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GLOBAL SPOTLIGHT

IOM launches guidance to improve protection of vulnerable migrants from exploitation and abuse

On 20 February, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) launched a new suite of publications to support the identification of vulnerabilities associated with migration and improve the protection and assistance available to migrants.

IOM’s approach to migrant vulnerability is rooted in the principle that the human rights of migrants should be upheld, promoted, and migrants should be afforded protection and assistance they require.

The tools are available for download here.
New EU visa rules come into force

New EU rules on short-stay visas apply worldwide from 2 February 2020. They make it easier for legitimate travellers to apply for a visa to come to Europe, facilitating tourism, trade and business, while providing more resources for countering irregular migration risks and threats to internal security.

The changes apply to travellers from all countries which need visas to travel to the EU. Currently, citizens from 105 non-EU countries or entities are required to have a visa. Nothing changes for countries benefitting from visa-free travel to the EU because the new rules do not apply to their citizens.

Learn details on the new rules at the link

The volume of remittances to Armenia grew by ten per cent in 2019

In 2019, USD 1.959 billion was sent to Armenia by individuals overseas via bank transfers. This is an increase of 9.7 per cent (USD 174 million) over 2018.

The largest volume of overseas transfers to Armenia in the last ten years was recorded in 2013, exceeding USD 2 billion.

Learn top two countries of origin at the link

Non-citizens receive right-to-travel documents in Azerbaijan

Since February, Azerbaijan has been issuing travel-related documents to non-citizens—including asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons—following the 1951 UN Convention relating to the status of refugees.

A first batch of 10 out of 83 refugees received the documents at a special ceremony in the capital Baku.

For further information, please follow this link
Number of labour migrants in Belarus increased

The number of foreigners who came to Belarus for employment purposes increased by almost a quarter last year. In 2019, more than 20,800 foreigners arrived in Belarus for employment. This is 4,700 more than in 2018.

Russians make up the largest number of labour migrants to Belarus: 6,700. Almost every fifth employed migrant is a Chinese citizen (4,300). Ukrainians (3,100) are also among the top-three nationalities of labour migrants in Belarus.

Learn more on the labour migrants portfolio [here](#)

Association implementation report on Georgia released

On 6 February, the European Commission published their Association implementation report on Georgia, which set out the state of play on Georgia’s implementation of its commitments under the EU—Georgia Association Agreement since the EU—Georgia Association Council meeting on 5 March 2019.

Concerning Georgia’s visa-free regime with the EU, the report stated that almost 900,000 visits have been made by Georgian citizens since its entry into force. However, the number of asylum requests made by Georgians in EU/Schengen countries remained high in 2019.

Find more information on the report at [link](#)

Moldova establishes moratorium on citizenship by investments

No applications for getting Moldova’s citizenship through investments will be received until 1 September 2020. The parliament established a moratorium on the reception of new applications for getting citizenship through investments.

Statistics shows that eight people have received Moldova’s citizenship since the relevant law has entered into force.

Find more information at the [link](#)
Ukraine ratifies agreement on cooperation in the field of labour migration with Lithuania

On 5 February, the Ukrainian Parliament ratified an agreement with Lithuania on employment and cooperation in the field of labour migration. The purpose of the agreement is to strengthen cooperation and provide mutual assistance in protecting the rights and interests of workers of both countries, both Ukraine and Lithuania, which will facilitate the realization of the right to work.

Find more details at the following link

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

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