

№15, April – June 2018

EDITORIAL

Migration remains one of the most debated topics globally and within the Prague Process region. The second quarter of 2018 saw the conclusion of the intergovernmental negotiations on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, resulting in the final draft, which is to be formally adopted in December this year. At the EU level, EU Heads of States agreed at the European Council Summit on 28 June to take in migrants rescued in the Mediterranean Sea and establish processing centres to assess their asylum claims. The European leaders confirmed there should be "a shared effort on a voluntary basis".

Within the Prague Process, the second guarter of 2018 marked the official launch of the Prague Process Training Academy and Migration Observatory at their respective opening events held in June. The first training of the Training Academy focused on one of the most challenging aspects in the Asylum Process, the issue of Credibility Assessment, which was highly appreciated by the training

participants. In the meantime, the Research Coordination Meeting under the Migration Observatory gathered a group of academic and state experts from the non-EU participating states, who will be working on a set of practical policyoriented publications.

Important migration policy developments occurred also in Uzbekistan, which made a visible attempt to invest into the employment of its citizens abroad over the past year, while also aiming to ensure the protection of their rights.

We hope that you will enjoy learning more on the above issues in this summer edition of the Prague Process Quarterly Review!

Have a good read!

In this issue

- Editorial
- Prague Process activities planned in 2018
- Italy hosted the first training of the Prague Process Training Academy
- The first Research Coordination Meeting brought together various experts and researchers from non-EU participating
- Interview with Marijan Baotic, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Security, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Migration among priority areas for the Austrian Presidency of the EU Council
- Implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
- Uzbekistan strives to ensure appropriate conditions for Uzbek migrant workers going abroad
- Facts and figures from the region
- Interesting reads

Looking ahead: Indicative timeline of Prague Process activities planned for the second half of 2018

August - November

MO 1st Internship in the Prague Process Migration Observatory, Vienna, Austria

2-3 October

MO Workshop on Data Gathering, Analyses and Dissemination, Skopje, Macedonia

September-December

MO & TA Expert Visit to Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan

November

TA Training on Trafficking in Human Beings, Baku, Azerbaijan

October-November

MO Study visit to Spain (tbc)

12-13 December

D Senior Officials' Meeting, Prague, Czech Republic

- Migration Observatory

TA

- Training Academy

- Senior-level Dialogue



Italy hosted the first training of the Prague Process Training Academy

On 5-7 June, the "Advanced Training for High-Quality Asylum Procedures" gathered over 40 state representatives working in the asylum field in Rome. The three trainers - Anna Bengtsson (Swedish Migration Agency), Judith Gleeson (Upper Tribunal Judge, Immigration and Asylum Chambers, United Kingdom) and Gabor Gyulai (Hungarian Helsinki Committee) - had previously engaged in the asylum trainings organised within the Prague Process. They also majorly contributed to the development of the Guidelines "Quality in Asylum Decision-Making - Using Jurisprudence and Multidisciplinary Knowledge for Training Purposes", which served as a basis for this training.

Italy as hosting state launched the 2,5days training by presenting the most recent statistics on asylum seekers and migrants who continue to cross the Mediterranean on a daily basis. In the past two years, Italy received over 314.000 persons with only a relatively small share of them (12.745) relocated and 6.500 expelled in this period. By the end of May 2018, slightly over 2500 persons received refugee status, with most of them coming from Nigeria, Syria and Somalia. The number of arrivals in 2018 has seen a considerable drop amounting to 13.400 (until 30.05.18) in comparison to over 119.000 arrivals in 2017. The number of decisions issued per month has increased from 7.400 to 7.700. These decisions are jointly taken by six evaluation panel members in order to make them fairer, more transparent and faster.

While outlining their national priorities during the introductory tour-de-table, most Western Balkan states, but also Armenia, Georgia and Turkey, highlighted that their national legislations are being harmonised with EU law. Referring to the implementation of its new law on forced migration, Belarus underlined that the legal changes were, amongst others, inspired by the trainings, meetings and resulting reports of the Prague Process.

The European Asylum Support Office (EASO) reminded participants of the 22 existing training modules, covering most sub-areas within the sphere of asylum and refugee status determination, while also sharing EASO's intention to focus more on reception in the future.



What is the **Training Academy?**

The Training Academy aims to provide tailor-made, targeted, high-quality trainings in line with the six thematic areas set out by the Prague Process Action Plan:

- **1.** Preventing and combating illegal migration
- **2.** Promote readmission, voluntary return and sustainable reintegration
- **3.** Legal migration and mobility, with special emphasis on labour migration
- **4.** Promote the integration of migrants legally residing in host societies
- **5.** Make migration and mobility positive forces of development
- **6.** Strengthening of capacities in the field of asylum and international protection

Building upon previous products and activities of the Prague Process, the Training Academy shall:

- ⇒ Establish and mobilise a **network of state and non-state trainers** from the region;
- ⇒ Striveto improve the performance of Prague Process state representatives through the further development of their skills and competences;
- Feature a **training-of-trainers approach** in order to contribute to enhanced training capabilities and to the independent organisation of trainings at national and local level;
- ⇒ Establish a sound base of **training materials in Russian and English**, which should be further used for capacity-building activities;
- ⇒ Ensure accumulation of training expertise and provide a dissemination platform for participating states willing to share their national training curricula and strategies with the Parties;

№15, April – June 2018

⇒ Serve as a laboratory for generating concrete new project and cooperation ideas for the Prague Process and MPF purposes.

These objectives shall be achieved through implementation of the following actions:

- → Produce training materials in the six thematic areas in English and Russian, available in hard copy and as an e-learning tool;
- ⇒ Carry out **six high-quality trainings** in the described thematic areas, targeting practitioners from the Prague Process participating states:
- ⇒ Organise an **expert mission** of EU MS experts to a non-EU country in order to review the existing national approach to capacity building and continuous learning within the state administration;
- ⇒ Organise a **study visit** of non-EU state officials to an EU MS in order to learn from their national approach to capacity building within the state administration;
- ⇒ Develop a comprehensive **e-learning course** for wider (remote) use among the Parties.

During its first phase of implementation¹, the Training Academy will feature its own subsection on the Prague Process website, displaying both the previously accumulated Prague Process Handbooks and the newly elaborated materials. This space shall also serve the wider dissemination and use of training materials developed in other ICMPD projects and thereby contribute to policy coherence and complementarity among various EUfunded capacity-building initiatives in the region. For this purpose, close coordination with other relevant stakeholders such as EASO, FRA, UNHCR or IOM will be sought whenever possible, desk research carried out and the proper visibility of the Training Academy ensured.

Finally, the Training Academy shall also represent a platform for participating states to share their national capacity-building strategies, training curricula and other relevant educational materials. This shall contribute to the exchange of good practices, lessons learnt and useful recommendations among the responsible state authorities.

All results and publications of Training Academy will be published onto the website www.pragueprocess.eu in English and Russian, shared on the Prague Process Facebook Profile and referred to in the Prague Process (newsletter). Quarterly Review Their further publication onto the ICMPD website will be taken into consideration when-ever relevant. The produced outputs will also be presented to the annual Senior Officials' Meetings, representing the decision making body of the Prague Process.

The first training session titled 'Conceptual Framework of International Protection' provided a comparison of the concepts of migration international protection, introduction to the 'Core issues in international protection', as well as presentations on 'Refugee status and subsidiary protection: structured decisions' and on 'International protection beyond refugee protection', which focused on the issue of statelessness. Thereafter, participants were divided into working groups in order to tackle the introductory case studies and come up with decisions on the presented asylum cases.

The second day, focusing on **Credibility Assessment**, began with the renewed division into sub-groups. The first group was acquainted with assessing **credibility in religious-based claims** through a role-play and a targeted focus on interview techniques. Group 2 received an insight into different aspects of **credibility assessment**, ranging from the legal framework and indicators to a multidisciplinary approach pointing to the limits of human memory and the impact of trauma, as well as to multilingual communication and intercultural barriers.





Session 3 combined the focus on credibility assessment with a training-of-trainers approach. Specific challenges faced by decision-makers were addres-sed, including self-care and burnout prevention. The legal standards for credibility assessment were then presented, before providing

an update on the most recent case law on credibility assessment on behalf of the Court of Justice of the European Union, the European Court of Human Rights and various national courts.

The final day was devoted to **Training-of-Trainers**, presenting various elements

of how to be a good trainer, including strategies and hints for innovative and impactful training activities. Most participants used the closing session to express once more their satisfaction with the training, referring to its content and organisation.

Migration flows in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Interview with Marijan Baotic, Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Security

During the training in Rome, we talked with Mr. Marijan Baotic about Bosnia and Herzegovina's asylum system and the recent migration flows in the region.



Dear Mr. Baotic, could you please describe the flows of incoming asylum seekers received by Bosnia and Herzegovina in the recent past?

The Ministry of Security represents the competent authority for dealing with asylum claims through its Asylum Sector. The number of claims received increased from approximately 40-70 applications per year in the period 2008-2016, to 340 in 2017, and 425 in the first five months of 2018.

Different migratory movements not arising from persecution based on race, religion, political opinion or affiliation to a particular social group were sometimes linked to a presumed need for international protection. This created room for major misuses of the international protection.

Asylum seekers in Bosnia and Herzegovina are accommodated in the Asylum Centre "Delijas". For most of them Bosnia and Herzegovina represents a transit country, which they leave before their asylum procedures are completed. Therefore, their cases are usually suspended.

Persons enjoying international protection in our country were mainly granted their status on grounds of the Qualification Directive's Article 15 c) (serious threat to a civilian's life or person by reason of indiscriminate violence in situations of international or internal armed conflict), as it is transposed to our national legislation.

Could you briefly summarise the evolution of your national asylum system?

Initially, Bosnia and Herzegovina focused on the development of an asylum legislation, setting up the respective institutional framework, as well as on strengthening of its personnel, material and technical capacities. The legislation relating to migration and asylum was initiated by the Law on Movement and Stay of Aliens and Asylum, adopted in 2003. In 2008, a new set of rules was introduced to the Law on Movement and Stay of Aliens. In 2016, the country issued a new, separate Law on Asylum.

The changing EU asylum legislation raised the need for a subsequent harmonisation of the respective

national legislation. In this context, the aim to remain in the scope of the source documents – the 1951 Convention on Refugee Status and its 1967 Protocol - required a great deal of efforts.



How would you see the immediate future? What policy developments and refugee/migration flows can we expect?

Over the past five years, the individual EU Member States addressed the issue of migration in different ways, including through policies that seem to be deviating from fundamental

№15, April – June 2018

human rights, basic freedoms, and the protection of children as the most vulnerable category.

No society can solely consist of the most competent or the most educated talents, as we speak of separate individuals within a group. The society requires workforce, too. In the current situation, the workforce seems to be (mis)using our asylum system to transit Bosnia and Herzegovina.

How do you assess this training? What benefits do you generally see in migration dialogues such as the Prague Process?

Each training provides new elements for the further development of our asylum policy. The benefit most certainly lies in the exchanges we have as such policy dialogues generally help in mainstreaming the various practices applied by the different countries when assessing individual and specific cases. Indeed, our general rules, principles and guidelines result from both, practice and dialogue.

Where do you see the most pressing training needs in the field of asylum decision making?

We have a continuous need for trainings on inclusion as the new migratory flows bring along new forms of persecution and serious harm. Additionally, the case law concerning the interpretation of "persecution", "serious harm" and other elements of international protection continuously evolves. Further strengthening is also needed in the field of credibility assessment. Finally, further trainings concerning Country of Origin Information, and more specifically with

respect to the means for the collection, selection and use of information on countries of origin would be of great benefit

Asylum procedures of course represent a very complex process due to the limited evidence available, the cultural and linguistic barriers, the influence of trauma on the recollection of asylum seekers, as well as credibility assessment. Therefore, case workers need to apply a multidisciplinary approach as promoted in this training.

Thank you, Mr Baotic, for your time and active participation in the training!

The first Research Coordination Meeting brought together various experts and researchers from non-EU participating states

The Research Coordination Meeting held on 28-29 June in Vienna brought nine experts from non-EU participating states of the Prague Process together with the members of the Prague Process Secretariat. The meeting provided a first opportunity to introduce the Migration Observatory (MO) concept to the experts present and get their feedback on this initiative. Secondly, the selected experts were invited to present their intended research as per their previous agreement with the Secretariat while also providing feedback on the research outlines of their peers.

The main objective of the Migration Observatory is to address important migration aspects, establish a valued platform for participating states to express their voice and provide policy makers with interesting, upto-date inputs. Ultimately, the work

of the Migration Observatory should increase the limited attention devoted to migration (policy) developments across the Prague Process region, as also witnessed during the recent EU Summit. EU Member States neither have fully recognised the appearance of the Eurasian Economic Union, nor have they paid due attention to the dissolution of the Federal Migration





Service (FMS) of Russia. In this sense, the envisaged research aims at filling some existing knowledge gaps and at directly feeding into the discussions of policy-makers. The High-level Working Group on Migration is one such forum that brings policy-makers from the EU Member States together on a regular basis and the agenda of which often contains updates on the Prague Process. For this reason, the envisaged research outputs shall feature a short and concise format in the form of policy briefs and analytical reports. The Observatory should promote good practices and policy recommendations from the Prague Process region and thereby provide inspiration to other geographic regions. This also relates to the choice of topics that the attending experts will investigate further - these do not necessarily represent the most urgent priorities but specific issues that are worth looking into.

Topics of the envisaged Publications:

- 01. The EU Mobility Partnership with Belarus: The Way Forward
- **02.** Labour migration among the countries of the Eastern Partnership and towards the EU
- **03.** Ukraine: The first year since introducing the visa free regime (success stories, challenges and lessons learnt)
- **04.** Internal Displacement in Ukraine: Mapping the Flows and Challenges
- **05.** Analyses of the implementation of the National Migration Strategy/ Action Plan of Moldova
- **06.** Migration Policy framework in Armenia
- 07. Action plan in case of a mass influx of Asylum seekers in Armenia'
- **08.** Dual and Multiple Citizenship in Azerbaijan: Addressing the Legal and Practical Challenges
- **09.** Unfolding the Potential of Circular Migration Schemes for Georgia"
- **10.** The impacts of the 'One Road, One Belt' initiative on migration flows and policies in Central Asia
- **11.** Opportunities, risks and challenges for labour migrants in the context of the Eurasian Union
- **12.** Migration Management Policies of the Russian Federation following the dissolution of the FMS
- **13.** Migration flow analyses in the Western Balkan region
- **14.** Lessons learnt from the 2015-2016 migration situation in the Western Balkan region and remaining policy and operational challenges
- **15.** Addressing the policy challenges on reintegration of returnees in the Western Balkan states



№15, April – June 2018

While expressing their opinions on the concept of the Migration Observatory, several experts highlighted the challenges deriving from the absence of reliable data and statistics, as well as the limited access to information, especially within the post-Soviet region. Better exchange between the state institutions and academia is key in this regard. The information available throughout the research community does not always reach policy-makers on time. This gap between the evidence available and the policy-making process needs to be

addressed by facilitating the interaction between the research community and policy makers. At best, the MO shall be adjusted to the needs of policy makers and provide practical outcomes. While migration is predominantly assessed from a security perspective nowadays, the MO shall provide a more balanced approach. Moreover, the outputs shall preferably be of a comparative nature and go beyond the national context whenever suitable. Finally, the Observatory could also feature a map highlighting the acute needs of every

state. Such map could facilitate the policy-making significantly and enhance mutual learning and support.

After discussing the concept of the Migration Observatory, the attending experts presented their research topics and received feedback from their peers. In addition, the Prague Process Secretariat presented the outlines of those experts who could not attend the meeting and collected the immediate feedback and inputs in order to pass them on to the absentees.

Implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

The text of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) was finalised on 13 July 2018. This is the first time that Member States of the United Nations have come together to negotiate an agreement covering all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner. The Permanent Representative of Switzerland, which together with Mexico has served as co-facilitator and thus led the negotiation process and drafting of the document described the GCM as follows: "This text puts migration firmly on the global agenda. It will be a point of reference for years to come and induce real change on the ground. I view the successful conclusion of our negotiation as a strong commitment to multilateralism and international cooperation." The agreement, which will be formally endorsed In December 2018, provides a basis to improve governance and international understanding of migration, to address the challenges associated with migration today, and to strengthen the contribution of migrants and migration to sustainable development.

The Prague Process is committed to contribute actively to the implementation of the GCM's objectives across the Prague Process region. The document shall not only inspire the individual activities organised in the future but also be duly considered in the overall conceptualisation and implementation of the Prague Process Migration Observatory and Training Academy.

The following 23 Objectives of the GCM greatly coincide with the provisions of the Prague Process Action Plan 2012-2016, whose validity was confirmed at the 3rd Prague Process Ministerial Conference in 2016. It is therefore no surprise that the GCM will also figure on

the agenda of the next Senior Officials' Meeting of the Prague Process, taking place in Prague on 12-13 December 2018. The meeting will be preceded by the formal adoption of the GCM in Marrakesh on 10-11 December 2018.



Credit: Eduardo Munoz/Reuters





Objectives for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

- (1) Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies
- (2) Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin
- (3) Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration
- **(4)** Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation
- **(5)** Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration
- **(6)** Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work
- (7) Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration
- (8) Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants

- **(9)** Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants
- (10) Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration
- **(11)** Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner
- (12) Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral
- (13) Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives
- (14) Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle
- **(15)** Provide access to basic services for migrants
- (16) Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion

- (17) Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration
- (18) Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences
- (19) Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries
- (20) Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants
- (21) Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration
- (22) Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits
- (23) Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration

Migration among priority areas for the Austrian Presidency of the EU Council

On 1 July, Austria took over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union from Bulgaria. Being part of a trio Presidency together with Estonia (second half of 2017) and Bulgaria (first half of 2018), Austria continues implementation of the trio programme, adopted by the Council on June 20, 2017, and based on the European Council's "Strategic Agenda for the Union in Times of Change" of June 2014.

The slogan "A Europe that protects" points to some of the focal areas of the Austrian Presidency: migration, internal and external security, protection of external borders, EU enlargement, European neighbourhood and many more. Moreover, as the European Parliament's legislative period is ending in spring 2019, it will be crucial to reach agreements on as many open legislative proposals as possible.



Credit: Parlamentsdirektion / Bernhard Zofall

№15, April – June 2018

Security and the fight against irregular migration is the first of three priority areas of the Austrian Presidency. Confronted with the impacts of the large-scale migration flows of 2015. The Presidency will focus on the reform of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) and strengthening of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) to ensure efficient protection of the EU's external borders. Besides, closer cooperation with third countries shall contribute to effective return policies and allow providing assistance to those in need of protection before they enter the EU. Meanwhile, those migrants who are not in need of international protection shall be prevented from setting off on the dangerous crossing to Europe. The Heads of State or Government will deal with these issues at their informal summit in Salzburg on 20 September

Austria will continue playing the role of bridge builder, in particular with the Eastern Partnership region. During the Austrian Presidency, a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Eastern Partnership countries will take place to evaluate the recent progress made and discuss further steps. The crisis in Ukraine will require particular attention. At the same time, since Russia plays a key role for security and stability in Europe and globally, Austria aims to pursue EU-Russia relations and to strengthen the EU-Russia dialogue.

Over its 6-month term, Austria will host some 300 events, 60 Council meetings, and welcome almost 48,000 guests. At the end of its term, Austria will hand the Presidency to Romania.

Please see the full programme of the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the EU here: www.eu2018.at/agendapriorities/programme.html



Austrian Presidency of the Council of the **European Union**

Uzbekistan strives to ensure appropriate conditions for Uzbek migrant workers

The Republic of Uzbekistan with its growing population, which increased by 0.7 % in the last six months of 2018 and currently amounts 32,9 million people², has recently been recently striving to improve the situation of Uzbek migrant workers abroad.

Already in 2017, following a visit of President Mirziyoyev to Moscow, Russia and Uzbekistan signed an agreement granting migrant workers from Uzbekistan the opportunity of formal and targeted temporary employment in Russia.3 The agreement implies that Uzbek migrants shall know their employer, salary and living conditions in Russia already before their departure. Their official recruitment will be coordinated through the Agency for

External Labour Migration of Uzbekistan, which will also open its branches in some of Russia's most populated cities such as Moscow, Saint Petersburg and Novosibirsk. The main rights of the migrant workers, including the right of a citizen to work, rest, social insurance

(except compulsory medical insurance) and pension provision, will be ensured in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation. The Centre for pre-training of labour migrants, which opened in December 2017 in Samarkand, and the Federal Service for Labour and



Credit: Adventure.com

^{2.} https://stat.uz/ru/press-tsentr/novosti-komiteta/4419-demograficheskaya-situatsiya-3
3. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of the Russian Federation on the organized recruitment and involvement of citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan for temporary work in the territory of the Russian Federation



Employment of Russia, responsible for the provision of information on existing vacancies, working conditions and required qualifications, will be the key stakeholders in the future migration process.

According to the Minister of Employment and Labour of Uzbekistan, in 2018, Uzbekistan plans to send approximately 50,000 nationals to Russia through this formal recruitment scheme, as compared to the official figure of 922 citizens sent in 2017.

While Russia remains the main destination country for Uzbek migrant workers, Uzbekistan strives for diversification in this respect as manifested by the improved cooperation with South Korea. Following the signature of a Memorandum of Cooperation in November 2017, the two countries held meetings on various key aspects: i.e. the opening of an Agency for External Labour Migration in Gwangju City; enhanced cooperation on training of personnel willing to work and study in the Republic of Korea; and on the possibility to increase the guota for Uzbek labour force under the Employment Permit System (EPS) of South Korea. During the first half of 2018, 1.343 people have accessed employment in South Korea through the regulated channel.

In 2018, Uzbekistan also carried out an organised dispatch of migrant workers to **Turkey** for work in the tourist sector. In May 2018, Uzbekistan and Turkey signed an agreement on the protection of the rights of migrant workers and members of their families.

Similarly, by mid May 2018, Uzbekistan signed cooperation agreements with 10 **Polish companies** specialised in construction, textile, agrarian and food industries. The first migrant workers from Uzbekistan thus arrived to Poland already in June. According to the Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Policy of Poland, the number of Uzbek migrants in Poland has been steadily growing. Last year alone saw more than

1.200 work visas issued to citizens of Uzbekistan.

To further improve the system of external labour migration, legal entities registered in Uzbekistan will be allowed to send Uzbek migrant workers to foreign states as of September 2018. Moreover, Uzbekistan established a Fund to support and protect the rights and interests of its citizens working abroad. The Fund shall provide for legal and social protection, as well as material assistance to citizens who have been subjected to violence, forced labour and discrimination, violation of labour and other rights, have fallen into a difficult financial situation or were left without documents.

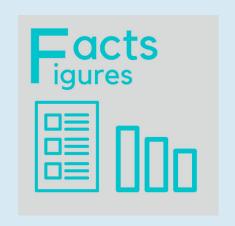


Credit: Agency for External Labour Migration

№15, April – June 2018

Facts and figures from the region:

- → On 15 July, Uzbekistan will start issuing an electronic visa to citizens of 51 countries, including EU (except Cyprus), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lichtenstein, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland
- → In June, Armen Kazaryan was appointed the new Head of the State Migration Service of Armenia, replacing Mr Gagik Yeganyan, who served in this position for almost 20 years.
- ⇒ In the first year of visa-free agreement more than half a million Ukrainians crossed the EU border without a visa



Interesting reads:

ICMPD Working Paper, Lost in Categorisation: Smuggled and Trafficked Refugees and Migrants on the Balkan Route, by Claire Healy, June 2018

https://www.icmpd.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ICMPD_Working_Paper_Healy.pdf

ICMPD Working Paper
Lost in Categorisation:
Smuggled and Trafficked
Refugees and Migrants on the
Balkan Route
Clare Healy
date Transplementing
Aune 2018

Science Advances 20 Jun 2018, Vol. 4, no. 6. Macroeconomic evidence suggests that asylum seekers are not a "burden" for Western European countries by Hippolyte d'Albis, Ekrame Boubtane, Dramane Coulibaly

http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/4/6/eaaq0883/tab-pdf









