Global Spotlight

- Mediterranean arrivals reach more than 110,000 in 2019

EU Spotlight

- Irregular migration into EU at lowest level since 2013

Highlights: Country News

- Over 160 people applied for asylum in Armenia in 2019
- More than 1,400 Azerbaijani citizens readmitted from Europe since 2014
- Belarus, EU sign visa facilitation and readmission agreements
- The volume of remittances to Georgia grew by nine per cent
- Moldova postponed second phase of joint customs and border control in Kuchurgan
- Presidents of Ukraine granted citizenship to more than a thousand foreigners in 2019

GLOBAL SPOTLIGHT

Mediterranean arrivals reach more than 110,000 in 2019

The International Organization for Migration reported that 110,669 migrants and refugees entered Europe by sea during 2019, marking the sixth straight year that at least 100,000 arrivals were recorded on three Mediterranean Sea Routes. The total is only slightly below the 116,273 people who crossed the Mediterranean in 2018, a decline of about five per cent.

Learn more about migrant arrivals and deaths [here](#)
Irregular migration into EU at lowest level since 2013

The number of irregular border crossings detected on the EU’s external borders last year fell to the lowest level since 2013 due to a drop in the number of people reaching European shores via the Central and Western Mediterranean routes.

Preliminary 2019 data collected by Frontex showed a six per cent fall in illegal border crossings along the EU’s external borders to just over 139,000. This is 92 per cent below the record number set in 2015.

Find more statistics at the link 🌐

Over 160 people applied for asylum in Armenia in 2019

According to the State Migration Service of Armenia, 167 people applied for asylum in the country during the first three quarters of 2019. Among those seeking asylum in Armenia are one Azerbaijani citizen, one of the United States, Bangladesh, Congo, Jordan, Ukraine, two citizens of Guinea and Yemen, three citizens of Afghanistan, Egypt, Russia and Georgia, five citizens of Pakistan, six citizens of Turkey and 14 of Iran. The Armenian migration authorities terminated or suspended 43 applications, 27 citizens were denied asylum, 57 citizens were granted refugee status, and refugee status for 70 citizens was terminated.

Learn top two countries of origin at the link 🌐

More than 1,400 Azerbaijani citizens readmitted from Europe since 2014

Since 2014, as many as 1,445 citizens of Azerbaijan have been readmitted from European countries, Vusal Huseynov, Head of the State Migration Service announced during a press conference. He noted that the Azerbaijani citizens were readmitted mainly from Germany, Austria, France, Sweden and Belgium.

For further information, please follow this link 🌐
Belarus, EU sign visa facilitation and readmission agreements

The agreement provides for mutual facilitation of visa procedures for a broad spectrum of citizens and for reducing visa fees. Citizens will be able to apply for visas to embassies of European nations and to visa centres.

The price for a Schengen visa for Belarusians will drop to 35 euro while the decision to issue a visa or not will be made within ten days (30 days if additional background checks are required). Many categories of citizens will be able to apply for visas without paying the fee depending on the purpose of the visit and will be able to get multiple-entry visas with longer periods of validity using a simplified procedure. The cost of Belarusian visas for European Union citizens will drop to 35 euro as well.

Apart from that, the list of justifications for issuing free visas for non-commercial purposes will be expanded. The duration of stay of foreigners in Belarus will be doubled from 90 days per year to 180 days.

Find more details on the agreements [here](#).

The volume of remittances to Georgia grew by nine per cent

The volume of remittances to Georgian commercial banks via electronic transfer systems in 2019 was record-breaking, amounting to USD 1.7 billion, which is 9.3 per cent more than in 2018 (USD 1.6 billion in 2018 and USD 1.3 billion in 2017), the National Bank of Georgia reports.

Most of the money was transferred to Georgia from the Russian Federation: USD 428.9 million, which is 24.7 per cent of the total volume of transfers.

Learn the geographical origin of the remittances at the [link](#).

Moldova postponed second phase of joint customs and border control in Kuchurgan

The Moldovan authorities decided to postpone the implementation of the second phase of joint customs and border control with Ukraine on the Transnistrian border in Kuchurgan until 1 August 2020.

The Ministry of Finance of Moldova additionally announced on 15 January that economic agents from the Transnistrian region will receive permission to cross the border checkpoints Pervomaisk-Kuchurgan, Goyanul Nou-Platonovo, and Novosavitskoye-Kuchurgan to carry out customs registration of goods without levying import or export duties until 31 January 2021.

Learn more about joint border control at the [link](#).
Presidents of Ukraine granted citizenship to more than a thousand foreigners in 2019

During 2019, 1,090 persons were accepted into the citizenship of Ukraine by decrees of the President of Ukraine. Last year, mainly people from the Russian Federation were accepted into the citizenship of Ukraine (181), as well as Syrians (124), Armenians (105), and 89 stateless persons.

Find more statistics at the following link

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

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