



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

IOM UKRAINE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2016, the IOM Mission in Ukraine identified and assisted **1,151 victims of trafficking** who suffered from forced labour and sexual exploitation in 21 different countries, including Ukraine. This represents an **increase of 56%** in comparison to 2015. Heightened vulnerabilities of population to risks of human trafficking are believed to be connected with the protracted conflict and the political, social and economic instability in Ukraine.
- The Government of Ukraine and the Embassy of **Japan** announced a number of Japan-funded projects for 2017, which will provide recovery support to the eastern regions of Ukraine. Total funding allocated amounts to USD 3.9 mln, with almost **one million** allocated for the next phase of a **community development project** implemented by IOM.

IOM supports Ukrainian Border Guards anti-corruption efforts and staff reform

The Ukrainian State Border Guard Service has started recruiting some 800 staff to serve at the two major entry points to Ukraine under a new IOM-supported initiative. The initiative launch event at Boryspil airport near Kyiv was attended by Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman, Minister of Internal Affairs Arsen Avakov, the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch, the Head of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine Viktor Nazarenko, and IOM Ukraine's Senior Programme Coordinator Alessia Schiavon.

IOM supported this initiative with funding from the U.S. Department of State by providing software and hardware for the e-recruitment system, developing modern selection procedures, updating training programmes for border guards, including English language courses, as well as by assisting with the recruitment advertising. IOM also facilitates engagement of the EU and national experts to ensure transparency and impartiality of the recruitment process.

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Community festival in Sviatohirsk contributes to recovery of the Donbas

Communities in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, which have benefited from IOM's initiatives funded by the Government of Japan, celebrated the completion of the project at the festival in Sviatohirsk. The Communities' Festival brought together some 250 participants, who shared their best practices in social cohesion, brainstormed on how to make their communities' social cohesion plans sustainable and long-lasting, and enjoyed the performances by talented dancers and singers from the Donbas, as well as by masters from the Ukraine-Japan Centre. The event was attended by H.E. Mr. Shigeki Sumi, the Ambassador of Japan, and Mr. Pavlo Zhebrivskyi, Head of the Donetsk Regional State Administration.



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Journalists from Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus engaged in IOM's counter-trafficking initiative



A simulation of a talk-show moderated by Andrii Kulykov, media expert, TV and radio anchor, with a support of Larysa Denysenko, prominent Ukrainian journalist and writer, was remarkable and practical exercise for journalists from Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova participating in the Counter-Trafficking, Media Advocacy and Ethics Training. The training was organized by IOM with funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway to equip media representatives with skills and knowledge enabling them to report human trafficking in line with the ethical standards.

Training proved to be inspiring and effective: some of the training participants have prepared counter-trafficking media products right away after returning home, while others told they were going to engage into advocacy media-projects countering modern-day slavery.

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People with disabilities in focus of IOM's aid

Oksana is an IOM beneficiary from conflict-affected eastern Ukraine. She is the mother of two girls, the older one has a disability and needs a wheelchair to move around. The situation of the family has worsened in the recent years, as Oksana's mother has suffered several blood strokes. Now the young woman has to take care of her as well. Despite Oksana's husband works in a coal mine, his salary and the social benefits they receive for the child with disability, still hardly cover family's basic expenses. "Since we live on a limited budget, IOM's assistance is a significant contribution to our family," the woman says.

This year, the family benefited from hygiene and winterization assistance, provided by IOM with funding from the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO).

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Border management practitioners discuss the balance between national security and migrants' rights

On 15 March 2017, Lviv hosted the international conference on integrated management of common border, which, apart from promoting coordinated approach to the border management, marked the successful completion of an EU-funded project implemented by IOM that aimed at strengthening security along the common Ukraine-Belarus border.

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One of the conference moderators, **Mr. Vladimirs Zaguzovs**, Head of the Administration Department of the State Border Guard of Latvia and IOM short-term expert, discussed the latest developments in the European border and migration management [in an interview with IOM Ukraine](#).