



## **New EU-supported project to make crossing Ukraine-Moldova border easier for more than three million people annually**

6 February 2018 – The Financial

Travellers and traders using the border crossing between Ukraine and Moldova will soon experience shortened queues and waiting times thanks to a new European Union-funded project.

Implemented by the International Organization for Migration, the UN Migration Agency, the project will focus on two border crossing points: Kuchurhan-Pervomaisk and Reni-Giurgiulesti.

The project will support the modernization of the crossing points and the establishment of a jointly operated-border crossing point regime where Ukrainian and Moldovan border and customs agencies will work “under one roof” on the Ukrainian side of the frontier.

[READ MORE](#)

## **Lure of Polish riches leaves Ukraine bereft of workers**

19 February 2018 – Bloomberg

Official Ukrainian data show 7 per cent of the ex-Soviet republic’s workforce has left since 2015 – however the number is probably much higher since Ukrainians now enjoy visa-free travel inside the EU. Twelve per cent of Ukrainians have found foreign employment or plan to soon, according to the International Organization for Migration.

[READ MORE](#)

## **Ukraine’s National Bank sees risk of increased labour out-migration in coming years**

5 February 2018 – Kyiv Post

The National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) has pointed out a risk of increasing migration processes in coming years, including labour migration from Ukraine, according to an inflation report for January posted on the central bank’s website. “Migration processes can intensify in the coming years, particularly, the out-migration to Poland. The additional risk of increased labour migration from Ukraine is the increase in the number of students receiving education abroad,” the NBU said.

[READ MORE](#)

## **Ukraine equips all border checkpoints with biometric identification systems**

2 February 2018 – Xinhua

Ukraine has equipped all 157 of its border crossing checkpoints with biometric identification systems, the State Border Guard Service informed. A total of 1,200 new workstations for border guards were set up on Ukrainian frontier checkpoints and more than 400 automated workstations were equipped with

fingerprint scanners. Since 1 January 2018, when Ukraine started gathering biometric data from foreigners at the country's border control points, more than 57,000 foreigners, including 42,000 Russian citizens, have crossed the Ukrainian border under the new procedure.

[READ MORE](#)

## EU scraps several border projects with Ukraine

20 February 2018 – Reuters

The programme to upgrade six Ukrainian checkpoints on the EU's eastern frontier was launched in 2014. The scheme aimed to help integrate Ukraine's economy with those of its EU neighbors by building or modernizing checkpoints at crossings with Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Romania. According to the EU, the projects were designed to cut border crossing times and improve customs procedures.

In a statement to Reuters, an EU spokesperson said: "Following our assessment we concluded that the projects could not be finalized in time. The six projects are now in the process of being closed, and the unspent money reimbursed."

The State Fiscal Service, the tax and customs authority which oversaw the projects on the Ukraine side, said in a statement that reasons for the delays included staff changes at the service, along with the long process to issue contract tenders and win approval for changes to plans.

[READ MORE](#)

## Introduction of visa-free travel with the EU had a major impact on travel habits of Ukrainians

28 February 2018 – EU Neighbourhood Info Centre

The introduction of the visa-free agreement with EU countries has encouraged more Ukrainians to travel to the EU for various purposes. The number of travellers has especially increased among the residents of the country's eastern regions.

This was demonstrated by the results of the second wave of the survey "Opinions and Views of Residents of Ukraine Regarding Visa-Free Regime with the European Union", commissioned by the EU-funded *Open Europe* project and conducted by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology in December 2017.

According to the survey results, the share of Ukrainians who visited the EU at least once over the past two years has increased from 9% to 11%. Meanwhile, this indicator has grown fourfold for residents of eastern regions of the country – from 2% to 9%.

[READ MORE](#)

The news and views contained in these media monitoring dispatches, which are provided for information purposes only, do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of IOM or its Member States, nor does IOM represent or endorse the accuracy or reliability of any advice, opinion, statement or other information provided herein.

Compiled by IOM Ukraine Communications team