



## PRESS RELEASE

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### New EU project on Migration and Border Management kicks off

**On 19 April 2016, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development presented their new project “Support to Migration and Border Management in Armenia” (MIBMA) in Yerevan. The project is fully funded by the European Union and implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).**

The new project was presented at the Official Opening Conference organised by ICMPD in close cooperation with the key Armenian partners. The project is designed to improve migration and border management in Armenia so it becomes closer to European standards. More precisely, the project will increase efficiency at border crossing points, facilitate trade and support the possible visa liberalization dialogue between the European Union and Armenia. Bringing together representatives of involved Armenian state institutions, the Delegation of the European Union to Armenia, international organisations, EU Member States, academia and non-governmental organisations, the event highlighted EU-Armenia relations in the field of migration, border management and visa.

During his welcoming speech Ambassador Piotr Antoni Świtalski, Head of Delegation of the European Union to Armenia stressed the importance of the migration issue on the international and EU agenda as well as the investment by the EU in migration systems in the Neighbourhood region, including Armenia. Mr. Martijn Pluim, ICMPD’s Director for the Eastern Dimension, presented long-lasting relations and key achievements of ICMPD in Armenia in the areas of migration and border management while emphasising the new project’s role toward enhancing EU – Armenia cooperation and dialogue. Opening remarks were also extended by Mr. Aram Tananyan, Head of Staff of National Security Council of the RA, Mr. Artashes Bakhshyan, Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration and Development of the RA, Mr. Bradley Busetto, Resident Representative of UNDP, Mr. Paruyr Hovhannisyan, Head of European Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the RA.

The Conference focused on Armenia's priorities in terms of migration and border management, addressed the importance of trade corridors and served as a platform to present the project strategy and objectives. Key project outputs include assistance to the preparation of a possible EU-Armenia visa liberalisation dialogue, strengthening inter-agency cooperation through the extension of the Integrated Border Management concept into the Armenian border management system, and developing a tender package for the improvement of the Meghri Border Crossing Point with Iran.

**For further information, please contact:**

Ms. Inna Galoyan  
Communication/Administrative Officer  
International Centre for Migration Policy Development  
Tel: +374 (0) 10 520 388  
Mobile: +374 (0) 93 401 016  
E-mail: [Inna.Galoyan@icmpd.org](mailto:Inna.Galoyan@icmpd.org)

*The overall objective of the MIBMA project is to enhance approximation of the migration and border management in Armenia to European standards of governance, in order to increase security, facilitate trade, and support the possible visa liberalization dialogue between the European Union and Armenia. The project activities target Armenian migration and border management authorities with the final benefit to the general public and citizens of Armenia.*



The project is implemented by the ICMPD

26/1 Vazgen Sargsyan Street  
Erebuni Plaza BusinessCentre  
Office 711  
Yerevan 0010, Armenia  
Tel: +374 10 520388  
Email: [mibma@icmpd.org](mailto:mibma@icmpd.org)  
Website: [www.mibma.eu](http://www.mibma.eu)

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Delegation of the European Union to Armenia  
21 Frik Street  
Yerevan 0002, Armenia  
Tel: +374 (10) 54 64 94  
Fax: +374 (10) 54 64 95  
Email: [Delegation-Armenia@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:Delegation-Armenia@eeas.europa.eu)

The European Commission is the EU's executive body.

“The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 60 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders”.