

Support to Implementation of Visa Liberalisation Action Plan

Period of implementation: 01.01.2014 - 31.12.2016

EaP countries:

Moldova

Total budget: € 1 580 000 000



Social media account links:

Project website: eubam.org/what-we-do/visa-liberalisation-action-plan/

Project description:

The EU and the Republic of Moldova began co-operation on migration and combatting irregular immigration, trafficking, cross-border crime and smuggling as early as January 2008, when a Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements entered into force. In 2008, a wider Mobility Partnership was concluded, which provided both a framework and facility for policy dialogue and co-operation on visa-related issues.

The EU-Republic of Moldova Visa Liberalization Dialogue prepared an Action Plan, defining the conditions to be met by the Republic of Moldova as the basis for visa-free travel, so-called "Visa Liberalization Action Plan (VLAP)". It contained preliminary benchmarks related to the legislative and regulatory framework and specific benchmarks for effective implementation across four blocks: Document security, including biometrics; Irregular immigration, including readmission; Public order and security; External Relations and fundamental rights.

Following the fulfilment of the VLAP, in April 2014, the European Union granted visa-free travel to Moldovan citizens in possession of a biometric passport. Since then, Moldovan citizens enter and travel throughout the Schengen area without visas.

Expected results:

- The visa liberalization regime has led to a significant reduction in irregular migration. The numbers of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers remains small and well within the current capacities of the Moldovan authorities to manage. Similarly, the Moldovan authorities are making good progress in tackling cross-border crime, notably trafficking in women, drugs and weapons.
- Approximately 327,000 inhabitants from the Transnistrian region were included in State Register of the Population and about 265,000 possess Moldovan biometric passports and IDs as citizens of the Republic of Moldova.
- EU support played the leading role in the policy dialogue on border management, migration management and cross-border crime.