. The authorities made the decision to alter the current e-visa system on 23 April following criticism from the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA), which said the HIV question on the application form was discriminatory.

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

 BELARUS | 29/04/19



Number of Belarusian labour migrants growing

Almost 93,000 Belarusians were working abroad in 2019, according to a survey by Belstat. Statistics include workers who spent less than a year abroad. Labour migration from Belarus has been steadily rising from 39,400 workers in 2015 to 59,500 in 2016 and 83,000 in 2017. That year 83.9% of Belarusian labour migrants worked in Russia.

Find the detailed statistics at the [link](#) ➔



Parliament of Georgia presents Action Plan on implementation of EU-Georgia Association Agreement

The Parliament of Georgia presented an Action Plan that outlines key parliamentary activities designed to support the implementation of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement in 2019–2020.

The Action Plan has been developed based on the findings of a baseline study supported by the EU and UNDP in 2017.

You can find out three strategic goals of the Action Plan at the following [link](#) →



More than half of Moldovan citizens visited EU in five years

Over two million Moldovan citizens benefited from the right to free movement to the Schengen area within the period of 2014–2019, since the visa-free regime has been established. Thus, more than six million crossings of the state border were recorded. According to the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, 0.3 per cent of cases of entry refusals and 0.5 per cent of cases of irregular stay of the citizens of Moldova were registered in last five years.

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



EU assists Ukraine with drafting its Integrated Border Management strategy

European experts in Integrated Border Management (IBM) attended Kyiv, Ukraine for the first-ever joint event organized by the European Union Advisory Mission (EUAM) and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex). Ukraine has already established an inter-agency working group on IBM which began its work in March this year, and the expectations are that all parties may be in a position to adopt the IBM strategy this summer.

More information on the event is available at the [link](#) →

Find more news at <http://eapmigrationpanel.org/en/news>

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