

MIGRECO AT A GLANCE

Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine are at the same time countries of origin, transit and destination for both regular and irregular migration. All three have engaged in important legislative and administrative reforms in the field of migration management, in order to establish structures and processes that are in line with European and international best practices.

Through MIGRECO, the EU and IOM aim at supporting these reforms in a comprehensive manner. Since migration is a complex, multi-dimensional and multi-actor issue, the project suggests a multi-component approach that is built around the four blocks of the EU Visa Liberalisation Action Plans (VLAPs) with Moldova and Ukraine: (I) document security, including biometrics; (II) irregular immigration and readmission; (III) public order, including counter-trafficking and (IV) external relations and fundamental rights.

In order to promote dialogue and exchange, the project foresees joint implementation of certain components by two or three of the beneficiary countries, as well as study visits to the EU Member States on a variety of topics.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Donor: the European Union

Implementer: the International Organization for Migration, Missions in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine

Location: Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine

Duration: 1 February 2013 — 30 January 2015

Partners: The Immigration and Naturalisation Service of the Ministry of Security and Justice of the Netherlands (INS), the Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (FEDASIL) of Belgium, the NGOs 'Europe without Barriers' and 'Revival of the Nation' (Ukraine)

Beneficiaries: Governments of Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine, incoming and outgoing migrants, visible minorities residing in the sub-region



UPCOMING EVENTS

June 2013 — Start of work of the Long-Term Adviser (LTA) in Ukraine

The LTA will be embedded at the State Migration Service (SMS) and be responsible for providing expert support to the SMS on further enhancing the normative framework, coordination and functional processes in the field of migration management in Ukraine.

July 2013 — Support to the implementation of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) in Mykolaiv region in Ukraine

During a recent monitoring visit to Mykolaiv region the need for support of Ukraine's Counter Trafficking Policy in the region was assessed. With support of national and local government partners, IOM will assist with the practical implementation of the NRM in the region. The activity foresees multidisciplinary trainings and exchanges on all aspects of victim identification, referral and reintegration.

June–July 2013 — Expert on migration curricula to work with Moldovan Border Police

The international consultant will directly interact with the human resources division of the Border Police Department to develop a consistent migration management curriculum

accompanied by a course-reader which will include all necessary reading materials corresponding to the training modules of the curriculum. It is planned that the curriculum will be integrated into the training scheme of the Police Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

July–August 2013 — Networking visit of Belarusian officials to Belgium on the topic of migration management with particular focus on assisted voluntary return (AVR)

IN THIS ISSUE:

Aksana Filipishina, representative of the Ombudsman office of Ukraine, speaks about tolerance and xenophobia



European best practices for Moldovan border management reform



Ukraine and Moldova redouble their efforts to fight human trafficking





TRIPLE EXPERTISE: MIGRECO FOSTERS REGIONAL APPROACH TO MIGRATION MANAGEMENT



Representatives of the Ministry of the Internal Affairs of Ukraine and the State Migration Service of Ukraine during the first National steering committee of MIGRECO (Ukraine)

On 21 March 2013, partners from Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine gathered in Kyiv to officially launch the European Union-funded and IOM-implemented MIGRECO project. The event brought together over fifty participants, representing migration authorities of the three countries, donors, international organizations and civil society.

The broad interest that the project launch triggered among all partners stands as proof of the relevance of the project that supports the migration management structures in Eastern Europe in a comprehensive manner.

IOM highlighted that one of the project’s main assets is excellent cooperation of a variety of actors and partners and the fact the three countries join their efforts and best practices with the aim to further enhance migration management systems, strengthen partnerships and learn from each other through constructive exchange.

The MIGRECO project is inspired by and is structured along the components of the European Union Visa Liberalization Action Plans with Moldova and Ukraine. It supports a wide range of the governments’ efforts in the sphere of migration management reforms, be it in the sphere of irregular migration, in counter-acting trafficking in human beings or through supporting migrant integration.

The main project components inter alia include a regional analysis of the legislation and institutions in the field of migration management in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, in order to highlight best practices, identify possible challenges and formulate concrete recommendations.

It is also foreseen to embed internal long-term advisers with the migration authorities in order to extend support in the implementation of migration reforms.

This approach is widely supported by the European Union, as Mr. Alexandru Albu from the EU Delegation to Ukraine noted: “Constructive dialogue between the EU and Eastern Partnership countries is essential to solve migration issues. This project aims to advance the migration dialogue between the EU and Ukraine. Such a dialogue can only be effective with the full support of all Ukrainian government agencies, discussions between project advisors and high level decision makers and a generally open and constructive approach. In this way, we can jointly advance migration issues in Ukraine.”

Further discussion of the project’s main objectives through the prism of national priorities shall be ensured at the National steering committee meetings. In Ukraine, the first meeting of this kind took place on 19 April and was aimed, inter alia, at agreeing on coordination mechanisms and discussing government partners’ suggestions on supplementing some project activities, adjusting them to current needs.



The project is funded by the European Union



The project is implemented by IOM

CIVIL SOCIETY JOINS MIGRATION MANAGEMENT REFORMS

Interview with Ms. Iryna Sushko from
the Ukrainian Think Tank “Europe without Barriers”

“Europe without Barriers” (EWB) is a nonpartisan nongovernmental organization based in Ukraine. It was established to promote independent expertise and advocacy efforts aimed at abolition of visa regimes and other administrative barriers to people-to-people contacts in Europe.

Initially, in 2008, EWB was founded as a consortium of NGOs from different regions and cities (Kyiv, Donetsk, Lviv, Kharkiv, Uzhhorod, Odesa, Lutsk). In 2009, the organization was transformed into a full-fledged independent NGO. “Europe without Barriers” Iryna Sushko explores the think tank’s involvement in the MIGRECO project:

EWB will be the main partner to carry out the “Regional Gaps Analysis of Institutional Migration Management Capacities” foreseen under MIGRECO. Conducted jointly with the migration authorities of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, the research will constitute a cross-sector analysis of migration legislation and migration management structures to identify possible gaps and develop concrete recommendations to address those, both in term of legislation and institutions. The findings of the EU progress reports relating to the EU Visa Liberalisation Action Plans with Moldova and Ukraine will serve as one of the baselines for this study.

Who are your partners and what is their role?

Whilst IOM provides overall guidance and EWB holds the role of lead researcher, the main actors are of course the migration management authorities of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, since the idea is to build upon their needs and priorities to formulate concrete recommendations. We will be speaking

to a total of 13 agencies and ministries. You can imagine that this requires quite a lot of coordination. But we are optimistic that open and constructive dialogue will lead to realistic suggestions for further enhancement of migration management systems. We have also set up expert working groups in each country, bringing together academics and practitioners in the field of migration management in Eastern Europe and the EU, to support the comprehensiveness of our analysis.

What topics will the research cover?

The idea is to be as comprehensive and multidimensional as possible. Migration is a complex issue, including not only strategies, legislation and institutions, but also social attitudes and political standpoints as well as internal administrative processes and coordination mechanisms in- and outside the countries.

We hope to be looking into all of these issues in an interconnected manner, to be able to provide the governments with sound analysis and realistic recommendations. The regional approach will in addition help to provide comparison and establish joint best practices.

What will be the outcomes of the research?

The findings of the research and the concomitant recommendations will ideally give suggestions to IOM and partners on steps to support the further implementation of the national migration management reforms undertaken in all three countries, and thus contribute to increased efficiency of the institutional and legal set-up. Moreover,



we hope that we can establish, maintain and enhance excellent cooperation of all partners in the framework of the study and thus strengthen the triangular relationship between civil society, state authorities and international organizations in Eastern Europe.



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MOLDOVA

BRINGING EUROPEAN BEST PRACTICES TO MOLDOVAN BORDER MANAGEMENT REFORM

In April 2013, the international long-term adviser to the Border Police of Moldova was officially introduced to the project’s main Moldovan government partners. The Chief of the Moldovan Border Police Mr. Dorin Purice stressed the importance of international consultancies in the framework of the ongoing reform of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Moldova and the Border Police as a constituent department of the Ministry.

IOM Moldova Chief of Mission Mr. Antonio Polosa reiterated that IOM is committed to helping the Moldovan Government to enact comprehensive reforms that buttress the European aspirations of the country. Vice-Minister of Internal Affairs Mr. Vasile Dragomir concluded the meeting by thanking the EU and IOM for their valuable support and continuous capacity building for his institution, highlighting the role of the EU countries in providing their expertise and intellectual “know-how” for supporting Moldova’s European integration policy through, inter alia, high-level advisers and technical assistance projects.



Mr. Daniel Barbu,
International Long-Term Adviser
to the Moldovan Border Police

ADVISERS

Mr. Barbu has over 18 years of experience with the Romanian Border Police and 10 years of experience in strategic development positions within the Romanian Ministry of Internal Affairs. Since 2009, he has been consulting various Romanian and Moldovan institutions, including the Moldovan Ministry of Internal Affairs, in the field of home affairs and human resources management. For 21 months, he will assist the Chief of the Border Police in implementing

different aspects of the Integrated Border Management Strategy in line with best European standards and practices, especially in the area of strengthening the institution’s human resources capacity, and enhancing internal and external communication for better integration of the Border Police into the Moldovan Ministry of Internal Affairs.



Ms. Adriana Barilov,
Assistant to the Long-Term Adviser
to the Moldovan Border Police

Ms. Barilov has worked with international non-governmental organizations / consultancies to build the capacity of NGOs and public institutions, as well as defending European citizens’ rights to movement within the EU, including the Academy for Educational Development, Checchi and Company Consulting Inc., and the European Citizen Action Service (Brussels).

She will assist the International Long-Term Adviser to the Border Police by providing the local perspective on relevant legislative and institutional reform dimensions



Moldovan Border Police officers on duty. The MIGRECO project will assist the Border Police of Moldova to implement its human resources management reform



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BORDER POLICE REFORM: A CORNERSTONE IN THE RESPONSE TO IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND CROSS-BORDER CRIME

Mr. Dorin Purice, Chief of the Border Police Department of Moldova, presents a summary profile of core priorities and tasks for the reform of the border authorities



One of Moldova's major priorities is European integration. The achievement of this objective will contribute to a major degree to the implementation of a security paradigm, stability and prosperity based on democratic values and the respect of core human rights.

The achievement of this strategic objective is at the heart of the work of the Border Police of the Moldovan Ministry of Internal Affairs — an authority created on the basis of the Moldovan Border Service on 1 July 2012.

A major difference from prior practices is that the border police are a demilitarized body subordinated to the Ministry of Internal Affairs with increased authority in line with the requirements of the comprehensive National Strategy for Integrated Border Management. One of the core powers vested with the border police department (BPD) is the possibility to initiate and conduct

felony prosecution and investigation of offences of the border-related legislation. In addition, the new department has been granted the authority to perform **expert forensic/court review of travel documents**. One more novelty is the authority granted to the border police to **issue visas to foreigners at state border crossing points in exceptional situations**.

The above powers have considerably improved and expanded the possibilities of our department to combat cross-border crimes, irregular migration, traffic in human beings and other offences, as well as raised our awareness of current international best practices and the means for their improvement.

The modern approach to ensuring border security in the EU demands serious commitment to human resource management. Skilled staff with specialized border management training are needed to enable the border police to implement its new tasks. Nowadays, our department employs only contracted personnel who have gone through specialized training at border police school and training centres of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The MIGRECO project will provide expert assistance in the development of our future human resources management concept and provide support in other areas for the implementation of the National Strategy for Integrated Border Management.

Special emphasis has been placed on the mobility of our units and improvement

of their capacity to react to the changing situation. A concept for the operation of mobile units has been developed jointly with experts of the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM). It provides for the ability of such units to operate throughout the country with the objective to combat irregular migration and cross-border crime.

Additionally, steps are being taken to equip our units with state-of-the-art specialized stationary and mobile equipment for state border monitoring and control.

Border police units have been equipped with modern computers and means of communication, infrastructure has been created for radio relay communication, the department's own VoIP telecommunication network and intranet has come into existence.

Therefore, the border police has a comprehensive range of modern means and tools that make it possible, providing that well trained personnel are available, to efficiently cope with the challenges and threats to security at the state border of Moldova.



UKRAINE

LET'S ASK MIGRANTS HOW THEY FEEL ABOUT INTEGRATION

Since 2006, a rise in racist activity, sometimes violent, has been noted in Ukraine. Victims of attacks are foreign students, particularly Africans and Asians, migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, Roma and other persons of non-Slavic appearance. Altogether, in 2007 – 2012, 204 acts of suspected racially motivated violence, which victimized over 270 persons and included 16 homicides, were documented as part of regular monitoring performed by the Diversity Initiative (DI) – a network of over 65 organizations, co-chaired by the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The years of 2007 and 2008 were the most violent with 68 and 63 reported incidents including 15 murders in total. The period of 2009–2010 was marked by a visible decrease in reported incidents, one murder was registered. During the past two years, civil society and international organizations observed a new jump in racially motivated attacks against visible minorities, mainly migrants from African and Asian countries. In 2010, six reports on such cases were registered by the DI network, compared to 24 reports in 2011 and 17 reports in 2012.

The DI monitoring reports, while capturing trends, cannot provide a full accounting of the problem's scope, as many victims choose not to report incidents due to a fear of retribution or a belief that their attackers will not be brought to justice. The driving force behind these attacks, as well as vandalism, graffiti and public events, are formal and informal organizations with far-right ideologies that espouse racist and xenophobic attitudes toward ethnic minorities and migrants. Such groups blame migrants and ethnic minority communities for Ukraine's social, political and economic problems.

The result is fear which is felt not only by individual victims, but by entire ethnic minority and migrant communities. Members of such communities increasingly isolate themselves from society, thereby hoping to avoid becoming targets for abuse. This tilt towards isolation requires the continued attention of the Government in the context of the newly adopted action plan that enshrines integration in state policy.

Throughout 2011 and 2012, and within the context of the implementation of the EU-Ukraine Action Plan on Visa Liberalization (VLAP), the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted an Action Plan to Implement the State Migration Policy Concept, Action Plan on Formation of Civil Culture and Enhancement of Tolerance Level in the Society, an Action Plan for Integration of Foreign Migrants and Reintegration of Ukrainian Migrants in Ukraine for 2011–2015, an Action Plan for Integration of Refugees and Persons in Need of Additional Protection into Ukrainian Society until 2020, a Strategy

on Protection and Integration of Roma National Minority into Ukrainian Society until 2020 and a new Law of Ukraine on the Principles of Preventing and Combating Discrimination in Ukraine.

These documents aim to establish a positively changing perception of migrants and minority groups at risk in the economic, social and cultural life of the country and a framework of the protection and integration tools to be developed and used.

The MIGRECO project will measure the awareness among beneficiaries about government actions, their assessment of the prevalence of perceived racism and discrimination, and identify the extent to which they use the foreseen protection mechanisms to exercise their rights. The results of this survey will be presented in the form of recommendations to IOM to tailor the current integration policy to the needs of migrants and minorities at risk in line with the best international and European practices.



At an event, organized by IOM in Kyiv, university students meet their African peers



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**MS. AKSANA FILIPISHINA, THE REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE OMBUDSMAN OF UKRAINE:
“THE RESEARCH ON INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS
WILL PROVIDE A ROADMAP FOR CHANGE”**

The cooperation of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Secretariat of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights in the framework of the MIGRECO project is the logical continuation of a long-standing partnership between the two agencies. Under MIGRECO, the Secretariat of the Commissioner will provide assistance in carrying out a research on integration of migrants, focusing on issues of discrimination and hate crimes. In addition, the Ombudsman's Office staff will participate in training sessions on investigation of hate crimes and support the implementation of the recommendations that will be developed in the framework of the project. The Representative of the Commissioner for the observance of the rights of the child, non-discrimination and gender equality, Ms. Aksana Filipishina spoke about her view of current challenges and her expectations for the new project.

How do you assess the current situation with regard to discrimination and hate crimes in Ukraine?

The full enforcement of the right to non-discrimination remains one of the main challenges for Ukraine. This is one of the findings of not only the monitoring conducted by the Ombudsman, but also of the Second Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (over 30% of the recommendations are somehow related to the prevention and combating of discrimination), the reports on the progress of Ukraine in the implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy and the Visa Liberalisation with the EU, as well as the report of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance.

Discrimination has been observed in employment and other areas and is based

on a variety of grounds such as gender, age, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation. The main issue is that manifestations of discrimination often go unnoticed and are difficult to be proven in court.

The Ombudsman is particularly concerned about hate crimes that constitute the most extreme form of discrimination. Currently, no reliable statistics are available in this field. The number of cases listed in official statistics is significantly lower than the one mentioned in monitoring reports of non-governmental and international organizations. It should also be understood that neither of the two figures reflects the actual situation, since many victims of hate crime do not apply to law enforcement agencies, out of fear to face additional discrimination or because they are staying in Ukraine irregularly.

The low statistics can also be explained by steady unwillingness of law enforcement agencies and the prosecutor's office to establish intolerance as a motive for crimes in cases where it was potentially the reason for the infraction. This can also be concluded from the analysis of the responses received from the prosecutor's office and law enforcement agencies to the letters of the Ombudsman on complaints about unlawful acts and, in particular, those motivated by ethnic intolerance. In an overwhelming majority of cases, these infractions are qualified and prosecuted as mere hooliganism. There are several examples that illustrate this statement: the assault and battery of Koreans in Zalevki village of Cherkasy region, the aggression against an Armenian national in Zhytomyr region (cases of 2012 and 2013. — Ed.) etc.

Have there been any recent positive developments in the fight against these phenomena?



It should be noted that the recently adopted Law of Ukraine “On Principles of Prevention and Combating Discrimination in Ukraine”, although not perfect and not fully compliant with international standards, nonetheless establishes a framework for further development of mechanisms to combat discrimination.

At the same time, in order to effectively combat hate crimes, it is necessary to introduce additional legislative amendments. A forward-looking way would be to toughen the punishment for crimes committed on discriminatory grounds. This work was started with the adoption of the Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to the Criminal Code concerning the Liability for Crimes Motivated by Racial, National or Religious Intolerance” on 5 November 2009. Appropriate changes were made to seven articles of the Code. According to the Ombudsman, similar changes should be introduced to the articles on the establishment of liability for such crimes as incitement to suicide, intentional light bodily injury, abrogation, brigandage, blackmailing offences, intentional destruction or damage of property, threat of property destruction, disruptive behavior, unlawful obstruction of organization or holding meetings, rallies, demonstrations etc.

It is also necessary to mention the need for significant outreach and awareness-raising



UKRAINE \ MOLDOVA

work not only among the population, but also among the government and law enforcement agencies.

The MIGRECO project foresees a research on integration of migrants. In your opinion, how big is the need for such a study in Ukraine?

The Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights was pleased to accept the offer to join the MIGRECO project, thus continuing our traditional cooperation with IOM. The research in the framework of MIGRECO should also help us to find answers to key questions: what is the actual situation with the integration of migrants in Ukraine? How is the situation perceived by the authorities? How is it perceived by the people who may be facing discrimination? How well do they understand what discrimination is? How can they exercise their right of access to health care, educational services, labour etc.? As a result of the research, we hope to see the key areas in which we need to keep working, including on legislative changes.

MIGRECO HELPS UKRAINE AND MOLDOVA ADVANCE THEIR EFFORTS TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Ukraine and Moldova are heavily affected by human trafficking, Ukraine being a country of origin, transit and increasingly destination, while Moldova predominantly of origin. A study commissioned by the IOM in 2011¹ estimated that over 120,000 men, women, and children have been trafficked from Ukraine and over 35,000 — from Moldova for sexual and labour exploitation, forced begging, and other purposes since 1991. While the main countries of destination have been Russia, Ukraine and Turkey, approximately every fourth identified Ukrainian victim of trafficking and every tenth Moldovan victim

of trafficking returned from an EU Member State within the past five years². Coming back home, the victims are in urgent need of assistance, as they face the problems that initially pushed them abroad, further aggravated by their trafficking experience.

Both Ukraine and Moldova made substantial progress in developing state-owned mechanisms to identify victims of trafficking and refer them for protection and assistance, having adopted comprehensive anti-trafficking laws (Moldova in 2005 and Ukraine in 2011), relevant supplementary legislation and national action plans, as well as building the capacities of service providers at the national and local level. Moldova, following its National Referral System (NRS)³ development strategy of 2008, has established functioning NRS units on its entire territory down to the district level. Today, all of the victims of trafficking identified in Moldova are identified through the NRS. Ukraine, which introduced a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) in 2012, has service providers fully trained to identify and assist victims of trafficking approximately 5% of all victims identified in Ukraine have been identified through the NRM.

In both countries, there is a need for further geographical expansion and strengthening of the NRM/NRS, in Moldova — down to the community level, and in Ukraine — to the rest of its territory, to ensure that victims of trafficking can have easy access to services. The MIGRECO project assists them in this endeavour by supporting NRS capacity building at the community level in four districts of Moldova, as well as geographical expansion of the NRM in Ukraine to five additional regions.

The project will train local practitioners such as social workers, police, doctors, educators, NGO staff, and other persons for identification and referral, and reintegration of victims of trafficking. Where there are still gaps in services offered by the

state, MIGRECO provides direct assistance to the victims.

Proper prosecution of human trafficking is another important aspect of protecting the victims and preventing the crime. In 2011–2012, this has been a challenge due to changing legislation and administrative institutional reform in both countries. Staff turnover in the respective government bodies at both the central and local level necessitate intensive training on the special approach to victims, NRM functioning, and interagency networking within the criminal justice chain. MIGRECO includes activities to train law enforcement in both countries, with the aim of integrating them into the victims of trafficking referral frameworks and improving the prosecution and prevention of human trafficking crimes. The project will also provide law enforcement agencies with the necessary equipment and reference materials to ensure the sustainability of the training efforts.

IOM's counter-trafficking programmes in Ukraine and Moldova, through which the MIGRECO project will be implemented, adopt a holistic multi-disciplinary approach to countering human trafficking and help governments and civil society in the four interrelated spheres of prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership. Since 2000, the two programmes have identified and assisted over 12,155 victims trafficked to over 65 countries for the purposes of labour, sexual and other forms of exploitation.

¹ Human Trafficking Survey: Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine. Prepared by GfK Ukraine for the International Organization for Migration, Mission in Ukraine. January 2012

² IOM Statistics on Victim of Trafficking. Updated December March 2013

³ A National Referral System (NRS) or a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a cooperative framework through which state actors fulfil their obligations to protect and promote the human rights of trafficked persons, coordinating their efforts in a strategic partnership with civil society



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The project is implemented by IOM

LOCAL SUPPORT TO VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

To promote effective implementation of the National Referral Mechanism in Ukraine, a series of monitoring visits to different regions has been scheduled in the framework of the MIGRECO project. The first monitoring visit organized by IOM to Odesa region took place at the end of March. The second visit, to Kherson and Mykolaiv, occurred in April 2013.

The monitoring team was led by the National Counter-Trafficking Coordinator — the Ministry of Social Policy — and included representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the State Migration Service, State Border Guard Service, Ministry of Health,

child affairs services and international organizations (IOM, OSCE, LaStrada).

The monitoring participants met with working groups of state authorities engaged in implementation of the NRM and visited the centres for social and psychological protection in Odesa and Mykolaiv regions.

Issues related to identification of victims of trafficking, their referral to the relevant NRM stakeholders for granting victim of trafficking status and further rehabilitation were discussed based on the experience of the first several cases in which victims of trafficking were granted status by the National Coordinator.

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN: HELPING STRANDED MIGRANTS

One of the MIGRECO project components in Belarus is the provision of assistance to migrants who desire to return home but cannot afford it. Irregular migrants, failed asylum seekers and persons who decided to withdraw their asylum application can apply for this assisted voluntary return programme (AVR). The first step in the AVR process is the provision of in-depth counseling to potential applicants to ensure that they can make an informed and voluntary decision. Further assistance consists in arranging for appropriate travel documentation to be obtained; determination of itinerary, booking and ticketing; pre-departure medical screening (medical escort can be provided to the port of final destination, if required); arranging departure, transit and arrival assistance; as well as the disbursement of a small cash return allowances.

The project foresees that assistance can be provided to up to 160 individuals over the two-year project duration. Within the first three months of MIGRECO, nine migrants were assisted in returning home to Armenia and Georgia.

The National Referral Mechanism for assisting victims of trafficking





PARTNERS:



Ministry of the Interior and Administration of the Republic of Poland



Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers, Belgium



Federal Ministry of the Interior of Austria



Immigration and Naturalisation Service
Ministry of Security and Justice



NGO "Europe without Barriers"

BENEFICIARIES:



State Border Committee of the Republic of Belarus, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus



Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova, Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family of the Republic of Moldova



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