Global Spotlight

IOM, UNHCR announce temporary suspension of resettlement travel for refugees

EU Spotlight

EU closes Schengen borders for 30 days

Highlights: EaP Country News

- Citizens of Armenia and Georgia will be able to cross the border with ID cards
- Number of incoming foreigners in Azerbaijan grew by 11 per cent in 2019
- Belarus extends period of stay for foreigners
- Georgia closes entry for foreigners
- Moldova restricts border crossing
- Third of Ukrainians in Poland lost or limited their jobs due to coronavirus

GLOBAL SPOTLIGHT

17/03/20

IOM, UNHCR announce temporary suspension of resettlement travel for refugees

IOM and UNHCR are taking steps to suspend resettlement departures for refugees. This temporary measure will be in place only for as long as it remains essential.

As resettlement remains a life-saving tool for many refugees, UNHCR and IOM are appealing to States, and working in close coordination with them, to ensure that movements can continue for the most critical emergency cases wherever possible.

Find more details on the suspension here 🌐
EU closes Schengen borders for 30 days

All Schengen Area Member States have approved a plan proposed by the European Commission, which foresees the closure of the external borders of the territory, for at least a period of 30 days, as the most extreme measure taken by the block to halt the further spreading of the COVID-19.

The final move was announced earlier in a press conference of the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, and the president of the European Council Charles Michel, who explained that all borders would be closed for a period of 30 days for all non-essential travel.

Learn the exceptions at the link 🌐

Citizens of Armenia and Georgia will be able to cross the border with ID cards

Armenia and Georgia are facilitating the movement of their citizens in both directions, and soon they will be able to cross the border with their ID cards. The news was announced by Prime Minister of Armenia, Nikol Pashinyan, commenting on his visit to Georgia during which he signed the respective memorandum of intentions.

For further information, please follow the link 🌐

Number of incoming foreigners in Azerbaijan grew by 11 per cent in 2019

According to the Head of the State Migration Service of Azerbaijan, the number of foreigners who visited Azerbaijan in 2019–2020 has increased by 11 per cent.

Over the past two months of this year, the number of migrants who arrived in the country increased by 17 per cent compared to the same period of the last year.

The number of foreigners residing in the country increased by 12 per cent in 2019 compared to 2018. The number of people having a temporary residence permit in Azerbaijan also increased by ten per cent.

Find more migration statistics of Azerbaijan at the link 🌐
Belarus extends period of stay for foreigners

According to the press secretary of the Internal Affairs Ministry, Olga Chemodanova, the period of stay of foreign nationals in Belarus has been extended.

"Due to the fact that a number of countries have imposed travel restrictions, the Citizenship and Migration Department of the Belarusian Internal Affairs Ministry will extend the period of stay of foreign nationals up to 90 days, and if necessary, beyond this period," Olga Chemodanova informed.

Learn how to apply for an extension [here](#).

Georgia closes entry for foreigners

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, Georgia has closed borders for foreigners since 18 March with the exception for special cases.

According to Foreign Minister, David Zalkaliani, the ban on entry into the country will not affect staff of diplomatic missions accredited in Georgia, members of international organizations and their families. Also, this will not affect mixed families, if one of the spouses or a child is a citizen of another country.

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

Moldova restricts border crossing

The decision of the National Public Health Commission of Moldova No. 9, dated 15 March, prohibits the crossing of the Moldovan–Ukrainian state border starting from 15 March and the entry of foreign citizens into the country through the Moldovan–Romanian state border starting from 17 March.

The restrictions shall not refer to foreigners and stateless people permanently/temporarily residing in Moldova, drivers and staff servicing vehicles, who carry goods, crews of aircraft/ships and brigades of train liners. The exceptions are also members of diplomatic missions and consular offices accredited in the Republic of Moldova, of international organizations / missions and their family members. For other categories of foreigners, entering Moldova may be authorized following the coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration.

Find more information [at the link](#).
Third of Ukrainians in Poland lost or limited their jobs due to coronavirus

A third of Ukrainian citizens who live and work in Poland have reported losing or significantly restricting work due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Sixty per cent of Ukrainians surveyed say they felt the effects of the restrictions imposed by the Polish government due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thirty per cent of respondents lost their jobs or had to significantly limit it. Twenty-seven per cent experienced other problems related to employment. Three per cent of respondents lost their habitations in Poland.

Find more details at the following link 📌

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

Should you wish to be excluded from this distribution list or to add your colleagues to it, please do not hesitate to contact eapmigrationpanel-iomkyiv@iom.int