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GLOBAL SPOTLIGHT

06/12/19

IOM launches Return and Reintegration Platform

On 6 December, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) with support from the European Union launched the Return and Reintegration Platform, a global tool that aims at disseminating knowledge and good practices in the field of migrant return and reintegration.

The platform is intended to share knowledge, expertise and lessons learnt among practitioners in host, transit and origin countries. Through this unique community of practice, users will be able to take part in online discussions with peers through thematic groups, attend online courses and webinars, share resources and publications and showcase flagship initiatives.

The platform is accessible here.
**EU SPOTLIGHT**

04/12/19

**New Frontex Regulation comes into force**

Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, is gaining new responsibilities and tools to more effectively support EU Member States and Schengen Associated Countries in managing their external borders to provide a high level of security for all their citizens.

The new European Border and Coast Guard Regulation that came into force paves the way for the creation of Europe’s first uniformed service. Soon, Frontex will count on 10,000 border and coast guard officers to assist national authorities with border control and migration management.

Learn main Frontex activities provided by the Regulation at the [link](#)

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**EaP COUNTRY NEWS**

ARMENIA | 13/12/19

**Armenia to improve customs and border control procedures**

The Government of Armenia approved the Strategic Plan for Development and Improvement of Administration of the State Revenue Committee of the Republic of Armenia for 2020–2024, which will help enforce the basic set of principles and guidelines for tax and customs authorities, as well as comply with Armenia’s international commitments. The document outlines the priorities for the coming years, aimed at improving tax and customs administration.

Find more details on the document at the [link](#)

AZERBAIJAN | 04/12/19

**Azerbaijan introduced privileges for migrants over 65 years old**

According to the changes adopted by the collegium of the State Migration Service, foreigners or stateless persons older than 65 or persons with disabilities of the first degree (in the case of submitting an appropriate supporting document) will not be interviewed to verify knowledge of the rights and obligations stipulated by the laws of Azerbaijan, as well as the state language when applying for a permanent residence permit.

For further information, please follow this [link](#)
Belarus may introduce biometric passports in 2021

The ID card will replace some functions of today's passport and will be the only identity document. The new biometric passport will be a document for travelling abroad only. The new biometric documents will replace the entire line of documents in use in Belarus. These are service and diplomatic passports, as well as documents of refugees and stateless persons. Apart from the citizens of Belarus, ID cards will be issued to foreigners and stateless persons permanently residing in the country.

Read more about biometric documents in Belarus here 🌐

Results of EU–Georgia visa liberalization agreement discussed in Tbilisi

With its third anniversary approaching, the EU-Georgia visa liberalization agreement has allowed half a million Georgians to access visa-free travel to the Schengen zone.

Policymakers and practitioners from the EU and the Government of Georgia gathered in Tbilisi to discuss ways to solidify Georgia’s compliance with the benchmarks of the Visa Liberalization Action Plan.

Learn more information presented at the event at the link 🌐

Moldova extends moratorium on citizenship through investments programme

The moratorium on the citizenship through investments programme will be extended by another two months, starting from 20 December 2029. In last July, a moratorium was established on the reception of new applications on getting Moldova’s citizenship through investment for a four-month period.

Find more details at the link 🌐
Association Implementation Report on Ukraine published

The new President, Parliament and Government of Ukraine have all stated their commitment to the continued implementation of the EU–Ukraine Association Agreement. A report published by the EU on 16 December 2019 states that over the past year Ukraine has adopted important legislation and strengthened institutions, as demanded by the Ukrainian citizens. Nevertheless, further work is needed, particularly to improve the business and investment climate in the country.

Read the full report at the following link

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

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