PROGRESS REVIEW OF MIGRATION MANAGEMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

**FOLLOW-UP ON THE
MIGRATION MANAGEMENT
ASSESSMENT REPORT**

International Organization for
Migration

European Union

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FOREWORD

The publication you hold in your hands follows up on recent reforms of migration management in Armenia and is an update on the *2008 Review of Migration Management in Armenia*. Like the 2008 Review, it is intended to give the picture of migration management in the country and be a source of information and ideas for promoting policy dialogue on migration and asylum between Armenia and European countries.

We would like to express our gratitude to the European Union for their financial support.

We greatly acknowledge the hard work of the team conducting the Progress Review: Mr. Pier Rossi-Longhi, Ms. Kristina Galstyan and Mr. Franz Prutsch.

The assessment report benefited greatly from the input and guidance of Armenian Government officials, NGO representatives and the international community in in Armenia.

The assessment team could not have efficiently carried out its task without the valuable support of the Armenian Government, which provided help and direction in welcoming and guiding the assessment team – particularly the National Assembly, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and its State Migration Service, the National Security Service and its Border Guards Troops, the Ministry of Labour and Social Issues and its State Employment Service, the Police, the Ministry of Justice, the National Security Council, the Ministry of Diaspora, the Ministry of Economy, and the State Revenues Committee.

The progress review was prepared at a most opportune time when EU-Armenia Policy Dialogue on Migration is in progress. We hope that the findings of this report will serve as a point of reference for the reimplementation of the national plan of action for migration within the framework of Armenia's EU Association, the implementation of the EU-Armenia Mobility Partnership, and the EU-Armenia readmission and visa facilitation processes.

We also hope that the recommendations provided will help steer the reforms of migration management in view of the creation of an efficient and comprehensive migration management system in Armenia, aiming at the right balance between facilitation and control of migratory flows.

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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2007–2008, at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, IOM and the Swedish Migration Board conducted a comprehensive review of migration management in Armenia. The 2008 Review of Migration Management in Armenia carefully studied the country's migration policy (both the immigration and emigration policy) and legislation, as well as assessed the administrative structure for managing migration and enforcement, and operational mechanisms. The assessment report was prepared with the aim of steering the reforms in view of the creation of an efficient and comprehensive migration management system, aiming at the right balance between facilitation and control of migratory flows. The review suggested total of 83 concrete recommendations for the reforms of migration management (including 14 for policy, 39 for legislation, 6 for administrative structures and 24 for enforcement).

As a follow up to the 2008 Review, by the Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, an interagency working group[1] was established, aimed at discussing the comments and suggestions made in the *Review of Migration Management in Armenia – Assessment Mission Report* (prepared within the framework of the IOM "Capacity Building in Migration Management Programme Armenia Assessment" project), as well as comments, suggestions and development of new suggestions made by international organizations and experts on reforms to migration management. On the recommendation of the interagency working group that the status of the Migration Agency be elevated to a State Migration Service (SMS), it was given a new function of "coordinating bodies involved in migration activities, developing migration policies and legal acts and securing the implementation of these policies". Starting from 2009 SMS worked on elaborating the country's migration management strategy, which was adopted in December 2010.

In parallel, migration and asylum management remained one of the major components of the Armenia European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) Action Plan.

In 2009 within the framework of ENP, the Eastern Partnership (EaP) was initiated by EU with the aim of tightening the relationship between the EU and Eastern partners, including Armenia, by deepening their political cooperation and economic integration. The EaP offers deeper integration into EU structures by encouraging and supporting parnters in political, institutional and economic reforms based on EU standards, as well as by facilitating trade and increasing mobility between the EU and partner states. Thus, at the EaP summit in May 2009, a political commitment was taken regarding the improvement of people-to-people contacts, which visa facilitation and readmission negotiations with Armenia follow; in September 2011 the EC proposed to open negotiations on agreements to facilitate the procedures for issuing short-stay visas as well as on the readmission of irregular migrants between the European Union and Armenia. In July 2010, the EU and Armenia launched negotiations on the future EU-Armenia Association Agreement, which will be the successor agreement to the EU-Armenia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (signed in 1996 and in force since 1999). The Association Agreement will significantly deepen Armenia's political association and economic integration with the EU. The EU and Armenia also aim to establish a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), when the relevant conditions are met.

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[1] Decision # 304-A of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia of 16 April 2009, "On Establishing an Interagency Working Group".

The EU-Armenia Mobility Partnership Declaration was signed in Luxembourg on 27 October 2011. Ten EU Member States (Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania and Sweden) are participating in the Mobility Partnership. The Mobility Partnership is expected to enhance Armenia's ability to manage migration and inform, integrate and protect migrants and returnees, as well as boost Armenia's capacity to curb irregular migration and human trafficking. The Joint Declaration identifies four areas for increased dialogue and cooperation: (a) mobility, legal migration and integration; (b) migration and development; (c) fight against irregular immigration and trafficking in human beings, readmission, security of identity and travel documents, border management; (d) asylum and international protection.

In light of the developments in the field of migration management in Armenia, especially with regard to migration-related aspects of EU integration, IOM initiated a progress review of migration management in 2011.

The progress review has been conducted within the framework of the EU-funded "Strengthening Evidence-Based Management of Labour Migration in Armenia" project, aimed, among other things, at raising awareness on the possible approximation of legislation on migration management with EU *acquis*. To achieve this goal the project suggests several activities, including (a) a review of the roles of all the state bodies acting in the field of migration management (follow-up to the 2008 Assessment); (b) provision of comments to the Strategy of the Republic of Armenia on State Regulation of Migration and provide expertise for development of the draft National Plan of Action for 2011-2014; (c) gap analysis study on how the national legislation aligns with EU legislation.

The progress review will focus on the roles of all the state bodies acting in the field of migration management, and building on IOM's *2008 Assessment of Migration Management in Armenia*, will recommend ways of cooperation between these bodies and identify the existing gaps in rational division of their functions and successful cooperation between them.

The recommendations provided on how to optimize cooperation between the bodies involved in migration activities and the characteristic functions of each migration body involved shall contribute to a more effective model of work organization within the Migration Service. The IOM expert who worked on *the 2008 Assessment of Migration Management in Armenia* was also asked to conduct the follow-up study.

The primary objective of this follow-up assessment was to point out those areas where significant changes and progress have been made, but also to identify main gaps and key areas which will require further attention by the Armenian government, in order to align their migration management system and its legal basis with EU standards, especially with a view towards the upcoming negotiations with the EU on the Joint Declaration on a Mobility Partnership.

Immigration of foreigners into Armenia, as well as those residing legally or illegally in Armenia, was prioritized for this follow-up assessment, although emigration of Armenian nationals still remains the main concern for Armenia at this time. The last two decades have been characterized by labour migration flows, as the lack of job opportunities in the Armenian labour market drives many Armenians to look for work elsewhere. It is estimated that over 812,000 citizens, or more than one quarter of the total population, left Armenia during the 1990s. This trend has continued in recent years. Migration to the Russian Federation and Ukraine is mainly of a temporary nature, generally for seasonal work purposes, while migration to Europe and the United States is primarily for permanent residence with the emigrants taking their families with them.

In Europe, the majority of recent Armenian migrants have asked for asylum, with a large proportion falling into an irregular situation and therefore facing the prospect of forced return. The key EU destination countries for Armenian migrant workers are Germany, Greece, Spain and France. Ultimately, the Progress Assessment Report's recommendations aim to strengthen further the Armenian Government's capacity to enhance their current migration management system, which takes into account not only the current Armenian reality, but which is also consistent with international standards, not least in view of ENP and other European Union (EU) foreign policy instruments.

The Follow-up Assessment Team noted that the Government of Armenia still faces significant challenges in the management of the flows of foreigners across its international borders and to ascertain their legal stay/residence within the country, be it temporary or for longer periods. It is also important to consider Armenia's rising living standards, as well as its geopolitical situation with close connections to the Black Sea region, and therefore its close proximity to the EU external borders of Romania and Bulgaria, which might attract a further increase in arrival of migrants, using the rather liberal preconditions for establishing rightful residence in Armenia as a springboard for moving further on towards the EU.

Some of the most important factors contributing to this have been identified in the initial Assessment Report from 2008 (in *italics*), and are still – at least partially - valid until today:

Armenia's rather liberal and open policy on entry following its free market policies to promote tourism
Assessment: unchanged
A very liberal visa regime both in terms of visa categories as well as in relation to visa issuance at the borders
Assessment: Improvements in this area have been ascertained, especially as regards the issuance of visas now supported by an electronic e-visa system, as well as regulating the residence of foreign nationals in Armenia.
Neither a proper inter-agency administrative structure nor a clear-cut inter-agency cooperation in place between various ministries and agencies
Assessment: Significant progress as regards enhancing inter-agency cooperation has been noticed since the **National Security Council** has been established, as well as following the enforcement of the new *National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia.*
The lack of systematic requirements for the issue of residence permits and their categories as well as length of validity – particularly crucial for the residence permits issued on the basis of employment
Assessment: Some progress has been made, although the effectiveness of the control measures related to issued residence permits needs to be further enhanced, particularly as regards student visas.
There is no specific work permit system for foreigners in place
Assessment: The management of the local labour market is still rudimentary, in particular since information on vacant positions is still not obligatory and labour market surveys are not centrally managed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

Except for entry and exit no further tracking mechanism for foreigners is in place inside the country to verify "change in status"
Assessment: unchanged
There is no system in place that would alert Armenian migration authorities of "over-stayers" (both on visa and residence permit expiration), except upon exit from the country
Assessment: unchanged
The assessment team has noted an excessive divergence in the definition of "irregular/illegal migrant" with disproportionately high (criminal) penalties for illegal border crossing, as opposed to limited and lax (administrative) penalties for other immigration offences, such as over-stay
Assessment: unchanged
There is a lack of detention facilities for irregular migrants, either around the borders for short stay (48-72 hours) or for longer (3-6) months stay anywhere inside the country; theoretically irregular border crossers may be put in jail
Assessment: unchanged
There is a lack of funds to enforce deportations, though the caseload is still relatively small
Assessment: unchanged

Additionally, current migration realities and trends are at times not adequately covered by the existing legislation of Armenia. Although a National Security Council, directly reporting to the President of Armenia, has been established to develop, oversee and monitor the implementation of the *Concept of the Policy of State Regulation of Migration in the Republic of Armenia* (adopted on 30 December 2010), and its respective Action Plan is being elaborated during the assessment mission's meetings, the legal framework does not yet address the main phenomena of the migration process and remains quite basic, containing just general provisions, which do not cover all peculiarities standard to migration processes.

These issues call for strong political support and the development of comprehensive policies supported by appropriate legislation and by-laws, and an effective, trained and equipped migration management administration, as well as efficient practices.

The experts' follow-up assessment of Armenia's migration management capacity identified that weaknesses still exist, which, unless soon addressed, are expected to fuel the flow of irregular migrants, transnational crime and other abuses directly and indirectly linked to migration, potentially jeopardising the country's security and interests.

These weaknesses in the field of migration included:

A lack of overall direction and limited policy development and implementation capability
Assessment: Significant progress has been noticed, in particular since the establishment of the **State Migration Service** and the **National Security Council**, now fully in charge of migration management in Armenia.

An insufficient legal framework and a lack of clear criteria for entry and residence
Assessment: Significant progress has been flagged, in particular regarding the approximation of the national migration-related legislation with a view to the full implementation of the Mobility Partnership Agreement with the EU.
The fact that there is not one single government agency coordinating migration management nor, alternatively, clear terms of reference for the division of tasks between the existing agencies dealing with the migration process.
Assessment: With the establishment of the **State Migration Service**, a clear leading agency in migration management in Armenia has been nominated, responsible for policy development and coordination on the ministry level, as well as other border authorities.
A lack of a coherent system for migration data collection and analysis and an insufficiently elaborated data exchange mechanism between institutions dealing with migration.
Assessment: Significant progress has been made with linking up various databases, in particular the BMIS system with the visa and passport databases.

Lastly, relations with the EU play a key role in any successful reform project which is aimed at enhancing Armenian's migration management system. The Government of Armenia has started to take control of migration management and to articulate a clear vision supported by appropriate policies and legislation to create clear regulations and procedures. In terms of structures, it is important to further strengthen a strong coordinating agency, although competencies in the process may require the strong involvement of other agencies. International practice suggests that good migration management consists of four essential interdependent tiers:

- Policy;

- Legislation and procedures;

- Administrative structures;

- Enforcement and operational mechanisms.

Based on this practice, this follow-up report assesses the recommendations given in the previous Migration Management Assessment of 2008, and may recommend further adjustments for the Government of Armenia to consider.

It has to be mentioned that, since 2007, IOM has conducted a number of line needs assessments, which have provided important recommendations in the discrete sub-areas of migration management. The Progress Review therefore supports the main recommendations of these line needs assessments. They include:

- *Yerevan Zvartnots International Airport Aviation Security Report*;[2]

- *Biometrics Needs Assessment Report*;[3]

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[2] Lockwood, Graham A. for the International Organization for Migration, *Report on Aviation Security at the Yerevan Zvartnots International Airport*, IOM, 2007.

[3] Kefauver, Barry et al., *OSCE / IOM Assessment Report: National Action Plan for the Introduction of an e-Passport and ID Card in the Republic of Armenia*, OSCE/IOM, 2009.

- *Migration Data Needs Assessment Report*;[4]
- *Border Management Needs Assessment Report*;[5]
- *Labour Migration Management Needs Assessment Report.*[6]

In 2009, IOM Armenia contributed to the *Armenia National Human Development Report on Migration and Development*.[7] The full version of the study on *Migration Management and Human Rights*[8] was also published, many of the recommendations of which are still valid.

An Assessment with regard to aligning national migration-related legislation with EU legislation on migration is planned by IOM in 2012.

It should be noted that in 2012 parliamentary elections are planned to be held in Armenia, and the formation of a new Cabinet may include a restructuring of the administrative structure for managing migration in Armenia.

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[4]   Manke, Marina for the International Organization for Migration, *Enhancing Migration Data Collection, Processing and Sharing in the Republic of Armenia: Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis Report*, International Organization for Migration, 2010.

[5]   Prutsch, Franz for the International Organization for Migration, *Armenia Technical Border Needs Assessment*, IOM, 2011.

[6]   Devillard, Alexandre for the International Organization for Migration, *Labour Migration Management in the Republic of Armenia: Needs Assessment and Policy Options*, International Organization for Migration, 2011.

[7]   United Nations Development Programme, *Migration and Human Development: Opportunities and Challenges. 2009 Armenia National Human Development Report*, UNDP, 2009.

[8]   Galstyan, Kristina, *Migration Management and Human Rights*, International Organization for Migration, 2010.

B. POLICY

The experts' assessment for the follow-up mission took into consideration the fact that the policy priorities of Armenia in the sphere of immigration in 2008 were based on an "open door policy" in an attempt to foster the following sectors linked to the "in-flow" of foreigners, especially to:

► develop the attractiveness of Armenia as a tourist destination and therefore increase visitor volume;

► attract foreign investment in Armenia, not only of the large investor type but also for small and medium enterprises;

► continue to be a prominent "education service provider" for neighbouring countries and the wider region.

However, when thinking about tourism, it might be still worthwhile to consider increasing the number of "visa free regimes" towards developed countries that are more likely to send tourists to Armenia than others. The abolishment of a visa requirement – let it be even unilaterally – is often a determining factor for potential tourists in their decision of which country to visit during the next holidays. The current procedure of obtaining a visa at the border – which can be considered to be "tourist-friendly" due to the lack of diplomatic representations of Armenia abroad – is still a deterrent for tourists to come; indeed, it has limited significance for preventing the entry of un-wanted persons into Armenia.

Similarly, when talking about small- and medium-sized entrepreneurs who may wish to consider investing in Armenia, much of what was mentioned above also applies. Additionally, it is the opinion of the experts that investment is not mainly encouraged by simple entry procedures, but rather by other conditions which attract, facilitate and guarantee that foreign investment is safe, particularly when of a small nature.

Based on these considerations the expert team defined several policy recommendations for **immigration**:

Develop a more balanced policy on migration, tackling not only the irregular, but also the legal part of the phenomenon and thus balancing control and facilitation
Assessment: unchanged
Adapt the new policy to the internal and external migration realities of Armenia, aimed at controlling and managing migratory flows according to national interests, but at the same time in concordance with the commitments assumed towards the EU through ENP commitments
Assessment: This recommendation has partly been implemented through the adoption of the new Migration Strategy and the National Action Plan on Migration
There is a need for a "key institution" for migration policy development, which has to be identified and formally charged with the coordination of the process, understanding that migration is a much wider issue than the influx and accommodation of refugees and tends to move towards increases in both immigration and emigration for economic purposes

Assessment: With the expanded role of the State Migration Service, the perspective of migration in the wider context has been appropriately reflected in the National Migration Policy and related action plans
Sector policies and strategies implemented by different line ministries (Labour and Social Issues, Health, Education, Economy, Diaspora, etc.) need to be reviewed and streamlined with a view to integrating migration policy aspects into those policies and strategies
Assessment: unchanged
Overall the shift in policy needs to move from a "laissez-faire" attitude to the belief that migration needs to be managed and regulated in order to reap its benefits
Assessment: unchanged
Although policy should not enter into regulatory details, it may be important that the Government specifically recognize that visa and residence criteria – for issuance, validity and renewal – need to be reviewed
Assessment: unchanged

As far as the "out-flow" of Armenian Nationals is concerned, priorities seem still to revolve around the following:

► Efforts to keep track of the Armenian Diaspora abroad in an attempt also to secure the rights of Armenian nationals abroad, strengthening the consular services offered abroad to Armenians. Biometric passports are part of this strategy.

► General attempts to facilitate the free movement of Armenians abroad, in particular to the EU, through the negotiation of more facilitated visa regimes possibly leading to visa-free opportunities in the future.

► Facilitate the concept of "circular migration", particularly to the EU, in order to maximize economic development from the exchange and build-up of experiences both in terms of financial remittances but also in terms of returning expertise.

Based on these considerations the expert team defined certain policy recommendations for **emigration**:

Effective management of migration can only be achieved if policies and strategies are based upon sound knowledge of real migration flows. Thus, the collection and analysis of validated and reliably aggregated data and ensuing the production of timely statistics have to be part, and ideally the base, of a comprehensive national migration policy
Assessment: unchanged
Develop an implicit or explicit emigration policy, taking into account the demographic and economic effects of emigration on the country, as well as the role that migrant remittances and diaspora could play in the future if encouraged in the correct manner

> Assessment: The National Security Strategy takes a strong stance on the negative effects of emigration regarding the national capacity to counter economic, demographic and security threats to Armenia, without tapping into the potential of a vibrant diaspora for the economic development perspectives of the country.

> *The focus on readmission and reintegration of migrants returning to Armenia, either in a voluntary or forced manner, should continue to figure as prominent issues in Armenia's foreign policy, but also be considered in migration policy development, potentially including also preventive measures aimed at discouraging irregular emigration*

> Assessment: unchanged

It should be noted that, since 2008, several national policy documents have been adopted, namely the *Border Security and Integrated State Border Management Strategy*,[9] the *Programme for Development of Labour and the Social Security Sector*,[10] the *Diaspora Partnership Concept*,[11] the *Demographic Policy Strategy*,[12] the *Information Technologies Strategy*,[13] the *E-Society Concept*,[14] and the *Strategy for Development of Tourism*.[15]

The most significant national policy document adopted was the *Concept for the Policy of State Regulation of Migration in the Republic of Armenia*.[16] The Concept regulates the management of migration in Armenia and sets the goals and principles of the policy of state regulation of migration "by developing a migration situation that complies with national security and sustainable human development and by ensuring the protection of the rights and interests of the persons involved in migration flows."[17]

The Concept also lists the main problems of the Armenian Policy of state regulation of migration and the key directions for their solution.

The paper specifies the following main inter-disciplinary problems: (1) Improvement of the unfavourable demographic situation caused by migration processes; (2) Improvement of the undermined resettlement situation of the state's population resulting from migration processes; (3) Prevention of undesirable emigration flows reaching considerable dimensions due to deceleration of

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[9] "Border Security and Integrated State Border Management Strategy of the Republic of Armenia," approved by the National Security Council on 25 September 2010.

[10] "Programme for development of labour and social security sector deriving from the provisions of the Armenian National Security Strategy and plan of actions," approved by the RA Government Decision 452-N of 15 April 2010.

[11] "Concept on the development of Armenia Diaspora Partnership," approved at Session No. 34 of the RA Government of 20 August 2009.

[12] Demographic Policy Strategy and Action Plan for 2009 – 2035, approved by Minutes No. 27 of the RA Government of 2 July 2009.

[13] "On Approving the Programme of State Assistance to Development of Information Technologies Sector," RA Government Decision No. 658-N of 23 April 2009.

[14] "Concept for Formation of Electronic Society in the RA for 2010   2012," adopted by the Minutes No. 7 of the RA Government Session of 25 February 2010.

[15] "RA Strategy for Development of Tourism," approved on 13 February 2008 by the Minutes of RA Cabinet Session No. 6; "On Approving the 2008   2012 National Action Programme stemming from the Strategy for Development of Tourism," RA Government Decision No. 1322-N of 16 October 2008.

[16] "Concept for the Policy of State Regulation of Migration in the Republic of Armenia," approved by minutes No. 51 of Armenian Government Session of 30 December 2010.

[17] Ibid, Chapter 2. The Goal and Principles of the Policy of State Regulation of Migration.

the socio-economic development of bordering rural areas, the deterioration of the demographic situation and the desertion of bordering villages; (4) Reduction of the large-scale outflow of intellectual and scientific potential, as well as the quality labour force of the Republic; (5) Existence of a policy, including tax, monetary and customs regulations, that causes undesirable emigration flows and also fails to stimulate positive socio-economic impacts; (6) Prevention of the break-up of family and marital relations.

These challenges have to be solved by means of the strategies adopted in various sectors of the Armenian public administration. The policy paper also lists 14 main problems to be solved solely through the state regulatory strategy for migration:

1) Approximation of the Armenian legislative framework of migration regulation and the administrative system with corresponding EU legislation and the best institutional structures of EU member states, taking into consideration national and state interests.

2) Introduction of the system of biometric e-passports and identity cards with a view to raise the protection of documents certifying a person's identity and nationality, as well as the facilitation of the right to movement for Armenian nationals.

3) Improvement of the Armenian border management system by introducing the principle of integrated state border management.

4) Development of an information system for registering migration flows.

5) Protection of the rights and interests of Armenian nationals leaving for overseas employment.

6) Regulation of the employment conditions of foreign nationals in Armenia with a view to ensuring the priority right of Armenian nationals to employment compared with foreign nations in the territory of the Republic of Armenia.

7) Prevention of irregular migration originating in Armenia and improvement of the legislative framework relating to irregular migration.

8) Assistance for the return of Armenian nationals from foreign countries and for their reintegration in their home country.

9) Improvement of the Armenian asylum system, ensuring effective integration of foreign nationals within Armenian society once they have been granted refugee status.

10) Ensuring the implementation of the policy of integration of refugees forced to migrate from Azerbaijan from 1988-1992 into Armenian society.

11) Mainstreaming of internal migration processes in conformity with the requirements of national security and the sustainable development of the Republic of Armenia.

12) Regulation of the potential mass movements of the population at times of emergency.

13) Organization of the fight against human exploitation/trafficking and protection of the victims of human exploitation/trafficking.

14) On the basis of the analysis and evaluation of the migration situation of the Republic of Armenia, the undertaking of monitoring and evaluation of the progress of the implemented migration policy, and the introduction of a system to conduct day-to-day reviews and adjustments.

It is around these 14 issues that the National Plan of Action (NPA) for Implementing the Strategy has been designed.[18] For Issues 2, 3 and 13, references have been made to relevant discrete national policy papers. For Issue 1, four large activities and 15 actions have been suggested, including the signing and implementation of a joint memorandum for "EU Mobility and Partnership", and the development of an Action Plan aimed at filling the gaps and solving the problems connected to compliance of Armenian migration-related legislation to EU standards.

Issue 4 has three major activities with a total of 12 actions, including merging the information systems of all migration bodies into a single system.

Issue 5 is one of the most elaborate, with six major activities and 27 actions put forward, including inter-governmental bilateral labour agreements.

Issue 6 has three major activities and 9 actions to specifically address the major gap of regulating the employment of foreigners.

Issue 7 and Issue 8 have four major activities each, with a total of 14 actions pertaining to irregular migration, including the return and reintegration of Armenian nationals.

Issue 9 has five major activities, with a total of 17 actions related to asylum.

Issue 10 deals with the problems of refugees and has three major activities and seven actions.

Issue 11 has three major activities and seven actions related to the management of internal migration processes.

Issue 12 deals with movements in cases of emergency, and has two major activities and 11 actions.

Issue 14 has two major activities and 14 actions related to the monitoring of migration flows.

The NPA is very ambitious, but the text of the NPA does not specify if the State will allocate – especially for the first year of its implementation – sufficient funds for the realization of the activities or actions, or if their accomplishment is expected through projects funded by various international, intergovernmental or other donor organizations.

Armenia's migration policy is, therefore, being shaped by various **regional migration-related processes, initiatives and developments**.

Commonwealth of Independent States

With regard to the **Commonwealth of Independent States** (CIS), Armenia ratified the *Agreement on Establishing a Council of Heads of Migration Bodies of CIS Member states*.[19] The purpose of the Council is to coordinate CIS Member States' cooperation in the field of migration. The Council's priorities include realizing the key principles of the Declaration on the Coordinated Migration Policy of the CIS Member States and of the CIS Further Development Concept and its implementation plan. To further these objectives, the Council adopted an Action Plan in 2009, which includes, *inter alia*, working towards improving the consistency and coherence of the legal provisions underpinning migration policies in CIS Member States; achieving mutual recognition of medical insurance and

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[18] "On Approving the Action Plan 2012-2016 for the Implementation of the Policy Concept for State Regulation of Migration in the Republic of Armenia," adopted by Decision N 1593-N of RA Government of 10 November 2011.
[19] "Agreement on Establishing a Council of Head of Migration Bodies of CIS Member states," signed and entered into force on 5 October 2007. In force in Armenia since 15 June 2010.

other labour migration-related documents in CIS Member States; better preparing labour migrants for their migration experience, including through pre-departure and post-arrival orientation.

In addition, the Council of Heads of CIS Member States adopted on 10 October 2008 a Programme of Cooperation in response to irregular migration for 2009–2011. The consequent Programme for Cooperation for 2012   2014 was adopted on 3 September 2011.

In 2010 Armenia ratified the *CIS Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families*.[20]

Regional consultative processes on migration

At the 2009 high level meeting in Budapest, the participating countries of the **Cross-Border Co-operation Söderköping Process** decided to extend the Process to include Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.[21] During autumn 2010, the three South Caucasian States were formally invited to join the Process. As of 2011, Armenia acceded to the Söderköping Process.

European Neighbourhood

In 2009, within the framework of ENP, the **Eastern Partnership** was initiated by the EU with the aim of tightening the relationship between the EU and Eastern partners, including Armenia, through deepening political cooperation and economic integration.[22] The EaP offers deeper integration into the EU structures by encouraging and supporting partners in political, institutional and economic reforms based on EU standards, as well as by facilitating trade and increasing mobility between the EU and th partner states. The fundamental goal of the EU's bilateral cooperation within the EaP framework is to make its bilateral relations with the individual partner countries closer. To this end,

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[20] "Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families of the CIS Member States" signed on 14 November 2008, entered into force on 21 February 2010, Armenia ratified the Convention on 15 July 2010.

[21] The Söderköping Process was launched in May 2001 during the first Swedish Presidency, as a cross-border cooperation on asylum and migration in order to respond to new challenges due to the EU's enlargement eastwards. From the beginning, the overall aim has been to support and facilitate the countries along the EU's eastern borders to approach the EU through capacity building, knowledge and experience sharing in the field of asylum and migration, in accordance with EU standards and values. The focus of this consultative process is: (a) Border security and management; (b) Capacity for asylum and migration management; (c) International refugee and human rights law; (d) Information on neighbouring country legislation and structures; (e) Rights of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants; (f) Irregular migration; (g) Trafficking (adopting and harmonizing legal standards); (h) Awareness and understanding of the reality of the new border. Currently there are 14 countries participating in the Söderköping Process. Apart from the EU member states of Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Sweden, partner countries include Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. In 2010, the Process was transformed from a partner-led to a government-led cooperation, with a one-year rotating Chairmanship. Since the start of the Process, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration have also been project partners.

[22] The Eastern Partnership (EaP) is a European Union initiative directed at six countries of Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The EaP was launched by 27 EU member states and the six partner countries at a summit in Prague on 7 May 2009. The initiative aims to tighten the relationship between the EU and the Eastern partners by deepening their political cooperation and economic integration. The EaP neither promises nor precludes the prospect of EU membership to the partner states. It offers deeper integration with EU structures by encouraging and supporting them in their political, institutional and economic reforms based on EU standards, as well as facilitating trade and increasing mobility between the EU and the partner states.

EaP envisages negotiations and the implementation of Association Agreements,[23] and the creation of deep and comprehensive free trade areas between the EU and partner states.

Thus, at the EaP summit in May 2009, a political commitment was taken regarding the improvement of people-to-people contacts, to which visa facilitation and readmission negotiations with Armenia would follow. In September 2011 the European Commission (EC) proposed opening negotiations on agreements to facilitate the procedures for issuing short-stay visas, as well as on the readmission of irregular migrants between the European Union and Armenia.[24] In July 2010, the EU and Armenia launched negotiations on the future EU-Armenia Association Agreement, which will be the successor agreement to the EU-Armenia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (signed in 1996 and in force from 1999). The Association Agreement will significantly deepen Armenia's political association and economic integration with the EU. The EU and Armenia also aim at establishing a DCFTA when the relevant pre-conditions are met.

The EaP also aims to foster multilateral co-operation between the EU and the EaP region, and between partner states themselves. Multilateral cooperation includes flagship initiatives, including the Integrated Border Management Programme.

The **EU-Armenia Mobility Partnership Declaration** was signed in Luxembourg on 27 October 2011. Ten EU Member States (Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania and Sweden) are participating in the initiative. The Mobility Partnership is expected to enhance Armenia's ability to manage migration and inform, and integrate and protect migrants and returnees, as well as boost Armenia's capacity to curb irregular migration and human trafficking.

The Joint Declaration identifies four areas for increased dialogue and cooperation: (a) mobility, legal migration and integration; (b) migration and development; (c) the fight against irregular immigration and trafficking in human beings, readmission, security of identity and travel documents, border management; (d) asylum and international protection.

Armenia–EU Policy Dialogue on Migration and Asylum

IOM, within the framework of the EU-funded "**Strengthening Evidence-Based Management of Labour Migration in Armenia**" project, will facilitate a series of policy dialogue meetings on migration with the participation of EU officials, government officials from selected EU Member States and Armenia.

These meetings will facilitate negotiations on various migration-related aspects of EU integration, including visa facilitation, readmission agreements, and possible bilateral labour agreements with EU Member States, among other issues. Building on the discussions of the Cluster Process, policy

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[23] The Association Agreements are aimed at bringing the partner countries closer to EU standards of governance and can form a framework for cooperation on a wide range of issues: usually they contain four parts, each representing the main areas of cooperation. The first three are: a) political dialogue and foreign and security policy; b) justice, freedom and security; c) economic and sectoral cooperation. The fourth part is a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA), which is negotiated separately. The DCFTA is something more than a normal free trade agreement. It concerns not only the liberalisation of trade in all areas, by lifting customs barriers and trade quotas, but also the harmonization of the partner countries' trade-related legislation with EU standards and the *acquis communautaire*. Membership of the World Trade Organisation is a precondition for entering negotiations on the DCFTA.

[24] Technical dialogue is under way, but negotiations have not started yet.

dialogue will also aim to enhance cooperation on labour migration management topics between European destination countries and Armenia, with a particular focus on bilateral, regional and multilateral labour migration agreements, circular migration, mobility partnerships, and return and reintegration management.[25]

Other Regional Projects related to migration policy

Armenia is participating in the **Global Forum on Migration and Development** (GFMD).[26]

Armenia has been involved in the **Building Migration Partnerships (Prague Process)** since 2009. [27]

Armenia is also participating in the World Bank **Migration and Remittances Peer-Assisted Learning (MiRPAL) Network.**[28]

Under the EaP Flagship Initiative, the **"Supporting to the Integrated Border Management Systems in the South Caucasus"** regional project is aimed at enhancing inter-agency, bilateral and regional cooperation between the South Caucasus countries, EU Member States and other international stakeholders, and at facilitating the movement of persons and goods across borders, while at the same time maintaining secure borders.

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[25] The proposed policy dialogue meetings will build on the "Cluster" Process, the inter-regional migration and asylum management dialogue between the sending and transit countries of the South Caucasus, and receiving EU Member States, which was assisted since 2001 by IOM. Through the Cluster Process, mechanisms and policies seeking to reduce irregular migration are promoted, while simultaneously strengthening the South Caucasus's institutional capacity and systems to promote legal migration and sustainable return and reintegration practices and policies.

[26] The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) is a recent initiative of United Nations Member States to address migration and development interconnections in practical and action-oriented ways. It is an informal, non-binding, voluntary and government-led process that marks the culmination of more than a decade of international dialogue on the growing importance of the linkages between migration and development. It reflects the progressive acknowledgement of the limits of a strictly national approach to migration questions and implications at the global level in an intergovernmental framework. In view of the societal implications of these issues, civil society representatives have also been involved from the outset in this process. The first session of the GFMD was held in 2007. The objectives of the GFMD are: (a) To provide a venue for policy makers and high-level policy practitioners to informally discuss relevant policies and practical challenges and opportunities of the migration-development nexus, and engage with other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, experts and migrant organizations to foster practical and action-oriented outcomes at the national, bilateral and international level; (b) To exchange good practices and experiences, which can be duplicated or adapted in other circumstances, in order to maximize the development benefits of migration and migration flows; (c) To identify information, policy and institutional gaps necessary to foster synergies and greater policy coherence at national, regional and international levels between the migration and development policy areas; (d) To establish partnerships and cooperation between countries, and between countries and other stakeholders, such as international organizations, diaspora, migrants, academia etc., on migration and development; (e) To structure the international priorities and agenda on migration and development.

[27] At a ministerial conference held in Prague in April 2009, under the initiative of the Czech Republic in conjunction with Hungary, Slovakia, Poland and Romania, a process of cooperation on migration (known as "Building Migration Partnerships") was established between the EU and 19 partner countries to the east (the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, Turkey, Russia, Central Asia and the South Caucasus). Under the terms of the declaration adopted in Prague (ST 9283/09), BMP extends across five areas: (1) combating illegal immigration; (2) readmission, voluntary repatriation and reintegration; (3) legal immigration; (4) integration; (5) migration and development. Sweden plays an active role in this process.

[28] This network involves Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. It aims to provide a forum for cross-country collaboration as a means to refine and harmonize approaches to initiate and guide CIS migration policies and practices.

The project is supposed to develop and enhance border crossing point procedures and operations, as well as to cooperate with the Armenian National Security Council on elaborating the national strategy on integrated border management.

Bilateral Labour Agreements

The negotiations on employing Armenian labourers in the State of Qatar started in 2002 during the visit of Armenia's President to Qatar. In 2004 the Head of Armenia's State Migration Service paid an official visit to Qatar during which the draft text of the "Agreement on Using the Labour force from Armenia on the territory of Qatar" was outlined for the first time. In 2005 the Qatari side recruited 22 medical doctors and four nurses who worked in Qatar for three months; some of them later extended their contracts. The negotiations to sign the bilateral labour agreement resumed in 2009 and the current text of the agreement has a sample contract as one of its annexes. IOM was invited by the State Migration Service to facilitate negotiations on this bilateral agreement. On 7 June 2011 the Agreement was pre-signed in Qatar by Ambassador Zayed Rashid M. Al-Naemi, Director of Asian and African Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, and Dr. Gagik Yeganyan, Head of the State Migration Service of Armenia.

In 2011 **Bulgaria** initiated an "Agreement between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Bulgaria on Regulation of Labour Migration". The Draft Agreement touches on intermediation for job hiring, working conditions and social rights of migrant workers, and contains special provisions on the return of migrant workers. It should be noted that, since 2007, the "Draft Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria on Cooperation in the Area of Labour and Social Protection" has been discussed and is ready for signature by the Parties.

In autumn 2011, following an experience exchange programme on **Bilateral Labour Agreements** with **Italy,** organized by IOM with EU funding and in close cooperation with the Italian Embassy in Yerevan, the Armenian Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has approached the Italian Government again for closer inter-State cooperation on labour migration.

In 2011 Armenia was discussing a draft Memorandum of Understanding on labour and social protection with **Kazakhstan**. The MoU stipulates cooperation on (a) monitoring the labour market; (b) vocational training and re-training systems for the unemployed and job-seekers; (c) security and protection of work; (d) social partnership; (e) social and pension security systems; (f) a social insurance system; (g) exchange of information regarding population welfare and incomes; (h) a social protection system.

Given that the Kazakh Government has declared that they are in need of large numbers of highly skilled professionals, including foreigners, IOM has facilitated discussions throughout 2011 on Armenia's plans for **Bilateral Labour Agreements** and preparations for discussions on bilateral labour agreements with Kazakhstan and other interested states. The Armenian side has suggested that the named MoU also include a component on the regulation of labour migration.

The Armenian Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has been negotiating the following agreements related to labour:

1. Draft Agreement on Cooperation in the Areas of Labour and Social Policies between the Ministry of Labour and Social Issues of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania.

2. Draft Agreement between the Republic of Armenia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands on Export and Enforcement of Social Security Benefits.

3. Draft Agreement between the Armenian Ministry of Labour and Social Issues and the Ministry of Labour and Social Development of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan on Cooperation in the Social and Employment Area.

4. Draft Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic on Cooperation in the Areas of Social Issues and Labour Force Movement.

5. Draft Agreement on Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Area of Labour and Social Issues.

6. Draft Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Czech Republic on Social Security.

7. Draft Agreement on Provision of Pensions between the Government of the Republic of Estonia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

8. Draft Agreement on Cooperation between the Ministry of Labour and Social Issues of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment of India in the Area of Labour and Social Issues.

It should be noted that the bilateral agreements on the regulation of labour and social issues were concluded with Georgia (1993), Russia (1994), Ukraine (1995), Belarus (2000), but they are not fully operational as bilateral labour agreements.

Since 2010, ILO has been facilitating negotiations on the implementation of the 1994 bilateral agreement between Armenia and **Russia,** enabling Armenians to work legally in Russia.

Readmission Agreements

Since 2008, Armenia has signed a number of agreements on readmission of their own nationals. They include readmission agreements with Germany;[29] Benelux Countries;[30] Bulgaria;[31] Sweden;[32] Norway;[33] Czech Republic;[34] the Russian Federation.[35]

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[29] "Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the German Federal Republic on the Readmission of Persons with Unauthorized Stay," signed on 12 November 2006, ratified by Germany on 25 February 2008, entered into force on 20 April 2008.

[30] "Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Kingdom of Belgium, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Kingdom of Netherlands on Readmission of Persons Staying without Authorization," was signed on 3 June 2009.

[31] "Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria on the Readmission of Persons with Unauthorized Stay," signed on 13 November 2007, entered into force on 1 July 2008.

C. LEGISLATION

For the effective management of current migration processes in the country and the support of the proposed recommendations of the assessment team, it was suggested, back in 2008, that the development of existing migration legislation (*Law on Aliens* primarily, but also other related laws) should be streamlined in the following directions:

- *Pre-entry – visa (currently implemented by the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs)*

Clear distinction between visa and permit. Ultimately a permit is sent or issued at the Embassy before the person enters Armenia. If not possible, then a VERY short visa to enter the country, if the purpose is to settle down for work, family reunification, etc. should be issued. The visa should only allow the foreigner to enter the country in order to collect the residence permit. Clearly the permit's issuance should already be decided upon AND this should be seen in the database when the visa is issued
Assessment: The e-visa system, developed for issuance of electronic visas, interfaces and compares data with other Armenian Government systems. Nevertheless, flaws in the system have created problems and uncertainties for travellers regardless of whether an e-visa has been granted or not.
Elaboration of more detailed visa categories with a spectrum of aliens who can apply for an "ordinary" visa, including the fact that an invitation should not automatically lead to a granted visa
Assessment: unchanged – the e-visa system is granting anyone with a valid passport who wishes to enter Armenia – provided being a national of those countries eligible to apply for an e-visa - as a visitor for **120** days or less.
Establishment of new categorization for short and long term visas and transit visas
Assessment: unchanged
Establishment of procedures for issuance of visas abroad to citizens of countries that are not entitled to receive a visa at the border
Assessment: This problem has been partly addressed through the technical upgrade of the diplomatic missions abroad, allowing them to transmit and compare personal data of visa applicants through web interfaces with other Armenian Government systems. Nevertheless, in many of those countries who cannot apply through the e-visa system, Armenia has no diplomatic mission established.
Limiting the possibility to obtain a visa at the border upon arrival to certain categories of travellers (tourist, private visit) and only for certain nationalities
Assessment: unchanged

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[32] "Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden on the Readmission of Persons with Unauthorized Stay," signed on 7 November 2008, entered into force on 19 April 2009.

[33] "Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway on the Readmission of Persons with Unauthorized Stay," signed on 23 January 2010, entered into force on 26 June 2010.

[34] "Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Czech Republic on the Readmission of Persons with Unauthorized Stay," signed on 17 May 2010. Ratification is pending.

[35] "Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Russian Federation on Readmission," signed on 20 August 2010. Ratification is pending.

- *Entry and Admission (currently partly implemented by the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Police Department of Passports and Visas and the Border Control Detachment)*

Elaboration of clear procedures for obtaining a visa for those who intend to enter for employment/self-employment, as currently no work permit system exists
Assessment: unchanged
Clarification of entry requirements particularly when entry is aimed at long-term stay
Assessment: unchanged
Clarification of grounds for refusal of issuance of visa and entry
Assessment: unchanged

- *Stay and Residence (currently partly implemented by the Police Department of Passports and Visas; additionally the Ministry of Foreign Affairs registers foreign diplomats)*

Establishment of a clear categorization of residence permits
Assessment: unchanged
Clarification of requirements for residence permits based on employment (re-establish links to the Ministry of Labour and Social Issues) or self-employment (create a link to the Ministry of Trade and Economic Development)
Assessment: unchanged
Introduction of a work permit (or permission) system linked to residence permits
Assessment: unchanged
Inclusion of increased details for family reunification as legal provision allowing for residence permit
Assessment: unchanged
Inclusion of religious and humanitarian activities carried out by an organization as legal provisions allowing for residence permit
Assessment: unchanged
Issuance of a single document for stay which should also stipulate the purposes for which the respective alien is residing in Armenia
Assessment: unchanged
Establishment of procedures for detecting aliens who are residing within Armenia, including those who are overstaying
Assessment: unchanged

- *Return, readmission and expulsion (currently partly implemented by the National Security Service and the Police)*

Review the criteria for entry ban of deported aliens based on criminal record and length of illegal stay
Assessment: unchanged

Define the legal basis for detaining an irregular migrant and the procedural rules surrounding such a decision, including rules of review of the decision and appeal of the same
Assessment: unchanged
Create legislation regarding detention facilities and attached procedures for detention of irregular migrants that corresponds somewhat with the EU Acquis *and international standards*
Assessment: unchanged
Define clear rules for extradition and expulsion
Assessment: unchanged
Introduce a provision in the state budget for expulsion costs
Assessment: unchanged

- *Irregular Migration and Trafficking in Persons (currently partly implemented by the Police and the Prosecutor's Office)*

Applying administrative law for migration-related offences, including illegal border crossing (when no further criminal intent has been established) and illegal overstay
Assessment: unchanged
Introduction of a maximum length of detention (detention to be carried out in separate areas from other criminally charged offenders) for aliens illegally crossing the border and other aliens who have violated immigration rules
Assessment: unchanged
Fully implementing the Protocol on Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime
Assessment: unchanged

- *Migration Data and Statistics*

Creating the legal basis for gathering of "aggregated data" and migration data exchange between agencies taking into account issues of data protection
Assessment: unchanged
Empowering the National Statistics Service (ArmStat) to prepare timely statistics on migration flows as requested yearly by EUROSTAT
Assessment: unchanged
Creating legislation to establish a unified databank (ideally based on the BMIS) defining also the encoding process, the access process and data protection
Assessment: unchanged

- *Institutional Framework for Migration Management (as far as it may require new legislation)*

Identification and assignment of one key institution in the migration field – definition of its functions and responsibilities

Assessment: Recommendation partly addressed – the State Migration Service, together with the National Security Council, are leading the process of developing key institutions in charge of migration management.
Adjustment of the functions and responsibilities of other agencies dealing with migration with the ones of the central migration management coordinating body to be identified
Assessment: unchanged
Concordance with the EU Acquis *on migration and established good practice of EU member states*
Assessment: unchanged

International Treaties

Since 2008 Armenia has acceded to a few important international treaties related to migrant's rights. Thus, in 2010, the "**Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**" was ratified.[36] In 2011 the "**International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance**"[37] was also ratified.

Since 2010 Armenia has expressed an interest in signing the "**International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families**."[38] Signing this Convention is *a strong recommendation* for the enforcement of rights of migrant workers and members of their families. IOM and other international organizations regularly organize discussions and consultations on the importance of acceding to this Convention.

Regional Treaties

Council of Europe

In 2008 Armenia ratified the "**Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings**."[39]

An important action with regard to the introduction of identity and travel documents with biometric parameters is the signature in 2011 of the CoE "**Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data**."[40]

Commonwealth of Independent States

In 2010 Armenia ratified the CIS "**Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families of the CIS Member States,**"[41] an important CIS treaty on migrant's rights.

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[36] "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities," adopted on 13 December 2006, entered into force on 3 May 2008. Armenia ratified the Convention on 22 September 2010. "Optional Protocol to the **C**onvention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" of 13 December 2006, was signed by Armenia on 30 March 2007, but still is not ratified.

[37] "International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance," adopted on 20 December 2006, entered into force on 23 December 2010. Armenia ratified the Convention on 24 January 2011.

[38] The "International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families" was adopted on 18 December 1990, entered into force on 1 July 2003.

[39] "Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings," adopted on 16 May 2005, entered into force on 1 February 2008. Armenia acceded to it on 14 April 2008.

[40] "Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data," adopted on 28 January 1981, entered into force on 1 October 1985, signed by Armenia on 8 April 2011.

National Legislation

Asylum and Refugees

In 2009 Armenia adopted a new law on *Refugees and Asylum* and a number of normative legal acts related to the field.[42] The law regulates the granting of refugee status, the rights and obligations of refugees and provision of temporary asylum status to foreigners or stateless persons. Developed through guidance from UNHCR, the law is more in compliance with the international standards than the previous law (1999 Law on Refugees).

The relevant sub-legislation includes:

(a)   a procedure for registering asylum seekers, including at border crossing control points;[43]

(b)   a procedure for placing asylum seekers in temporary shelter;[44]

(c)   a revised procedure for functioning of the shelter for asylum seekers;[45]

(d)   sample ID and Convention Travel Document formats for refugees,[46] and respective procedures for the issuance of travel documents and visas for voluntary repatriation of asylum seekers and refugees;[47]

(e)   a template for the application for asylum[48];

(f)   a certificate for asylum seekers. [49]

Identity Management

In 2008, the Armenian Government developed an ambitious plan to introduce Machine Readable e-Passports and an electronically enabled identity card,[50] stemming from the country's overall

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[41]   "Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families of the CIS Member States," signed on 14 November 2008, entered into force on 21 February 2010. Armenia ratified the Convention on 15 July 2010.

[42]   "Republic of Armenia Law on Refugees and Asylum," adopted on 27 November 2008, signed on 12 December 2008, in force from 24 January 2009.

[43]   "On approving the logbook form for registration of asylum seekers in the Republic of Armenia," Joint Decree of RA Ministry of Territorial Administration (No 35-N of 29 October 2009), Commander in Chief of the Border Guards Troops of RA National Security Service (No 91-N of 22 September 2009) and Head of the RA Police (No 6-N of 26 October 2009)..

[44]   "On establishing the procedure for placing asylum seekers in the temporary reception center and providing them with subsistence means," RA Government Decision No. 1440-N of 19 November 2009.

[45]   "On making changes in the procedure/regulations for functioning and maintenance of the temporary reception center for asylum seekers," RA Government Decision No. 1441-N of 19 November 2009; decision of the RA Government # 407-N of 3 April 2003.

[46]   "On establishing the sample of the ID for the refugee who received temporary protection and the procedure of exchanging that document with the Convention Travel Document," RA Government Decision No. 1367-N of 26 November 2009; "On the Format of Convention Travel Document Issued to Refugees and the Procedure of Issuance Thereof," RA Government Decision No. 1417-N of 3 December 2009.

[47]   "On establishing the procedure for facilitating the issuance of necessary travel documents and visa to enter the country of citizenship or permanent residence, or possible third, transit countries to the persons who submitted application for voluntary repatriation (asylum seekers and refugees)," RA Government Decision No 48-N of 21 January 2010.

[48]   "On Approving the Template Application for Asylum," RA Government Decision No. 286-N of 25 March 2010.

[49]   "On Approving the Certificate of Asylum Seeker in RA and the procedure for granting such certificate," RA Government Decision No. 285-N of 25 March 2010.

[50]   "On the Conception for Migration System of the Republic of Armenia and for Introduction of the System of Electronic Passports and Identification Cards with Biometric Parameters in the Republic of Armenia," Order No. NK-53-A of the President of the Republic of Armenia of 15 March 2008.

strategic e-Governance plans. The schedule of reforms of identity management was approved by the following documents:

(a) RA Government Decision No. 537-A "On approving the Schedule for Implementation of the Activities envisaged by the Conception for Migration System of the Republic of Armenia and for Introduction of the System of Electronic Passports and Identification Cards with Biometric Parameters in the Republic of Armenia" of 25 April 2008.

(b) Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No. 501-A, "On Approval of the Timeline of the Arrangements for Introduction of the System of Electronic Passports and Identity Cards Containing Biometric Parameters," of 18 June 2009 (amended by Decisions No. 746-A of 16 September 2010, No. 414-A of 8 June 2010, and No. 655-A of 4 August 2009).

In addition, technical parameters for services provided by electronic signature certification centres were defined.[51]

In 2009 and 2010, the Ministry of Economy devised the *Schedule for forming an Electronic Governance system and Electronic Society in Armenia for 2010 2014*.

The introduction of the new passport and ID cards called for new laws and/or amendments to existing legislation. The following drafts were developed in 2008 2009 with assistance provided by IOM and adopted by the National Assembly on 30 November 2011: (a) Law on Passport of the Citizen of Armenia; (b) Law on Identification Cards; (c) Law on Public Services Code.

Several laws were amended in order to reflect the new reforms of identity management. On 30 November 2011 the National Assembly introduced amendments to the following laws: (a) Law on State Register of Population; (b) Law on Citizenship; (c) Criminal Code; (d) Code of Administrative Violations.

The Draft Law on e-Governance and Draft Law on Protection of Personal Data were also prepared but are still under consideration.

The recommendations of *"OSCE / IOM Biometrics Needs Assessment Report"* were instrumental in this regard.[52]

Migration Data

The field call for immediate regulation and the Assessment Team subscribes to major recommendations made by the *"Migration Data Needs Assessment Report"*.[53]

Border Management

In 2011, IOM produced a *"Border Management Needs Assessment Report"*,[54] prepared by one of the Assessment Team Members. Therefore, in this progress report, these recommendations are not repeated though fully confirmed as priorities.

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[51] "On Approval of the technical parameters for services by electronic signature certification centers," RA Government Decision No. 116-N of 25 February 2008.

[52] Kefauver, Barry et al., *OSCE / IOM Assessment Report: National Action Plan for the Introduction of an e-Passport and ID Card in the Republic of Armenia*, OSCE/IOM, 2009.

[53] Manke, Marina for the International Organization for Migration, *Enhancing Migration Data Collection, Processing and Sharing in the Republic of Armenia: Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis Report*, International Organization for Migration, 2010.

Migrant Rights

The Assessment Team subscribes to the major recommendations of the Chapter of Migration Management and Human Rights of the "*Armenia National Human Development Report on Migration and Development*",[55] and the study on "*Migration Management and Human Rights*",[56] prepared by one of the members of this Assessment Team.

The most pressing recommendation is signing the *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families*.

Balancing the security aspects of migration management with the protection of migrants' rights is a pre-requisite for a migrants'-rights-centred national migration policy. This is equally important when speaking of implementation of any policy.

With regard to the protection of the rights of migrant workers abroad and further facilitation of possible bilateral labour agreements, the piloting of an institute of labour attachés could be worthwhile to be considered.

In absence of an extended network of consular representations abroad the Armenian Diaspora organizations can also play a role in protection of rights of migrant workers and facilitation of possible bilateral labour agreements.

Labour Migration

This field remains poorly regulated and, although the issue of *work permits* has been discussed for a long time, it has still not been implemented.

Additionally, the draft law on overseas employment is still under consideration.

IOM's *Labour Migration Management Needs Assessment Report* made important recommendations regarding the regulation of labour migration.[57]

A considerable gap is still the absence of a *pre-departure orientation and re-training mechanism* in the country, which is especially critical in the light of the aforementioned bilateral and multilateral labour agreements, and the Mobility Partnership Agreement prospects.

Private employment agencies also need to work in a better regulated field. In June 2010 the Code of Conduct for Private Employment Agencies was adopted. *Better coordination between the operations of private employment agencies, the Armenian State Employment Service agency (including the Migration Resource Centre), the State Migration Service and other relevant organizations (including NGOs and Diaspora organizations),* as well as coordinated cooperation with their counterparts abroad, is highly desirable and will allow for the better protection of the rights of migrant workers abroad.

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[54] Prutsch, Franz for the International Organization for Migration, *Armenia Technical Border Needs Assessment*, IOM, 2011.

[55] UNDP, *Migration and Human Development: Opportunities and Challenges. 2009 Armenia National Human Development Report*, UNDP, 2009.

[56] Galstyan, Kristina, *Migration Management and Human Rights,* International Organization for Migration, 2010.

[57] Devillard, Alexandre for the International Organization for Migration *Labour Migration Management in the Republic of Armenia: Needs Assessment and Policy Options*, International Organization for Migration, 2011.

Irregular Migration

The Armenian Government has adopted two decisions in order to regulate the operation of special accommodation centres in Armenia.[58] These documents are important, despite the fact that there are no such centres in Armenia as yet. Therefore, it is crucial that the named decisions are put into effect as soon as possible and special accommodation centres be finally established in Armenia. It is also important that these centres have good standard operating procedures and strict ethical rules for their personnel, fully in compliance with international standards.

The Police of Armenia initiated an amendment to the Criminal Code in 2011, criminalizing the organization and supporting of irregular migration.

Visa and Residence

As a follow up to the Law on Foreigners,[59] additional sub-legislation was adopted to regulate the matters related to visas and residence.

The list of countries whose citizens can apply for an Armenian visa only in Armenian diplomatic or consular bodies in foreign countries and only based on invitation was defined;[60] however, it has been changed several times and according to the most recent change in July 2011 it includes 24 countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Iraq, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, and Vietnam.

Citizens of these countries of Armenian origin, as well as other categories, such as diplomats, members of official delegations, and persons contributing through their activities to the development of economic ties between their country and Armenia, may receive their visas for Armenia under privileged conditions.[61]

Another decision regulates the procedure for applying and getting residence status.[62]

Human Trafficking

The ratification of the CoE Convention was a critical step forward.

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[58] "On Approving Procedures for Functioning of Special Accommodation Centers on the RA Border Crossing Points and Transit Zones and for Accommodating Foreigners in these Centers," RA Government Decision No. 127-N of 7 February 2008; "On Approving the Procedure of the Operation of a Special Accommodation Center in the Territory of the Republic of Armenia and the Procedure of Holding Arrested Foreigners in this Center," RA Government Decision No. 827-N of 10 July 2008.

[59] "Republic of Armenia Law on Foreigners," adopted on 25 December 2006, signed on 16 January 2007, in force from 3 February 2007.

[60] "On Approving the list of countries whose citizens can apply for RA visa only in RA diplomatic or consular bodies in foreign countries and only based on invitation, " RA Government Decision No. 329-N of 4 April 2008, as amended on 24 December 2009, 3 February 2011 and 14 July 2011.

[61] "On Approving the procedure for receiving RA entry visa on special conditions for citizens of Armenian origin and of certain other categories of countries whose citizens can apply for RA visa only in RA diplomatic or consular bodies in foreign countries and only based on invitation," RA Government Decision No. 1154-N of 8 October 2008.

[62] "On Approving List of Documents Accompanying Application for Temporary or Permanent Residency Status (Extending the Term of the Residency Status), Procedure for Reviewing Application, Description and Formats of Temporary Residence Card, Permanent Residence Card and RA Special Passport," RA Government Decision No. 134-N of 7 February 2008.

In 2011 the Armenian NA enacted amendments to the Armenian Criminal Code, which further strengthened its anti-trafficking clauses.[63]

In 2008 the National Referral Mechanism was adopted.[64] It provides effective protection of the rights of trafficking victims and provides them with rehabilitation services (including provision of shelter, professional medical and psychological assistance and counselling, work permits and access to education or training). It brings together various State agencies to collaboratively protect and promote the rights of trafficking victims and engage civil society in strategic partnership in the course of their activities. An important principle is that a victim's referral is done only with his or her consent; keeping any personal information confidential is, of course, also imperative.

The subsequent national plan of action to counter trafficking was adopted in 2010.[65]

It is important to mention that the 2010 State Budget has allocations for activities to fight trafficking through the Ministry of Labour and Social Issues, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Youth and Sports (this does not include all players of the National Referral Mechanism). In 2011 the Armenian Government continued partial funding for an NGO-run shelter which assisted 22 victims of trafficking in 2010.

According to the 2009 GTiP Trafficking in Persons Report[66], in 2009 USD 55,000 was allocated to partially fund an NGO-run trafficking shelter, USD 7,000 to fund medical care for trafficking victims and USD 53,000 for trafficking prevention efforts.

The 2011 GTiP Trafficking in Persons Report mentions as a concern about "the precipitous drop in the number of victims identified during the year, as well as the absence of investigations of forced labour offenses." The same report recommends undertaking "more vigorous efforts to identify victims of forced labour and to investigate and prosecute labour trafficking offenses; continue to provide and expand funding for NGOs that provide victim assistance and ensure that all funding allocated for anti-trafficking programs and victim assistance is spent on designated programs; increase the number of victims referred to NGO service providers for assistance; consider partnerships with NGOs that would allow them to regularly assist law enforcement with the victim identification process; improve efforts to protect victims who consent to serve as witnesses in prosecutions; continue to work to ensure that victims who are unable to assist in prosecutions have access to services and protection; investigate and prosecute government officials suspected of trafficking-related complicity and convict and punish complicit officials; continue to ensure that victims are provided with legally mandated assistance (medical, legal, primary needs, and shelter) at all stages of the victim assistance process; continue to ensure a majority of convicted trafficking offenders serve time in prison; and continue efforts to raise public awareness about both sex and labour trafficking."[67]

In 2009 a MoU on cooperation between Armenia and the United Arab Emirates, a major destination country for Armenian victims of trafficking, was signed.[68]

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[63] "On Introducing Amendments and Addenda in the RA Criminal Code," RA Law adopted on 1 March 2011, signed on 24 March 2011, in force from 9 April 2011.

[64] "On Approving the national referral procedure of trafficked persons," RA Government Decision No. 1385-A of 28 November 2008.

[65] "On Approving the National Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the RA and Its Implementation Timetable," RA Government Decision No. 1140-N of 3 September 2010.

[66] 2009 Trafficking in Persons Report, p. 67. Available at http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/123361.pdf.

[67] 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report, p. 71-72. Available at http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/164453.pdf.

[68] "Memorandum of Understanding between the RA Council on Trafficking in Persons Issues and United Arab Emirates National Committee on Combating Trafficking in Persons on Cooperation in Combatting Trafficking in Persons" of 5 December 2009.

D. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES

Identify and assign a single, strong coordinating agency in the field of migration (including asylum). Coordination needs to be applied to policy decisions, legislative review, implementation as well as technical support and inter-agency database complementarities
Assessment: With the establishment of the State Migration Service partly implemented, although the agency still lacks some of the capacity needed for this.
This agency can be an existing institution, but with more competencies added to its mandate. This agency should have the responsibility for the extension of residence permits and residence matters, including asylum processing, but not for border control
Assessment: see comment above
The territorial representation of this structure can be assured through the territorial branches of the Police Department of Passports and Visas, which is issuing at present the documents attesting legal residence in Armenia. However, in view of Armenia's existing immigration policy, the coordinating body at the central level should be preponderantly of a civilian nature, although it could certainly be housed in an interior/home affairs ministry-type structure
Assessment: see comment above
This institution should have, beside the competencies on legal migration, the necessary competencies for preventing and combating illegal stay of aliens. In this respect, there is a need for cooperation with the national police, which have the necessary capacity for this kind of action on the whole Armenian territory, based on the information received from the other institutions involved (NSS Border Guards, Police, etc.)
Assessment: see comment above
Setting up a closed accommodation centre for aliens in administrative detention
Assessment: unchanged
It is highly recommended to designate an institution managing the necessary procedures for assessing if the alien should be given a work permit in Armenia according to the local employment requirements and to have clear records of work contracts concluded by aliens
Assessment: see comment above

Currently the administrative structure of migration management in Armenia is particularly complex. Overlapping mandates of different institutions highlight the multifaceted structure of migration management in Armenia.

The Executive Branch
1. **State Migration Service** Ministry of Territorial Administration is the asylum agency. Recently has been charged with the development of migration policy. Has limited staff and capacities to coordinate migration management in Armenia.
2. **Ministry of Labour and Social Issues** is the body dealing with labour migration, job placement, labour market analysis, reintegration, social security, gender issues. The MRC

established by IOM was localized to the State Employment Service Agency under MLSI. The State Labour Inspectorate (competent authority of work permits) is under MLSI as well.

3. **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** is responsible for consular protection, diplomatic representation, issuance of visas, readmission, and EU relations.

4. **Police** deals with issuance of passports, ID cards, visas on the border crossing control points, visa extension, registration of foreigners on the territory, operates the population database, and combats organized crime (irregular migration, human trafficking, smuggling. The Interpol national central bureau is within the Police. The Police will be overseeing the migrant accommodation centres once they are established.

5. **National Security Service and its Border Guards Troops** control of the state border and operates the Border management information system tracking border crossings.

6. **Administration of the President of the Republic of Armenia**, through the Office of Acquittals, Citizenship, Awards and Titles, offers citizenship and political asylum.

7. **The Ministry of Justice** is responsible for registering the Civil Status Acts (birth, death, marriage, divorce, adoption). Maintains the database of civil status acts and the state register of legal persons. Oversees the penitentiary system. Is closely in involved in EU-Armenia related processes (mobility partnership, visa facilitation, readmission, etc.).

8. **Civil Aviation General Department** elaborates and implements State policies in the aviation sector, as well as administers and supervises aviation services and infrastructures that operate in Armenia.

9. **Ministry of Economy** is responsible for the elaboration and implementation of tourism development policy and elaborates the investment policy in the country. It also works out and realizes a state policy for entrepreneurship development, including small and medium enterprises. The Ministry has created the fund "National Center for Development of Small and Medium Entrepreneurship".

10. **The Cabinet Administration**. The E-Governance Infrastructure Implementation Unit is coordinating the overall implementation of Armenian e-Government Strategy and is responsible for the technical implementation of e-Society in Armenia (including introduction of electronic identification cards and biometric passports).

11. **Ministry of Diaspora** aims to secure the partnership and strengthen ties between Armenia and the Armenian Diaspora, ultimately the spiritual unity of the Armenian nation.

12. **National Statistical Service** of the Republic of Armenia (**ArmStat**) collects, processes, summarizes, analyses and publishes statistical data, including migration related data, coordinates the information and data collection according to the unified classification and coding system based on international standards, organizes statistical surveys, and carries out population censuses.

13. **The National Security Council** organizes, coordinates and monitors the works towards implementation of the Concepts and state programmes foreseen by the Armenian National Security Strategy; coordinates the activities of state bodies in the field of national security and assesses the efficiency of implementation by these bodies of the decisions related to national security. NSC defines the main directions for the country's strategic development (including strategic reforms of armed forces, law-enforcement bodies, and tax and customs system, border management, combating irregular migration), national security and raising national competitiveness. It was under the auspices of the NSC that the working group preparing the country's migration strategy was formed. The NSC also monitors the implementation of commitments to the EU.

14. **State Revenues Committee** manages, organizes and monitors customs activities, and controls the entry and exit of goods.

15. **Ministry of Health** takes measures to prevent dangerous and infectious diseases.

16. **Ministry of Education** develops and implements the state policy in the sphere of education and science.
17. **Ministry of Transport** elaborates and implements the policies of the Armenian Government in the transport, communication, and information technologies sectors.
18. **Ministry of Emergency Situations** develops, implements and coordinates the Armenian government's policy in the area of civil defence and protection of the population in emergency situations.
19. **Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs** elaborates and implements the policies of the Armenian Government in the sport and youth affairs sectors.
20. **Ministry of Finance** develops and implements the policy in state revenue formation, state finance management, and coordination of socio-economic development programmes.
21. **Ministry of Agricultur**e develops and implements the Armenian government's policies in the field of agriculture and forestry management. Includes the State Service for Food Safety.
22. **Ministry of Defence** elaborates and implements the policies of the Armenian Government in the defence sector.
23. **Council on Human Trafficking Issues** advises on human trafficking issues.

Since 2008 new bodies with a role in migration management have been instituted.

Among the significant changes in the administration of migration management is the elevation of the status of the **State Migration Service** (http://smsmta.am).

As a follow up to the *2008 Migration Management Review*, the establishment of an interagency working group,[69] aimed at discussing the comments and suggestions made in the *Review of Migration Management in Armenia   Assessment Mission Report* (prepared within the framework of the IOM "Capacity Building in Migration Management Programme Armenia Assessment" Project), as well as comments and suggestions made by international organizations and experts to develop new suggestions on reforms in migration management, was adopted by the Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia. On the recommendation of the interagency working group, the status of the Migration Agency was also elevated to a State Migration Service (SMS), which was given the new function of "coordinating bodies involved in migration activities, developing migration policies and legal acts and securing the implementation of these policies."[70]

The SMS was formally established in 2009.[71] SMS has the following objectives and goals: (i) Within the limits of its powers the development and implementation of state regulating policy on migration processes; (ii) Coordination of activities of migration bodies, the development of legal acts assuring migration policy and its implementation; (iii) Implementation of liabilities defined by Armenian legislation on the issues of providing asylum to foreign citizens and stateless persons; (iv) development and implementation of policy on integration of refugees forcibly displaced from the

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[69] "On Establishing an Interagency working group," Decision # 304-A of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia of 16 April 2009.

[70] "On the establishment of "Staff of Migration State Service" State Administrative Body of Ministry of Territorial Administration of the Republic of Armenia, approval of the charter of Migration State Service of Ministry of Territorial Administration the Republic of Armenia and structure of the staff" RA Government Decision 1515 – N of December 7, 2009, I. The General Provisions, Article 6, point 2.

[71] "On Establishing State Service in the Field of Migration Management within the structure of the RA Ministry of Territorial Administration," Decree of the RA President NH-286-N of 18 November 2009; "On the establishment of "Staff of Migration State Service" State Administrative Body of Ministry of Territorial Administration of the Republic of Armenia, approval of the charter of Migration State Service of Ministry of Territorial Administration the Republic of Armenia and structure of the staff," RA Government Decision 1515-N of 7 December 2009.

Republic of Azerbaijan in 1988 -1992 and other displaced persons in society; (v) In cooperation with corresponding Armenian Ministries, the development and implementation of programmes aimed at the prevention of illegal migration, diplomatic representations, as well as with international organizations; (vi) Development and implementation of State policy to promote the immigration of Armenian citizens.

The revised functions of SMS include:

1) Development of migration policy concepts, based on analysis and assessment of the migration situation and identification of trends of change.

2) Presenting conclusions by experts on social-economic project drafts of the Republic of Armenia from the point of view of their effects on migration.

3) Assessment of the migration situation as a result of internal movement of the population within the territory of the Republic, as well as the analysis of the main trends of development.

4) Development and implementation of programs on re-immigration (return) of the population which has emigrated from Armenia in conjunction with corresponding Armenian Ministries, diplomatic representations, as well as with international organizations.

5) Submitting proposals on resettlement of the population of the Republic, for the sake of the improvement of the demographic situation of the population.

6) Within the limits of its powers, the development and implementation of programmes aimed at the implementation of regulation of the population's internal migration.

7) Implementation of the programmes on providing refugees forcibly displaced from the Republic of Azerbaijan in 1988 -1992 with permanent dwellings.

8) Provision of assistance to refugees forcibly deported from the Republic of Azerbaijan in 1988-1992 regarding of the acquisition of citizenship, access to education, health, legal support, etc.

9) Processing the asylum applications of foreign citizens and stateless persons; rendering legal, social and other types of assistance prescribed by Armenian legislation to such category of persons.

10) Development and implementation of population resettlement programmes on improvement of the demographic situation in border, high-mountain and disaster area settlements, in conjunction with the state management republican and territorial bodies, as well as local self-governance bodies.

11) Provision of legal-consultancy information to the representatives of different migrant groups (refugees, asylum seekers, returners to Armenia, persons who want to leave Armenia, etc.).

12) Receiving from Armenian executive bodies data on migration processes, their systematization and creation of the database.

13) Support the database on refugees and other displaced persons, provision of data to other bodies and organization in the established order.

14) Within the limits of its powers, the implementation of international cooperation within the framework of issues referring to the field of migration.

15) In the established order, participation in the development works of draft Armenian international treaties on the issues of population migration.

SMS now has the following sub-divisions: (a) Migration Policy Department; (b) Asylum Issues Department; (c) Refugees Department; (d) External Affairs Department; (e) Financial Accounting Department; (f) General Department.

Starting from 2009, SMS worked on elaborating the country's migration management strategy, which was adopted in December 2010.

The **RA Ministry of Diaspora** (http://www.mindiaspora.am) was established in 2008.[72] The Ministry's aim is to secure partnership and strengthen ties with the Armenian Diaspora: ultimately the spiritual unity of the Armenian nation. The Armenia Diaspora Partnership is aimed at protecting fundamental rights and liberties, including rights related to the use of language, culture, religion, education, the free movement of any Armenian (whether an Armenian citizen or from the Diaspora) within the framework of international law, to preserve the national identity of Armenians and to reinforce links between the homeland and the Diaspora.

The main directions for the Armenia–Diaspora Partnership are: (a) Sustaining and inculcating Armenian national identity; (b) Supporting and utilizing potential among professionals in the Diaspora in the processes of developing both Armenia and the Armenian Diaspora; (c) Supporting the integration of Armenians into the public, political, cultural and economic lives of the places of their residence or citizenship, consistent with their Armenian identity; (d) Supporting the recreation and inculcation of Armenian national identity among Armenians speaking other languages and belonging to other confessions, thus supporting their "repatriation"; (e) Developing regional strategic programmes, taking into account each region's own individual needs; (f) Supporting the formation and development of an all-Armenian media and information network; (g) Developing programmes that encourage national reunification and repatriation, and supporting the reinforcement of Armenian statehood; (h) Supporting the consolidation of Armenian communities; (i) Supporting the development of Armenian educational establishments; (j) Supporting Armenian research centres and departments in different universities around the world and developing independent programmes of Armenian studies.

Overall, the potential of the Armenian Diaspora is not fully utilized and national polices should facilitate the Armenian Diaspora's greater involvement in the socio-economic development of the country and enable an environment for the return of qualified nationals; the action helps to foster the links between migration and development. As Armenia does not have consular representation in all countries of the world, Diaspora organizations may also play a role in protecting the rights of Armenian migrants abroad.

The **National Security Council** (http://www.nsc.am/) was established in 2008 by the Order of the President of the Republic No. NH-128-N of 26 May 2008. NSC is responsible for raising issues related to internal, external, political, military, economic, social, food, energy, environment, information, demographic, scientific-technological and other aspects of national security and national interests. NSC organizes, coordinates, and monitors the works towards implementation of the Concepts and state programmes foreseen by the Armenian National Security Strategy,[73] and can

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[72] "On Establishing 'RA Ministry of Diaspora' State Administrative Institution, Approving its Charter and Staff Structure," RA Government Decision No. 1049-N of 11 September 2008.

[73] "Republic of Armenia National Security Strategy," approved by the Order of the RA President No. NH-37-N on 26 February 2007.

adopt decisions for their implementation. The Armenian National Security Strategy is important for border management as well as the management of irregular migration.

NSC coordinates the activities of state bodies in the field of national security and assesses the efficiency of implementation by these bodies of the decisions related to national security. NSC defines the main directions for the country's strategic development, national security, raising national competitiveness and adopting decisions for their realization. NSC is responsible for strategic reforms of the armed forces, law-enforcement bodies, and tax and customs systems in accordance with the National Security Strategy, as well as for assessing the efficiency of their functioning.

NSC includes heads of key state structures, such as the Chairman of the Armenian National Assembly; the Prime Minister; the Vice Prime Minister; the Chairman of the Constitutional Court; Ministers of Defence and Foreign Affairs; the Chief of Staff of the Administration of the President of the Republic; the Prosecutor General; the NSS Director; the Head of Police; the Chief of the Armenian Armed Forces General Staff. NSC is headed by the President of the Republic. The NSC Secretary is responsible for securing the implementation of NCS decisions, coordinating the apparatus of the NSC and monitoring the implementation of these decisions. NSC has departments for National Security Strategy Implementation, Internal Security and External Security. NSC has several interagency commissions.

It was under the auspices of the NSC that the working group preparing the country's migration strategy was formed. NSC also monitors the implementation of commitments to the EU.

An important development was also the transfer of the **Migration Resource Centre** (MRC) to MLSI. MRC in Armenia was established in 2006 with funding from the EU,[74] and operated as a division within the IOM Project Development and Implementation Unit until 2008 (when the project ended). During this period the MRC provided free consultations to 3,500 persons (in person) and conducted 650 telephone consultations. MRC operated in Yerevan and 3 regions of Armenia (Lori and Shirak in the north, and Syunik in the south). According to a letter from the Armenian Foreign Ministry in 2009, MRC was transferred to the State Employment Service agency (SESA) under MLSI. The transfer was completed according to a MoU and between MLSI and IOM in 2010 and piloted at the Yerevan Erebuni and Nubarashen District Employment Centre.[75] SESA was selected since it already runs 51 employment centres in all regions of Armenia and is thus able to ensure the link between MRC and the employment centres, which is essential.

MLSI has adopted a decision that all MRCs established in the country should be based on the IOM MRC model. In 2010–2011 ILO replicated the IOM MRC model in 2 more locations within SESA, in Ijevan (Tavush region) and Ashtarak (Aragatsotn region).

IOM published for SESA 23 destination country guides (Australia, Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Georgia, Hungary, Iran, Italy, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States of America). ILO has developed destination country guides for additional countries (Greece, Germany, and Turkey).

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[74] Within the framework of the "Informed Migration – An Integrated Approach to Promoting Legal Migration through National Capacity Building and Inter-Regional Dialogue between the South Caucasus and the EU" project (funded by the EC AENEAS).

[75] MRC was localized as part of a follow up IOM Project, "Stemming Illegal Migration in Armenia and Georgia and Enhancing Positive Effects from Legal Migration" (funded by the Italian Government).

It is notable that the localized MRC has been vested with a new function: reintegration of returning migrants. This coordination function will consist primarily of taking care of the individual intake consultation after the migrant has returned, in order to determine the needs and possibilities of the returnee, as well as elaborate an individual reintegration plan jointly. After that, the prime function of MRC will be to refer the returnee to appropriate assistance structures, administer each reintegration case, and monitor the reintegration process over a certain period of time.

It is important to mention that the SESA is adding the function of migrant consultations into the job descriptions of MRC/SESA staff, thus providing for sustainability after the end of the related IOM project.

MRCs cooperate with the SMS, private employment agencies, consular bodies, and NGOs protecting migrants' rights, as well as Diaspora and foreign organizations.

The *expansion of network of MRCs in the country* is a strong recommendation of the Assessment Team, as MRCs can play a crucial role in the implementation of bilateral, regional and multilateral labour agreements, and the mobility partnership. MRCs can also have an important role in the reintegration of returnees.

E-Governance Infrastructure Implementation Unit CJSC (EKENG, http://www.ekeng.am) was established in 2009 for the implementation of new identity cards and biometric documents.[76] It was firstly instituted as an open joint stock company with the Ministry of Economy, designated to manage the state share. In 2011 EKENG was restructured into a closed joint stock company chaired by the Chief of Staff of the Armenian Cabinet Administration.[77] EKENG is coordinating the overall implementation of the Armenian e-Government Strategy and is responsible for the technical implementation of e-Society in Armenia.[78]

EKENG provides a common framework, ensuring general coherence among different information systems and allowing different entities of the Government of Armenia to coordinate not only on the various e-Society initiatives, but also to align information systems with overall business goals, to ensure inter-operability, and to avoid duplicating investments. This will contribute to the rollout of applications across the government – and the private sector – in a more efficient manner. To start the process and the implementation of e-Society, secure electronic means of identification are required to access public and private services.

Therefore, one of the company's main projects is the introduction of electronic identification cards and biometric passports in order to equip citizens with identification and authentication tools. EKENG is the only company in Armenia authorized to issue digital signatures to individuals and legal entities.

The Interagency Committee on Human Trafficking Issues was restructured into a **Council on Human Trafficking Issues**,[79] headed by the Deputy Prime Minister and composed of the Ministers of Education and Science, Economy, Finance, Foreign Affairs, Healthcare, Justice, Labour and Social

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[76] "On Establishing E-Governance Infrastructure Implementation Unit Open Joint Stock Company," RA Government Decision No. 494-N of 30 April 2009.

[77] "On Restructuring E-Governance Infrastructure Implementation Unit Open Joint Stock Company into a Closed Joint Stock Company," RA Government Decision No. 442-N of 21 April 2011.

[78] "Concept for Formation of Electronic Society in the RA for 2010   2012," adopted by the Minutes No. 7 of the RA Government Session of 25 February 2010.

[79] "On Establishing a Council on Human Trafficking Issues," Decision of the Prime Minister of RA No. 861-A of 6 December 2007, as amended on 23 June 2008, 21 January 2010, and 11 January 2011.

Issues, and Sports and Youth Issues, the Heads of the National Security Service, Police, and State Migration Service, as well as the Prosecutor General and the Head of the External Office of the Administration of the President of the Republic. This format proved to be quite successful thanks to the hands-on monitoring by the Deputy Prime Minister and the active participation of the Ministers and Heads of State Agencies. The Assessment Teams believes that such *a high-level council for coordinating issues of migration management* will be highly efficient.

A strong recommendation of the Assessment Team remains the *clearer coordination of the activities of the bodies involved in migration management*. Given the split mandate on migration in Armenia, a solution could be the establishment of *an inter-agency commission/council on migration*, composed of all the main stakeholders, which will coordinate the activities of these bodies in the field, and will monitor the implementation of the policies on the ground. Such a commission will allow equal participation from such important bodies as MLSI, MoFA, NSS, the Police, NSC, in addition to SMS, and will involve more institutions who have a say in various aspects of migration management, such as the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Economy, the Diaspora, the Ministry of Transport, ArmStat, the State Revenues Committee, and Emergency Situations, as well as the Cabinet Administration and Administration of the President of the Republic. After all, migration's inter-disciplinary nature touches almost everybody in public administration in Armenia in one way or another.

It should be noted that in 2012 parliamentary elections are planned to be held in Armenia, and the formation of the new Cabinet may include restructuring the administration responsible for managing migration in Armenia.

E. OPERATIONAL MECHANISMS IN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

Identify a leading institution for the coordination of migration management implementation. Strengthen the cooperation between the institutions involved in managing migration by concluding new cooperation protocols or renewing the existing ones
Assessment: With the establishment of the State Migration Service partly implemented, although the agency still lacks some of the capacity needed for this
Create a unified migration data management system streamlining data collection, analysis and exchange between agencies involved in migration management based on a common set of migration indicators which have to be agreed and used by all institutions involved. The coordinating role in this process would likewise be assumed by the strengthened "key" migration institution
Assessment: unchanged
Ensure that NSS Border Control Detachment has access to the records containing visas issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in advance of travellers reaching the border
Assessment: accomplished
It is recommended that the NSS Border Control Detachment and the Police, including Police DPV, work in BMIS database and are given access to enough information in the database to manage their task. The practice of dividing border control and police DPV databases should be halted immediately as it presents a serious security risk for Armenia
Assessment: accomplished
It is recommended that the competent institutions design a cooperation mechanism in order to establish a common procedure for detecting over-stayers. This includes the creation of a computerised IT-based tracking system and exchange mechanism between the NSS Border Control Detachment and the Police, including Police DPV on data concerning the pre-entry, entry, stay and exit of aliens, i.e. keeping track of the entire immigration process of the foreigner in one place
Assessment: unchanged
Strengthen the cooperation with the main countries of origin and destination and conclude readmission agreements with them, especially with neighbouring countries
Assessment: unchanged
In order to execute deportations (i.e. forced expulsions as opposed to administrative expulsions) there is a need for establishing a special fund for this issue (including accommodation, transport and medical care for migrants)
Assessment: unchanged

F. METHODOLOGY

The methodology for the assessment included consultations with senior government officials in several ministries, the National Assembly, the Presidential Administration, the National Security Council, briefings from senior managers in the IOM Mission in Armenia, briefings by the EU Delegation to Armenia, as well as the EU Advisory Group, and a review of recent developments as far as migration-related policies, legislation and Action Plans are concerned.

Members of the team contributed with their own global perspectives based on extensive knowledge and experience in the field of migration, border management, and international, EU and different national migration laws.

The primary objective of this follow-up assessment was to identify – by taking into account the progress that has been made since 2008 – the main gaps and key areas which will need further attention in the field of migration management and the development of comprehensive and sound legal frameworks for Armenia. Immigration of foreigners into Armenia was prioritized – with a view to the upcoming negotiations with the EU on the Joint Declaration on a Mobility Partnership – although emigration of Armenian nationals was also taken into consideration.

The schedules of interviews with members of the Armenian Government are provided in *Annex 1*.

Assessment team

- The assessment team was comprised of: Mr. Pier Rossi-Longhi, Technical Cooperation Specialist for the Americas, based at IOM Regional Office for Central and North America and the Caribbean in San Jose, Cost Rica. Until 2010 Mr. Rossi-Longhi was IOM's Technical Cooperation Specialist for Europe and the Director of IOM Technical Cooperation Centre for Europe and Central Asia in Vienna, Austria. Mr. Rossi-Longhi was the Team Leader for the Assessment Mission in 2007–2008, conducting the first comprehensive review of migration management in Armenia. Mr Rossi-Longhi, as Team Leader for the progress review, brought in the European Union perspective and 10 years of personal experience in EU Accession programmes concerning capacity building and migration management, as well as the knowledge and experiences gained during the assessment visits in 2007–2008.

- Mr. Franz Prutsch, Technical Cooperation Specialist for Europe and Central Asia, based at IOM Regional Office for Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia in Vienna, Austria. Mr. Prutsch has experience in border management-related projects in the Western Balkans (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania) and the South Caucasus, as well as most recently in East Africa (Kenya).

- Ms. Kristina Galstyan, Head of Project Development and Implementation Unit, IOM Mission in Armenia. Ms. Galstyan was on the Assessment Team for the Review of Migration Management in 2007--2008. Ms. Galstyan is a lawyer experienced in Armenian legislation and its functioning. Ms. Galstyan has been the programme officer for IOM Armenia since 2006 and brought the Armenian perspective into the studies.

December 30, 2011

ANNEX 1. SCHEDULES OF MEETINGS

IOM Mission in Armenia

Project Development and Implementation Unit

Agenda for Follow-up Migration Management Needs Assessment Mission to Armenia

Day 1.   Monday, 16 May 2011

09:30 – 10:30	IOM Armenia Mission Staff
10:30 – 12:30	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	Mr. Tigran Seiranian, Head of the Consular Department
14:00 – 15:30	Ministry of Territorial Administration
	Mr. Armen Gevorkyan, Minister, Deputy Prime Minister
	Mr. Gagik Yeganyan, Head of the State Migration Service
15:30 – 18:00	State Migration Service at the Ministry of Territorial Administration
	Mr. Gagik Yeganyan, Head

Day 2.   Tuesday, 17 May 2011

09:45 – 11:00	EU Advisory Group to Armenia
	Mr. Antti Hartikainen, Team Leader, Advisor on Integrated Border Management and Customs, EU Advisory Group to Armenia
11:00 –12:30	National Security Council
	Dr. Artur Baghdasaryan, Secretary of the National Security Council
	Mr. Misha Melkonyan, Head, External Security Department
	General Aram Tananyan, Head, Department of National Security Strategy Implementation
	Mr. Artashes Avoyan, Chief of Staff
	Ms. Catherine Durieux, Adviser on Justice, Liberty and Security, EU Advisory Group
13:30 – 15:00	State Employment Service of the Ministry of Labour and Social Issues
	Mrs. Sona Harutyunyan, Head
	Ms. Anush Poghosyan, Assistant to the Head
15:00 – 16:30	National Assembly
	Dr. David Harutiunyan, Chair, Standing Committee on State and Legal Issues
17:00 – 18:00	Ministry of Diaspora
	Mr. Vardan Marashlyan, Deputy Minister
19:30 – 21:00	EU Advisory Group to Armenia
	Ms. Catherine Durieux, Adviser on Justice, Liberty and Security, EU Advisory Group

Day 3.   Wednesday, 18 May 2011

09:30 – 11:00	Police of the Republic of Armenia
	Colonel Artur Osikyan, Deputy Head of Police;
	Colonel Norayr Muradkhanyan, Head of Directorate for Passports and Visas
	Senior Lieutenant Arsen Hambardzumyan, Deputy Head of Directorate for Passports and Visas
11:00 – 12:30	Embassy of the French Republic in Yerevan
	Mr. Frédéric Grapin, Consul
12:30 – 13:45	Police of the Republic of Armenia General Directorate for Combating Organized Crime
	Colonel Gagik Avetisyan, Head of General Directorate for Combating Organized Crime
	Colonel Ruben Dovlatyan, Head of Department for Combating Irregular Migration and for International

	Collaboration, Organizational-Analytical Matters and Combating Crimes of High Technologies
	Major Armen Petrosyan, Head of Division for Combating Irregular Migration and for International Cooperation
	Major Robert Grigoryan, Deputy Head of Division for Combating Irregular Migration and for International Cooperation
14:00 – 15:00	Central Bank
	Mr. Hrant Suvaryan, Head Financial Supervision Department;
	Mr. Artur Stepanyan, Head, Monetary Policy Department
16:00 – 18:00	Ministry of Economy
	Mr. Armen Yeganyan, Head, SME Development;
	Mr. Aram Tshchmarityan, Deputy Head,
	Mr. Artak Chilingaryan, Deputy Head, Department of Economic Policy and Strategies Development
	Ms. Marie Grigoryan, Deputy Head of Department of Tourism
	Ms. Anush Babayan, Department of EU and International Economic Affairs

Day 4.   Thursday, 19 May 2011

09:30 – 11:00	State Revenues Committee
	Mr. Hayrapetyan, Head, Tax and Customs Administration strategy and planning Department
	Mr. Samvel Sanamyan, Head, Department for combating contraband and for customs double check
	Mr. Gevorg Saghoyan, Head of Customs Supervision Department
11:00 – 12:30	Ministry of Justice
	Mr. Hamlet Navasardyan, Head of the Civil Status Acts Registration Agency
	Mr. Argam Stepanyan, Deputy Head of the Civil Status Acts Registration Agency
14:30 – 15:30	Embassy of Poland in Yerevan
	Mr. Maciej Falkowski, Head of Political Department
15:45 – 17:00	European Commission Delegation to Armenia
	Mr. Jean-Christophe Gayrand, Head of Operations and Neighbourhood Policy Section
	Mr. Davit Avakian, Project Manager
17:00 – 18:30	Ministry of Labour and Social Issues
	Mr. Tadevos Avetisyan, Head of Department of Employment and Occupation

Day 5.   Friday, 20 May 2011

10:00 – 11:30	National Security Council
	General Aram Tananyan, Head, Department of National Security Strategy Implementation
12:00 – 14:00	Project stakeholder meeting
	Agenda
	1. Presentation of the main findings of the Migration management follow-up needs assessment
	2. Preparation of discussions on bilateral labour agreements with Kazakhstan
	3. Meeting with the Experts and Officials preparing the National Plan of Action for State Regulation of Migration in Armenia
	Mr. Gagik Yeganyan, Head, State Migration Service
	Mr. Robert Grigoryan, Deputy Head of Division for Combating Irregular Migration and for International Cooperation, Police
	Ms Lilit Sargsyan, Counsellor, Consular Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	Mr. Tigran Sargsyan, International Organizations Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	Ms. Venera Gabrielyan, Chief Specialist, Occupation Division, Department of Employment and Occupation, Ministry of Labour and Social Issues
	SESA (Mr. Ararat Bagratuni, Chief Specialist, Programmes Coordination Division, State Employment Service Agency, Ministry of Labour and Social Issues
	Mr. Narek Babayan, Leading Specialist, SME Department, Ministry of Economy
	experts writing the NPA – Mr. Armen Khudaverdyan and Mr. Vardan Gevorgyan
15:30 – 19:30	**Wrap-up meeting with** IOM Mission in Armenia

ANNEX 2. MIGRATION-RELATED STATISTICS

As of 31 December 2011 the Armenian Police has received 32,931 applications for **acquiring citizenship of Armenia** and at the same time 2,120 applications for **termination of Armenian citizenship**. In 2008–2011, 30,876 persons have been granted citizenship of Armenia upon a decree of the President of the Republic of Armenia. Citizenship of 1,938 persons has been terminated in the same period.[80]

In the period from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2010, **temporary residence status** was granted to 9,452 foreigners, and **permanent residence status** was granted to 494 foreigners.

In the same period, **special residence status** was granted to 3,981 foreigners. The below table shows the breakdown by the applicant's citizenship:[81]

Country	Number of foreigners granted special residence status
Argentina	10
Australia	26
Austria	27
Belgium	7
Brazil	3
Bulgaria	4
Canada	116
Croatia	1
Cuba	1
Cyprus	2
Czech Republic	1
Denmark	9
Egypt	101
Estonia	1
Ethiopia	4
Finland	2
France	213
Georgia	11
Germany	59
Greece	32
India	1
Iran	1,209
Iraq	428
Ireland	1
Israel	9
Italy	16

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[80] Figures provided by Armenian Police DPV in reply to an inquiry from IOM.
[81] Figures provided by Armenian Police DPV in reply to an inquiry from IOM.

Japan	1
Jordan	45
Kazakhstan	1
Latvia	7
Lebanon	221
Lithuania	2
Netherlands	34
Nigeria	2
Norway	3
Poland	2
Portugal	1
Russian Federation	55
Serbia	1
Slovakia	2
Spain	2
Sudan	2
Sweden	18
Switzerland	21
Syria	389
Turkey	51
Turkmenistan	71
Ukraine	7
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	49
Uruguay	1
USA	673
Uzbekistan	1
Venezuela	7
Stateless people	18
Total:	**3,981**

In the period of 1 June 2010 through 31 December 2011 **temporary residence permits on the grounds of study** were granted to 3,444 foreignersp.

Citizenship	Number of people granted temporary residence status on the grounds of study in Armenia
Argentina	2
Australia	5
Bahrain	1
Belarus	2
Brazil	1
Bulgaria	2
Canada	10
China	13
Cyprus	4
Egypt	14

Estonia	1
France	10
Georgia	115
Germany	6
Greece	17
Hungary	1
India	556
Iran	1,700
Iraq	8
Israel	14
Italy	1
Japan	1
Jordan	3
Kazakhstan	16
Latvia	3
Lebanon	39
Lithuania	2
Luxembourg	1
Maldives	2
Mauritius	1
Mexico	2
Moldova	8
Myanmar	2
Nepal	21
Netherlands	4
New Zealand	1
Nigeria	1
Poland	6
Portugal	7
Romania	3
Russian Federation	505
Serbia	1
Spain	2
Sri Lanka	15
Sweden	2
Syria	145
Turkey	12
Turkmenistan	85
Ukraine	17
United Arab Emirates	1
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1
United States of America	42
Uzbekistan	8
Stateless persons:	2
Total:	**3,444**

In the period of 1 June 2010 through 31 December 2011 **temporary residence permits on the grounds of employment or entrepreneurship in Armenia** were granted to 1,078 foreigners.

Citizenship	Number of people granted temporary residence status on the grounds of employment or entrepreneurship in Armenia
Albania	1
Argentina	13
Australia	8
Austria	5
Bangladesh	2
Belarus	1
Belgium	7
Benin	1
Brazil	6
Bulgaria	21
Canada	11
China	25
Congo, Republic of the	1
Côte d'Ivoire	5
Croatia	3
Cuba	1
Czech Republic	4
Denmark	2
Dominica	2
Egypt	3
Estonia	4
Finland	1
France	45
Georgia	16
Germany	36
Greece	4
Guinea	1
Guyana	1
Hungary	2
India	54
Iran	357
Iraq	1
Ireland	1
Israel	2
Italy	53
Japan	1
Kazakhstan	1
Kenya	1
Korea, North	2
Korea, South	3
Kyrgyzstan	3

Lebanon	25
Lithuania	1
Mali	1
Mexico	3
Moldova	4
Mongolia	1
Montenegro	5
Nepal	1
Netherlands	6
Peru	1
Philippines	25
Poland	10
Portugal	1
Romania	6
Russian Federation	42
Rwanda	1
Serbia	1
South Africa	1
Spain	7
Sri Lanka	1
Sweden	2
Switzerland	5
Syria	44
Togo	1
Turkey	10
Turkmenistan	2
Uganda	2
Ukraine	11
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	13
United States of America	128
Uzbekistan	4
Stateless persons:	2
Total:	**1,078**

In the period of 1 June 2010 through 31 December 2011 **permanent residence permits on the grounds of employment or entrepreneurship in Armenia** were granted to 92 foreigners.

Citizenship	Number of people granted permanent residence status on the grounds of employment or entrepreneurship in Armenia
Argentina	1
Belarus	1
Bulgaria	1
Canada	3

China	2
France	4
Georgia	2
Greece	1
India	3
Iran	53
Ireland	1
Italy	1
Lithuania	1
Peru	1
Pakistan	1
Russian Federation	2
Syria	3
Turkey	2
Ukraine	3
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2
United States of America	4
Stateless persons:	0
Total:	**92**

In the period of 1 June 2010 through 31 December 2011 **temporary residence permits on the grounds of being a close relative of an Armenian citizen or marriage with a citizen Armenia** was granted to 1,040 foreigners.

Citizenship	Number of people granted temporary residence permit on the grounds of being a close relative of an Armenian citizen or marriage with a citizen Armenia
Argentina	3
Austria	2
Australia	1
Azerbaijan	1
Bangladesh	2
Belarus	8
Belgium	2
Bulgaria	7
Canada	3
China	1
Cambodia	1
Egypt	21
Estonia	2
France	23
Georgia	77
Germany	18
Greece	11

India	17
Iran	199
Iraq	7
Israel	8
Italy	3
Jordan	2
Kazakhstan	7
Kyrgyzstan	1
Latvia	5
Lebanon	12
Lithuania	7
Luxemburg	1
Moldova	6
Mongolia	1
Myanmar	2
Netherlands	3
Nigeria	2
Philippines	2
Poland	15
Romania	1
Russian Federation	349
Rwanda	1
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1
Montenegro	1
Spain	6
Sri Lanka	1
Sweden	1
Switzerland	2
Syria	34
Tajikistan	1
Turkey	8
Turkmenistan	9
Ukraine	46
United Arab Emirates	2
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	11
United States of America	71
Uzbekistan	8
Serbia	1
Stateless persons:	3
Total:	**1,040**

In the period of 1 June 2010 through 31 December 2011 **permanent residence permits on the grounds of being a close relative of an Armenian citizen or marriage with a citizen Armenia** was granted to 660 foreigners.[82]

Citizenship	Number of people granted permanent residence permit on the grounds of being a close relative of an Armenian citizen or marriage with a citizen Armenia
Argentina	4
Australia	2
Austria	2
Belarus	2
Belgium	3
Bulgaria	3
Canada	9
Chile	1
Denmark	1
Egypt	2
France	6
Georgia	37
Germany	12
Greece	10
India	7
Iran	89
Iraq	3
Ireland	5
Israel	5
Italy	2
Jordan	1
Kazakhstan	5
Latvia	6
Lebanon	13
Lithuania	5
Moldova	1
Netherlands	3
Nigeria	1
Poland	4
Russian Federation	237
Montenegro	2
Syria	47
Turkey	1
Turkmenistan	30
Ukraine	25
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	3
United States of America	64

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[82] Figures provided by Armenian Police DPV in reply to an inquiry from IOM.

Uzbekistan	5
Serbia	1
Stateless persons:	1
Total:	**660**

In 2009–2011 twenty-five Armenians were **trafficked** in other countries, including:

	2009	2010	2011
Total:	10	9	6
Country:			
Turkey	3	1	1
UAE	7	8	3
Russian Federation	0	0	2
Gender:			
Female	10	9	6
Male	0	0	0
Age:			
Adult	10	8	3
Minor		1	3

In 2009–2011 eleven foreigners were trafficked in Armenia, all in 2009, all adult females from the Russian Federation.[83]

In 2008–2011, 194 foreigners were charged for violation of Article 329 ("**Illegal State Border Crossing**") of the Armenian Criminal Code.[84]

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Total number of registered cases / crimes committed:	48	33	63	50
Total number of people charged with criminal liabilities:	104	78	91	95
Among them, citizens of:				
- Armenia	91	71	83	81
- Russian Federation	2	1	0	2
- Georgia	5	5	5	1
- Iran	2	0	2	1
- Lebanon	1	0	0	0
- Turkey	3	0	0	6
- Syria	0	0	0	2
- India	0	1	0	0
- Afghanistan	0	0	1	0
- Nigeria	0	0	0	1
- Congo	0	0	0	1

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[83] Figures provided by Armenian Police General Department for Combating Organized Crime in reply to an inquiry from IOM.

[84] Figures provided by Armenian Police DPV in reply to an inquiry from IOM.

ANNEX 3. ACRONYMS USED

ArmStat	Armenian National Statistics Service
BMIS	Border Management Information System
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CoE	Council of Europe
DCFTA	Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area
DPV	Republic of Armenia Police Department for Passports and Visas
EaP	Eastern Partnership
EKENG	E-Governance Infrastructure Implementation Unit CJSC at the Republic of Armenia Ministry of Economy
ENP	European Neighbourhood Policy
EU	European Union
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development
GTiP	US Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons
ICHD	International Centre for Human Development NGO
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MLSI	Republic of Armenia Ministry of Labour and Social Issues
MoFA	Republic of Armenia Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoTA	Republic of Armenia Ministry of Territorial Administration
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRC	Migration Resource Centre
NA	Republic of Armenia National Assembly
NPA	National Plan of Action
NSC	Republic of Armenia National Security Council
NSS	Republic of Armenia National Security Service
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
RA	Republic of Armenia
SESA	State Employment Service Agency at the Republic of Armenia Ministry of Labour and Social Issues
SMS	State Migration Service at the Republic of Armenia Ministry of Territorial Administration
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
USA	United States of America
USD	United States Dollar

International Organization for Migration
Kristina Galstyan, Franz Prutsch, and Pier Rossi-Longhi

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Follow-up on the Migration Management Assessment Report

Prepared for publication by IOM Project Development and
Implementation Unit in Armenia