



## NEWS FROM UKRAINE

### **EU earmarks EUR 23 million to improve border management and Eastern Partnership regional cooperation**

The European Commission has approved a new support package for the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood of just over EUR 23 million to help improve security, boost trade and increase mobility for people living in the region by implementing border management rules and adopting best practices on the Armenian-Georgian and Ukrainian-Belarus borders in line with EU standards.

This project, which is part of the Eastern Partnership Flagship Initiative on Integrated Border Management (IBM), will help "reduce corruption, smuggling and people trafficking in the area and making it safer as a result."

"Making borders more efficient not only helps making countries more secure, it also opens up trade and job opportunities," said Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Commissioner Štefan Füle, adding he was pleased that "thanks to this new package of support, we are providing millions of people in Eastern Partnership countries with more opportunities to make a living and be more mobile in their daily lives."

**Read more:** EU Neighbourhood Info Centre, 25 September, 2012

[http://www.enpi-info.eu/maineast.php?id\\_type=1&id=30314&lang\\_id=450&utm\\_source=Oempro&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_content=Subscriber%231348&utm\\_campaign=EU%20earmarks%20%E2%82%AC23%20million%20to%20improve%20border%20management%20and%20Eastern%20Partnership%20regional%20cooperation](http://www.enpi-info.eu/maineast.php?id_type=1&id=30314&lang_id=450&utm_source=Oempro&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=Subscriber%231348&utm_campaign=EU%20earmarks%20%E2%82%AC23%20million%20to%20improve%20border%20management%20and%20Eastern%20Partnership%20regional%20cooperation)

### **For Ukrainians it's easier to get a Spanish visa than Italian one**

According to the study "EU visa policy in Ukraine. Independent findings 2012," the hardest visas to get for Ukrainians are Italian and Czech, the easiest - Spanish and Greek.

The study results were presented at the press conference in Kyiv on 24 September, 2012.

The Head of the "Europe without Barriers" organization Iryna Sushko informed that the monitoring of Schengen visa practice was conducted in summer of 2012. According to Ms. Sushko, the consulates applicants were interviewed in Kyiv (1,300 people) and regions (900), the consuls and staff of 23 consulates in Ukraine were interviewed as well.

She noted that the data obtained allowed to "put the EU consulates in four conditional baskets."

"According to the study, Italy, the Czech Republic and the Great Britain have problematic visa policy, Germany, France, Belgium, Finland, Greece, Slovenia and the Netherlands have contrast policy, Latvia, Lithuania, Spain, Finland, Sweden, Austria, Portugal, Denmark have neutral visa policy. Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Estonia have friendly consular practice," the expert said.

In addition, there are two categories more – "the leaders of progress and leaders of concerns." The first category includes countries, which consular offices are moving towards more friendly standards. These are Spain and Greece.



The policy of the Consulate of Italy arises concern. “The total time and efforts required to obtain an Italian visa is the highest,” the expert explained and added that the Czech Republic also demonstrates a very low percentage of long-term visas issuance and high failure rate.

“Britain, which is not part of the Schengen area, arises a separate concern as it avoids systemic steps to simplify the visa practice, conducting the most closed and non-transparent visa policy in the EU,” Iryna Sushko summed up.

**Read more:** ForUm, 24 September, 2012

<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2012/09/24/115509.html>

## **Teixeira: Ukraine implementing action plan on visa facilitation with EU too slowly**

Head of the EU Delegation in Ukraine Jose Manuel Pinto Teixeira has said Ukraine is implementing the Action Plan on the liberalization of its visa regime with the EU too slowly.

“We have a process of liberalization of the visa regime, we have an action plan that clearly states what steps are needed for the introduction of a visa-free regime between Ukraine and the EU. However, Ukraine unfortunately is not moving in this direction as fast as it could. Moldova, for example, has already moved to the second phase of the implementation of the visa facilitation action plan, while Ukraine is still at the first phase,” he said in an exclusive interview with Interfax-Ukraine.

Teixeira expressed hope that the Ukrainian government will be more active in implementing the action plan to liberalize the visa regime, so that in the future the EU could cancel visas for Ukrainians.

According to annual statistics, the number of visas issued to Ukrainians is increasing, the Ambassador said.

He also denied media reports that the current problems in the relations between Ukraine and the EU affected the situation with the issuing of visas to Ukrainians.

“I want to deny it categorically. In fact, we want to continue to move towards visa facilitation, and strongly encourage the Ukrainian government to pursue the action plan more actively,” the European diplomat said.

**Read more:** Europe without Barriers, 3 September, 2012

[http://novisa.com.ua/en/news/?news\\_id=269](http://novisa.com.ua/en/news/?news_id=269)

## **Visa centres of Finland opened in Ukrainian cities**

Visa centres of Finland were opened in Odesa, Donetsk, Kharkiv and Lviv, Director of the press service of the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine Oleh Voloshyn informed.

According to Mr. Voloshyn, it will simplify the procedure for obtaining Finnish visas for Ukrainian citizens. Mr. Voloshyn also welcomed the decision of the USA Embassy to simplify visa process. “Actions of the American partners should be an example for all countries. The five-year visas to the USA have become a norm, they greatly simplified the visa process,” the Director of the Foreign Ministry press service noted.

**Read more:** ForUm, 18 September, 2012

<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2012/09/18/160548.html>



## Polish visa issuance to Ukrainians doubles

By the end of 2012 Poland plans to issue up to one million visas to Ukrainians, Consul General of Poland in Kyiv Rafal Wolski said during the round table “EU visa practice in 2012: is there a change?”

In particular, Mr. Wolski reminded that the issuance of visa by Polish consulates in Ukraine has a constant increase of 40%. At the same time he noted that there is a “big gray area around the visa issuance in Ukraine. Little is being done to overcome it.” According to Mr. Wolski, Ukrainians often turn to intermediaries and therefore “criminal methods of creativity appear.”

Mr. Wolski mentioned a large number of forged work permits, invitations. In addition, there is a new service, he said: “good visa history, which costs USD 500.”

“Fake visas are printed and put into real passports,” Consul informed.

**Read more:** ForUm, 24 September, 2012

<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2012/09/24/134309.html>

## IOM: No spike in human trafficking at Euro 2012

International Organization for Migration (IOM) says the European football championship earlier this summer did not result in a spike in human trafficking as some experts and law enforcement agencies had feared.

IOM says preliminary findings show there was no increase in the number of victims of sexual or labour exploitation or in child begging that could be linked to the Euro 2012 tournament despite an additional one million people entering Poland and Ukraine during June, 2012.

IOM spokesman Jean-Philippe Chauzy told reporters in Geneva that IOM anti-trafficking hotlines also did not register an increase in calls.

**Read more:** KyivPost, 4 September, 2012

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/world/iom-no-spike-in-human-trafficking-at-euro-2012-312470.html>

## Cases of human trafficking with purpose of labour exploitation became more frequent – IOM

This was informed by the spokesperson of IOM Ukraine Varvara Zhluktenko during the press conference “Migration of labour force: who comes to work in Ukraine?”

“The data obtained by the IOM Mission in Ukraine show that starting from 2010 there were more cases of use of forced labour than cases of sexual exploitation. In particular, victims, who obtained assistance from IOM, were exploited mainly on the territory of the Russian Federation. The second place with a big difference belongs to Poland, and the third place belongs to exploitation for forced labour on the territory of Ukraine,” Ms. Zhluktenko said.

She emphasized that the problem of human trafficking for forced labour on the territory of Ukraine is relatively new phenomenon, victims of which belong to the area of activity of the IOM providing them with the various social, legal and medical assistance.



“Since 2007, the IOM Mission in Ukraine rendered assistance to almost three thousand victims of labour exploitation. They included foreigners exploited for forced labour in Ukraine. We dealt with cases, when citizens of Moldova and Azerbaijan were exploited on private agricultural enterprises; Uzbeks and Pakistanis on private granite production and processing enterprises; the Chinese in private construction companies; and women from Kyrgyzstan in private sewing factories in Ukraine,” the IOM’s representative told.

**Read more:** Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia, 6 September, 2012  
[http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/3842/cases\\_of\\_human\\_traffic\\_with\\_purpose\\_of\\_labour\\_exploitation\\_became\\_more\\_frequent\\_iom](http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/3842/cases_of_human_traffic_with_purpose_of_labour_exploitation_became_more_frequent_iom)

## **EUBAM holds first training session on trafficking in human beings**

The European Union Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM) to Moldova and Ukraine has held its first ever specific training session on trafficking in human beings (THB) in a programme that was developed by investigation experts with a background in illegal migration and THB.

“Who is a victim of trafficking in human beings and who is a perpetrator?” was a question the young team of Ukrainian and Moldovan border guards had to answer during the training session at the Tudora border crossing point on 18 and 19 September.

The first part of the training consisted of theoretical lectures and exercises, while psychologists also shared their experience about trafficked persons and how to recognize a case of trafficking.

On the second day, the group split up into four teams of mixed countries and mixed genders for a number of practical exercises – border crossing scenarios were simulated requiring the young border guards to act and react in the right way.

**Read more:** EU Neighbourhood Info Centre, 25 September, 2012  
[http://www.enpi-info.eu/maineast.php?id\\_type=1&id=30289&lang\\_id=450&utm\\_source=Oempro&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_content=Subscriber%231111&utm\\_campaign=EUBAM%20holds%20first%20training%20session%20on%20trafficking%20in%20human%20beings](http://www.enpi-info.eu/maineast.php?id_type=1&id=30289&lang_id=450&utm_source=Oempro&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=Subscriber%231111&utm_campaign=EUBAM%20holds%20first%20training%20session%20on%20trafficking%20in%20human%20beings)

## **Moldova-Ukraine border: pilot project reports 20 per cent reduction in crossing times**

A pilot project on the Ukraine – Moldova border, supported by the European Union Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM) to Moldova and Ukraine, has helped to bring down crossing times for travellers by up to 20%.

An evaluation of the Jointly Operated Border Crossing Point (JOBCP) pilot project at Rossoshany – Briceni – located on the northern segment of the Moldova – Ukraine border – has noted that crossing times for travellers and goods at the JOBCP, located on the Ukrainian side of the border at Rossoshany, were down by as much as 15%–20% by the end of the six-month pilot.

The JOBCP pilot project has also served to enhance cooperation and trust between the border authorities of both countries, with Moldovan and Ukrainian border guards performing their duties from a single booth. From a traveller’s point of view, it means being stopped only by the authorities of the entry country.

The Rossoshany – Briceni project represents the first time Moldovan and Ukrainian border authorities have



jointly established a BCP that operates according to European Union standards. The project is the product of a joint working group established by EUBAM in early 2008. Since then, the mission has organized 24 working-group meetings as preparation for the JOBCP. The pilot project began shortly after a JOBCP Protocol was signed by the border guard and customs services of Moldova and Ukraine in December 2011.

Thanks to the improvements noted over the past six months, Rossoshany – Briceni will now continue operations as a JOBCP, with both Moldovan and Ukrainian authorities also now considering the possibility of establishing JOBCPs elsewhere on the Moldova – Ukraine border.

**Read more:** EU Neighbourhood Info Centre, 17 September, 2012

[http://www.enpi-info.eu/maineast.php?id\\_type=1&id=30202&lang\\_id=450&utm\\_source=Oempro&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_content=Subscriber%231106&utm\\_campaign=Moldova-Ukraine%20border%3A%20pilot%20project%20reports%2020%20per%20cent%20reduction%20in%20crossing%20times](http://www.enpi-info.eu/maineast.php?id_type=1&id=30202&lang_id=450&utm_source=Oempro&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=Subscriber%231106&utm_campaign=Moldova-Ukraine%20border%3A%20pilot%20project%20reports%2020%20per%20cent%20reduction%20in%20crossing%20times)

## Cross-border migrant smuggling group exposed

During a special operation, organized by the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine in the Lviv region, a cross-border criminal group transporting irregular immigrants from Southeast Asia to the European Union was exposed.

Border guard department “Krakivets” of Mostyska squad detained a group of “travelers” from Afghanistan, including a year and a half old child, in 50 metres from the state border line. Later on the alleged organizers of irregular migrants smuggling were exposed. A criminal group consists of citizens of Russia, Germany, Tajikistan and Ukraine.

**Read more:** UNN, 17 September, 2012

<http://www.unn.com.ua/en/news/918810-a-group-of-illegal-migrants-together-with-the-organizers-were-detained-at-the-border/>

## Spain refused free treatment of irregular immigrants

New laws that deny irregular immigrants the right to free medical care came into force in Spain, BBC reports.

From now migrants without a temporary residence permit can not be treated in the public health facilities. The exception is a person under 18, pregnant women or people in need of emergency medical care.

This step is a part of austerity measures imposed by the Conservative government. Reducing government expenditures should help Spain to fulfill obligations to reduce the budget deficit.

The new rules have caused resentment among physicians. Human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, have accused the Spanish government of violating international obligations.

**Read more:** UNN, 1 September, 2012

<http://www.unn.com.ua/en/news/893439-spain-refused-free-treatment-of-illegal-immigrants/>

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*Compiled by Communications team of IOM Ukraine*