European Union-funded project “Support to the creation of an electronic system of pre-arrival information exchange between the customs authorities of Belarus and Ukraine (PRINEX)”

PRESS-RELEASE

Customs Officials from Belarus and Ukraine learn techniques to search goods and means of transport

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), in cooperation with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and experts from the Latvian Customs Board, will lead a training session on techniques used at border crossings to search vehicles and containers, as well as to inspect their contents. Ten customs officials from Belarus and Ukraine will attend the session, which will take place on the 14\textsuperscript{th} to the 15\textsuperscript{th} of July 2015 in Minsk.

The training will aim to pass on practices and techniques used by custom’s administrations of the European Union to participants. The training will focus on the inspection of luggage, personal belongings, cargo and containers, while also taking into account techniques used in the search for contraband and smuggled goods in vehicles (e.g. cars and HGVs) and containers. These are all essential skills for customs officials, and are required on a daily basis at border crossings and ports of entry. This training session will provide the participants with an opportunity to further develop them.

Background:

This training is a part of the European Union-funded project ‘Support to the creation of an electronic system of pre-arrival information exchange between the customs authorities of Belarus and Ukraine – PRINEX’. The project is being implemented by the International Organization on Migration (IOM) in partnership with ICMPD, which oversees PRINEX’s training component. Project activities include regular cross-border meetings and working groups to strengthen coordination and cooperation, hardware and software procurement, training workshops and study visits on risk analysis, document security, the fight against smuggling of goods and corruption, and information campaigns on the benefits of the new pre-arrival information exchange system for the local population at large and commercial carriers. The State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus and the State Fiscal Service of Ukraine are the recipients of the international technical assistance provided in the framework of the PRINEX project.

For more information about the project, please contact:
Ms Monika Weber, ICMPD Project Manager, monika.weber@icmpd.org
Mr Andrei Zaitsev, IOM Project Coordinator, azaitsev@iom.int