



**Ministry of Internal Affairs  
Border Police Department**



**Operational and Analytical Report  
January - December 2015  
BORDER POLICE**



**CHISINAU 2016**

**Risk Analysis Directorate**

**ANNUAL REPORT • January - December 2015**  
**on the operational activity of the Border Police**



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**REPORT**  
**on the operational activity of the Border Police for 2015**

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**List of abbreviations:**

<b>ICSB</b>	Illegal crossing of the state border (on entry in the RM)
<b>AICSB</b>	Attempted illegal crossing of the state border (on exit from the RM)
<b>VBR</b>	Violation of the border regime
<b>VSBR</b>	Violation of the regime of the state border
<b>VBCPR</b>	Violation of the border crossing point regime
<b>UICSB</b>	Uncontrolled illegal crossing of the state border (penetration)
<b>JD</b>	Joint detention
<b>DTICSB</b>	Detected traces of illegal crossing of the state border
<b>VRS</b>	Violation of the rules of stay on the territory of the Republic of Moldova
<b>IPIM</b>	Identified potential illegal migrants
<b>OC</b>	Other contraventions
<b>GB</b>	Green border
<b>BCP</b>	Border Crossing Point
<b>BPD</b>	Border Police Department
<b>REM</b>	Refusal of entry in RM
<b>IEM</b>	Interdiction of exit from RM
<b>MDA-UKR</b>	Moldova-Ukraine border sector
<b>MDA-ROU</b>	Moldova-Romania border sector
<b>AERO</b>	Air border
<b>B/S</b>	Border sign
<b>RM</b>	Republic of Moldova
<b>TFU</b>	Trafficking of human beings
<b>Tr./T</b>	Trimester
<b>SEM</b>	Semester
<b>BPS</b>	Border Police Sector
<b>RD</b>	Regional Directorate
<b>BP</b>	Border Police
<b>CCTHB</b>	Center for Combating Trafficking of Human Beings
<b>BMA</b>	Bureau for Migration and Asylum
<b>MTIC</b>	Minister of Information Technology and Communications
<b>MTD</b>	Mobile Teams Detentions

## PART I Indicators on the operational activity of the Border Police

### Indicators on the flow of person through Border Crossing Points

Indicators on the flow of persons at the state border of RM (mln. persons)							
Flow of persons	2014		2015		Dynamics		
	mln. pers.	%	mln. pers.	%	Trend	%	
<b>TOTAL Flow</b>	14,7	100%	17,10	100%	↗	16%	<b>100%</b>
<b>RM Citizens</b>	10,2	69%	11,32	66%	↗	11%	
<b>Foreign citizens</b>	4,50	31%	5,78	34%	↗	28%	
Flow of persons at the border with Ukraine (except the transdnestrian sector)							<b>46%</b>
<b>Flow at MDA-UKR</b>	7,71	100%	7,94	100%	↗	3%	
<b>RM Citizens</b>	5,66	73%	5,92	75%	↗	5%	
<b>Cetățenii străini</b>	2,05	27%	2,02	25%	↘	-1%	
Fluxul la frontiera cu România							<b>41%</b>
<b>Flow at MDA-ROU</b>	5,15	100%	6,94	100%	↗	35%	
<b>RM Citizens</b>	3,46	67%	4,17	60%	↗	21%	
<b>Foreign citizens</b>	1,69	33%	2,77	40%	↗	64%	
Fluxul la frontiera Aeriană							<b>13%</b>
<b>Flow at AERO</b>	1,84	100%	2,22	100%	↗	21%	
<b>RM Citizens</b>	1,08	59%	1,23	55%	↗	14%	
<b>Foreign citizens</b>	0,76	41%	0,99	45%	↗	30%	

In 2015, a flow of 17,1 million crossings by persons was registered at BCPs. Compared to 14,7 million crossings registered last year, data show an increase of 16% in the flow of persons. This trend is characteristic for all border sectors, although the reasons for the increase in the mobility of persons differ from one border sector to another.

The statistics show that the biggest number of passengers was registered at the BCPs from the Moldova-Ukraine border, amounting for 46% of the total or 7,94 million crossings. Compared to the flow of persons registered in 2014, there is a *moderate increase of 3%*. This increase accounts on the RM citizens who regularly travel to Russian Federation on working purposes or travel for leisure purposes to the Ukrainian Black Sea littoral. As for the number of crossings by foreign citizens on this segment, a slight decrease of 1% compared to the last year was registered, probably as a consequence of the social-political situation in Ukraine.

As for the persons flow on the Moldova-Romania sector a sharp increase of 35% compared to 2014 was recorded (6,94 million crossings). This growth was due to the increased mobility of persons in 2015. As a result, the number RM citizens travelling increased by 21%, while the number of foreign citizens increased by 1,6 in relation to 2014. The

main reason for this increase was the visa free regime with the EU for RM citizens, as well as the right of foreign citizens to enter RM on the basis of the ID card. The share of persons flow at the MDA-ROU border has increased compared to the last year, amounting for 41% of total (35% in 2014). The most active BCPs at the border with the EU were “Leuseni-Albita”, “Sculeni-Sculeni” and “Giurgiulesti-Galati”.

A continuous increase in the flow of persons was also recorder at the Air border. Thus, 2,22 million crossings were registered in the reporting period, or by 21% more than in 2014. This trend was characteristic for both RM citizens (by 14%), and foreign citizens (by 30%). The significant growth was fostered by a number of factors like: visa liberalization with the EU and Turkey; the increase in the number of flights, mainly in high seasons, launching of new destinations, advantageous prices for flight tickets. The share of the flow of persons on this border segment was 13% of the total.

**Trends:**

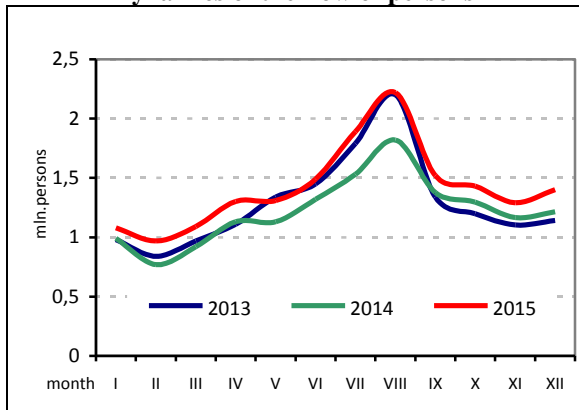
The increase in the flow of persons at the border will be characteristic for 2016, although slightly less prominent. The mobility of persons will be generated by the same factors as in 2015 (free visa regime with the EU, amendments to the RM legislation pursuant to which EU citizens enter RM on the basis of the ID card).

According to estimates, the most transited BCPs will be the MDA-ROU and Aero;

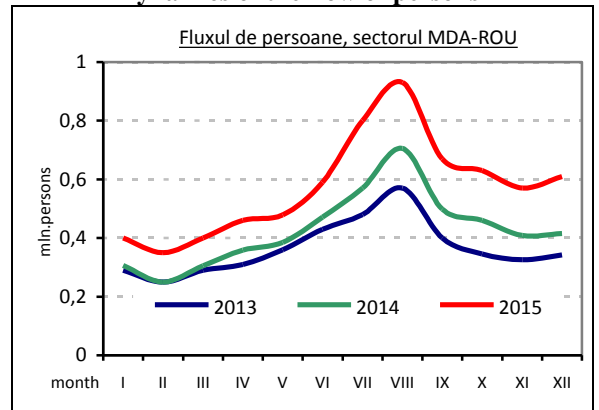
The increase in the number of flights and launching of new flights will also increase the number of border crossings;

In 2016, the flow of persons at the MDA-UKR border will depend on several factors as the evolution of the social-political situation in Ukraine, as well as the migration policy of the Russian Federation.

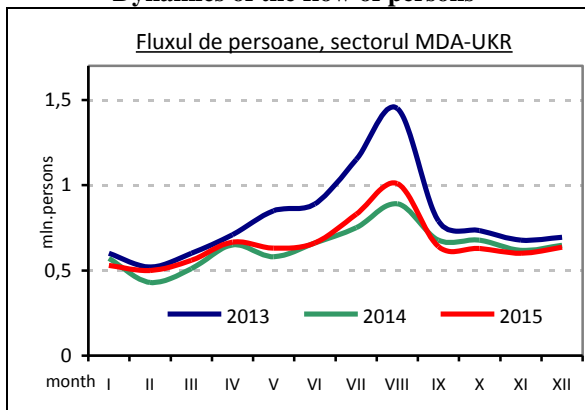
Dynamics of the flow of persons



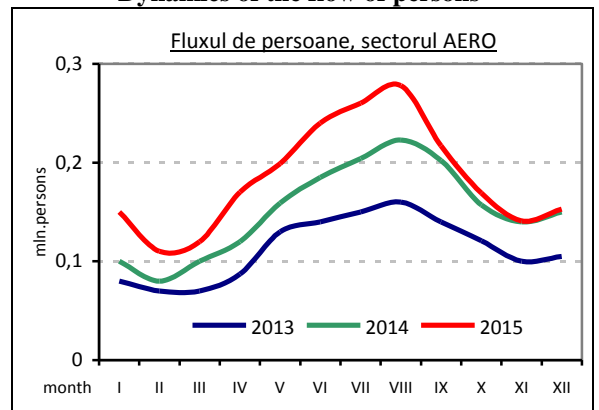
Dynamics of the flow of persons



Dynamics of the flow of persons



Dynamics of the flow of persons



The graphs above show the dynamics of the persons flow recorder in BCPs in 2015. Thus, the dynamics of crossings is more or less similar to the same periods in 2013-2014.

Until September, the flow of persons at MDA-UKR border sector, slightly increased

compared to 2014. The decrease was reported only by the end of the year.

The flow of persons at MDA-ROU border sector sharply increased compared to 2013-2014. In the last 2 months of the current year, the flow of persons at the Air border has reached the same level as in 2014.

## Indicators on the flow of transport means through border crossing points

Indicators on the flow of transport means at the state border of the Republic of Moldova (mln. transport units)							
Flow of transport	2014		2015		Dynamics		
	mln. transp.	%	mln. transp.	%	Tendința	%	
<b>TOTAL flow</b>	3,13	100%	3,85	100%	↗	23%	100%
<b>RM transport</b>	1,66	53%	1,80	47%	↗	8%	
<b>Foreign transport</b>	1,47	47%	2,05	53%	↗	39%	
Flow at the MDA-UKR border (except the transnistrian sector)							40%
<b>Flow at MDA-UKR</b>	1,36	100%	1,53	100%	↗	13%	
<b>RM transport</b>	1,01	74%	1,10	72%	↗	9%	
<b>Foreign transport</b>	0,35	26%	0,43	28%	↗	23%	
Flow at the MDA-ROU border							59%
<b>Fluxul MDA-ROU</b>	1,75	100%	2,29	100%	↗	31%	
<b>RM transport</b>	0,64	37%	0,69	30%	↗	8%	
<b>Foreign transport</b>	1,11	63%	1,60	70%	↗	44%	
Flow at the Air border							1%
<b>Fluxul AERO</b>	0,0193	100%	0,0228	100%	↗	18%	
<b>RM transport</b>	0,0090	47%	0,0102	45%	↗	13%	
<b>Foreign transport</b>	0,0103	53%	0,0126	55%	↗	22%	

The number of transport units registered at BCPs during 2015 reached 3,85 million crossings, increasing by 23% compared to 2014. The significant increase was on the account of transport units with foreign registration, indicator which increased by aprox. 40% compared to 2014. The increased mobility of persons crossing the border, especially RM citizens, as a result of the visa liberalization with the EU and the fact that foreign vehicles are allowed to stay on the territory of the country for an unlimited period were the main factors influencing this indicator.

The biggest flow of transport means was registered at the MDA-ROU border, accounting for aprox. 60% of the total. On this segment, the flow of transport units in 2015 recorded an increase of 30% in relation to the previous year. The growth of this indicator was mainly due to the increase in the transport units registered abroad (by 44% more than in the previous year).

Analysing the dynamics of the flow of transport units on the MDA-UKR border segment, there is an increase of 13% in relation to 2014. Compared to the dynamics of the flow of persons on this segment, the rise in the flow of transport means was characteristic for both the vehicles registered in RM (by 9%), as well as the ones registered abroad (by 23%). The share of transport means on this segment amounted to 40%.

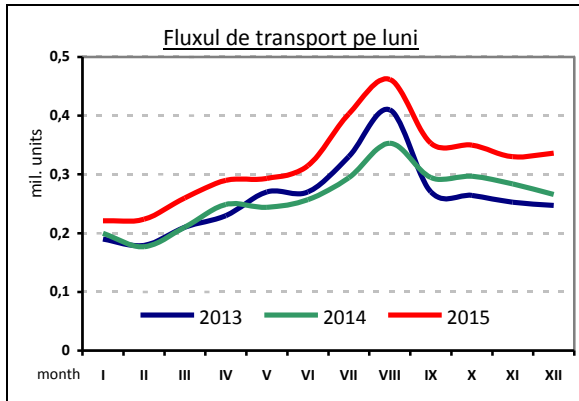
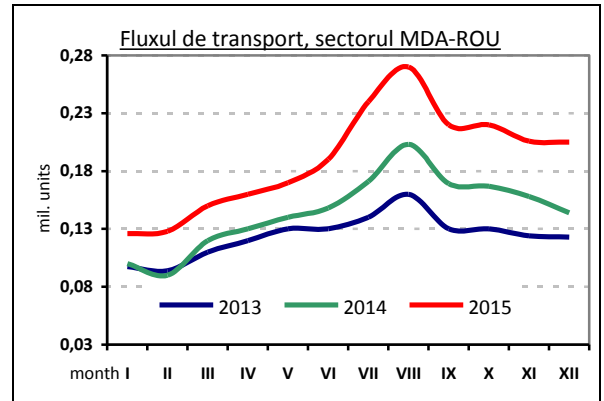
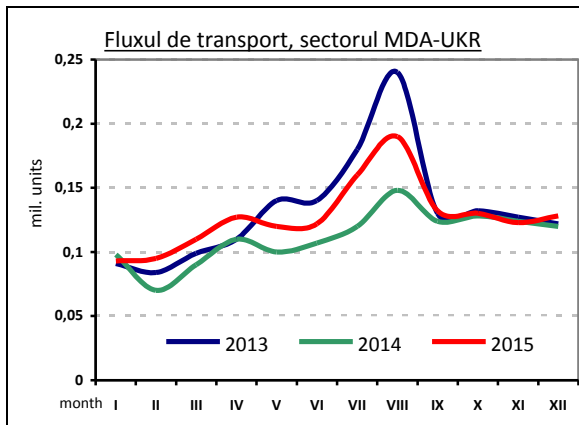
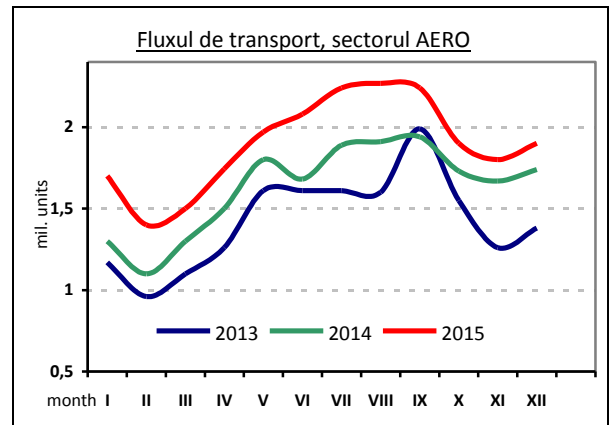
At the air border an increase of 18% crossings compared to 2014 was recorded. This trend was characteristic for all the indicators on this border segment. Due to the launching of new travel destinations by travel companies and of additional flights, as well as the significant decrease of prices for flight tickets more people have chosen to travel by plane.

**Trends:**

According to the estimates, the visa liberalization with the EU will continue to influence the increase of the flow of transport means in 2016, especially at the MDA-ROU border sector;

In highseasons an upward trend in the number of transport units at land BCPs is expected.

If new flights will be eventually launched in 2016 the number of air border crossings will also increase.

**Dynamics of the flow of transport units****Dynamics of the flow of transport units****Dynamics of the flow of transport units****Dynamics of the flow of transport units**

The graphs for the transport units show a similar trend to the figures on the flow of persons. In 2015, the number of vehicles reported at BCPs was more or less similar to the one registered in 2013-2014. This trend is characteristic for the MDA-UKR segment where we registered an increase of 13%, especially in September and October 2015.

As for the MDA-ROU and Aero sectors, a sharp increase in the number of transport means was recorded compared to 2013-2014. There was a stable growth throughout the year as a result of the increase in the flow of persons on this sectors.

### Refusal of state border crossing

In 2015, 5614 persons were not authorized to cross the border, by 4% less than in 2014. This trend was also characteristic for the air border sector. At the MDA-UKR and MDA-ROU border sector an increase in the number of refusals was registered.

Most refusals were reported at the MDA-border - 3107 persons, which is a slight increase by 4% compared to 2014. This was due to the increase of persons flow on this sector. The lowest number of refusals was recorded at the MDA-ROU border, amounting to 898 persons.

However, the number increased by 30% compared to 2014. The increase was due to the mobility of RM citizens freely traveling to the EU and EU citizens entering Moldova on the basis of identity cards ID1 and ID2.

The decrease in the number of refusals was characteristic only for the air border (by 26% compared to 2014). Most refusals on this border segment have been applied to RM citizens and Russian Federation and Romania citizens.

Indicators on the refusals of border crossing, general information, persons						
	2014	%	2015	%	Dynamics	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5869</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5614</b>	<b>100%</b>	↓	-4%
<b>MDA-UKR sector</b>	2991	51%	3107	55%	↑	4%
<b>MDA-ROU sector</b>	696	12%	898	16%	↑	29%
<b>AERO</b>	2182	37%	1609	29%	↓	-26%

Among the main reasons for refusals of border crossings were: *invalid travel document*, *non-compliance with the rules of entry and alerts*.

According to the figures, some of the indicators show an upward trend, while others a

visible decrease. The growth was recorder for the following indicators: *invalid travel document* (6%), *alerts* (16%), *non-compliance with the rules of entry* (13%) and *overstay* (16%).

\*\*\*\*\*

## Violation of border legislation

In 2015, Border Police recorded over 3 700 cases of violation of border legislation involving more than 4 300 persons. Compared to the previous year, the number of cases and persons detained increase by 7% and 5 % respectively .

The situation regarding violation of border legislation at the “green” border sector was similar to the previous year. However, there are some differences if looking at border segments. On the MDA-UKR segment an

increase by 10% in the number of violation of border legislation was reported, while on the MDA-ROU border segment figures show a decrease of 6%.

In BCPs the number of violations grew by over 10%. The increase is characteristic for all the indicators referring to the operational situation in BCPs. The highest growth of violations was registered at the MDA-ROU border segment.

Violation of border legislation										
Border sectors	2014				2015				Dynamics, %	
	Cases	%	Pers	%	Cases	%	Pers	%	Cases	pers.
Total	3442	100%	4125	100%	3691	100%	4339	100%	7%	5%
Green Border	914	27%	1510	37%	918	25%	1477	34%	0,4%	-2%
BCPs	2528	73%	2615	63%	2773	75%	2862	66%	10%	9%

### Violations on the green border sector

Analysing the violations depending on reasons or indicators, according to border sectors, the majority of violation at the green border are on the account of **VBR** (poaching, lack of permit in the border zone, leisure, clearing etc.) with a share of 60% of the total. The number of

violations relating to this indicator show a slight decrease of 4% in relation to 2014.

*Violation of the rules of stay* account for 50% of the total number of incidents registered in BCPs, showing an insignificant decrease compared to 2014.

### Violations in BCPs

As mentioned above, most violations in BCPs (50% of the total) are a result of *VRS* (*violation of the rules of stay*). Analysing the statistics from the Regional Subdivisions or BP Sectors, the majority of *VRS* were recorded at BP Sectors under the “North” RD, were 551

persons documented, with a share of 40% of the total violations registered on this sector (aprox. 60% of the violations registered in BCPs related to this indicator).

\*\*\*\*\*

## Results of the documents check

Results of the border check, Detected counterfeit, forged and impostor documents						
	2014		2015		Dynamica, %	
	Pers.	%	Pers.	%		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>↗</b>	<b>61%</b> <b>100%</b>
Counterfeit document	119	43%	160	36%	↗	34%
Forged document	55	20%	88	20%	↗	60%
Impostor document	13	5%	16	4%	↗	23%
Forged Green Card insurances	87	32%	178	40%	↗	x 2 times

There were 442 cases of forgery committed by passengers who presented at the border check vehicle documents or personal documents not complying with border crossing requirements. In 2015 the number of cases of forged documents detected by BP officers increased 1,6 times compared to 2014.

Aproximely 60% of the aforementioned cases were recorded at the MDA-UKR border segment. Furthermore, a 3 times increase of cases of false/forged Green Card vehicle insurances was registered on this segment.

On the MDA-ROU border segment an increase of 24% compared 2014 was recorded (aprox. 30% of the total).

Most counterfeit, forged and impostor *travel documents* were detected during state border crossing, at “Chisinau International Airport” BPS– more than 50% of the total. The share of forged documents detected at “Chisinau International Airport” BPS accounts for 14% of the total, showing an increase of 9% compared to 2014. However, numerically the detected forgeries increased only by 5 units. Overall, crossing of the state border by persons using counterfeit, forged and impostor travel documents aims illegal migration.

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**Violation of the rules of stay on the territory of the Republic of Moldova**





In 2015 Border Police officers documented over 1400 foreign citizens for violating the rules of stay on the territory of Moldova. Compared to 2014, the number of foreigners violating the rules of stay in Moldova increased by 3%. This trend was also characteristic for the MDA-ROU and Aero border sectors.

An analysis of this indicator shows that the majority of foreign citizens come from countries that are exempt from visa obligation to cross the state border and, from various reasons, do not leave the territory of the country at the expiry of the duration of stay. The highest

number of overstays was recorded at the MDA-UKR - 876 foreign citizens, however decreasing by 4% in relation to 2014.

During 2015, an insignificant increase of overstays was reported on the MDA-ROU border sector, by 10% more compared to 2014. The growth on this segment was mostly influenced by the increasing mobility of Romanian citizens.

An increase in the number of overstays was registered at Aero border sector with 411 persons or by 21% more in comparison with 2014.

<b>Violation of the rules of stay on the territory of Moldova, general information</b>						
	<b>2014</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Dynamics</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1351</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1397</b>	<b>100%</b>		3%
<b>MDA-UKR Sector</b>	912	68%	876	63%		-4%
<b>MDA-ROU Sector</b>	100	7%	110	8%		10%
<b>AERO</b>	339	25%	411	29%		21%

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**PART II Risk analysis****Illegal migration**

Migration as a phenomenon has always existed. It will certainly still exist as long as there will be significant disparities in the development of various world regions.

The Europe's refugee crisis is a long-term social-political phenomenon triggered by the conflicts developing in the countries of origin. At least a third of immigrants reaching Europe in 2015 are Syrians and Afghans.

Analysing the migration phenomenon we two trends can be highlighted:

- "Wave migration" - visible, where migrants assault the borders in their way to the Occident. It currently does not affect the Republic of Moldova;
- the other trend is more subtle, manifested by means identified in the migration picture of Moldova. It consists in illegally crossing the border in small groups on border sectors located on their route of travel.

In 2015, the migration phenomenon (illegal migration) in Moldova consisted in illegal border crossings and the use of counterfeit or forged travel documents mostly issued by EU member states (France, Estonia, Spain, Bulgaria, etc.)

The migratory flow registered on the territory of Moldova is mainly represented by foreign citizens coming from countries affected by conflicts (Syria, Afghanistan, Irak etc.) and less by CIS citizens. As regards the migratory flow represented by non-CIS citizens it has increased compared to 2014.

Concerning illegal migration, the Border Police detected 115 persons, an increase of **15%** in relation to 2014.

The majority of illegal migrants were recorded in BCPs, showing a sharp increase (x 2 times) compared to the previous year.

The number of migrants detected on the "green" border decreased by 45%. The decrease was influenced by the decrease in the number of illegal migrants documented on the MDA-UKR sector (by 76% compared to 2014).

In the current year, "Chisinau International Airport" BPS recorded a significant increase (by more than 2 times) of foreign citizens attempting to illegally cross the border based on counterfeit/forged and impostor travel documents.

<b>Illegal migration, detected persons</b>			
<b>Sectors</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>Compared to 2014</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>115</b>	15%
<b>MDA-UKR</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>33</b>	-21%
<b>MDA-ROU</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>38</b>	12%
<b>AERO</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>44</b>	83%

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## Illicit trafficking of cigarettes and tobacco products

Statistical data analysis for 2015 shows an increase in the number of cases of illicit trafficking of cigarettes.

The main factor influencing the phenomenon in the region is the fiscal policy of the Republic of Moldova regulating the tobacco industry.

The difference in prices allows traffickers to sell tobacco products on black markets and earn significant profits.

Data in the table below reflect the state of play on the illicit trafficking of cigarettes in the last years. In 2015, 194 cases of illicit trafficking of cigarettes were recorded, representing an increase of 26% compared to 153 cases registered in 2014.

Referring to cigarette packs detained at the border, while in 2014 405 000 cigarette packs were found, in 2015 the number decreased by 30% (more than 280 000 packs).

Illicit trafficking of cigarettes, general information				
	2013	2014	2015	Compared to 2014
<b>TOTAL</b>				
cases	147	153	194	26 %
persons	178	191	212	10 %
quantity	489609	405338	280 414	- 30 %

The illicit trafficking of cigarettes on the “green” border decreased in terms of the number of counteracted cases (by 13%) and the amount of goods (by 30%).

In 2015, 99% of the cigarette smuggling cases across the border were counteracted on the MDA-ROU “green” border sector.

The persons involved in these cases are usually residents of the regions located in the proximity of the border and this represents a significant income. They usually perform their activity in groups and use various methods to achieve their aim.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Illicit trafficking of alcohol and alcoholic products**

During 2015 the illicit trafficking of alcohol and alcoholic products continued to be an issue at the RM border.

As a result, Border Police Officers seized aprox. 60 tons of alcohol and alcoholic products (33 cases). Compared to the previous year, in 2015 the number of cases increased by 6% and the amount of seized alcohol decreased by 41%.

According to the statistical and operational data, the illicit trafficking of alcohol is specific for the MDA-UKR border sector, both the “green” border and BCPs. Alcohol smuggling is favoured by the difference in the prices of alcohol on the “black market” in Moldova and Ukraine.

<b>Illicit trafficking of alcohol and alcoholic products, general information</b>				
	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>Compared to 2014</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>				
cases	13	31	33	6%
persons	18	30	42	40%
quantity	87 462	100 702	59 176	-41%

\*\*\*\*\*

**Illicit trafficking of the means of transport**

In 2015, Border Police officers recorded in BCPs 117 cases of illicit trafficking of transport means. Compared to 2014 the number of vehicles recorded increased by 17%. The increase was mainly due to the cases

documented at the MDA-UKR border, on exit, as a result of the increasing mobility of RM citizens on this border segment, as well as the cases recorded at the MDA-ROU border, on entry.

Illicit trafficking of transport means to/from the Republic of Moldova, general information						
	2014	%	2015	%	Dynamics	%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>100%</b>	↗	17%
<b>MDA-UKR sector</b>	55	55%	63	54%	↗	15%
<b>MDA-ROU sector</b>	45	45%	54	46%	↗	20%

The statistical data in the table above shows that, compared to 2014, the number of crimes involving transport means increased, except the cases of altering the engine code. Thus, the number of cases of forged powers of attorney increased by 9%. Most of the cases involved drivers of vehicles with a 10 years with exploitation period, registered in Bulgaria, Romania, Lithuania and Poland.

This phenomenon was conditioned by the following factors:

- negligence of people procuring transport means;
- disregard of legal procedures related to the entry into possession;
- loss of links between sellers and owners;
- ease of manufacturing the documents due to the lack of protection elements.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Illicit trafficking of arms and ammunition

During 2015, Border Police subdivisions recorded 20 cases of illegal trafficking of arms and ammunition. As a result, 9 arms and 162 cartridge were seized. Compared to the previous year, the number of cases decreased by 28% and the number of seized cartridges increased by

35%. 75% of the total cases were recorded on the exit from the Republic of Moldova. In most of the cases were involved citizens of the RM. Ammunition were detected in the hand luggage and in vehicles (luggage carrier, cowl).

TOTAL	2014	2015	Dynamics
cases	28	20	↓
persons	29	20	↓
ammunition (cartridges, pcs.)	118	162	↑
arms (pcs.)	8	9	↑

According to the number of cases and ammunitions seized on border segments the Aero sector has the greatest share – 50% followed by the MDA-UKR and MDA-ROU sectors with 25% each. An important fact

established following the documentation of cases is that the persons lack information regarding border crossing procedures and do not declare ammunition in their luggage.

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### Illicit movement of narcotic and psychotropic substances and precursors

During 2015, 4 cases of illicit movement of narcotic substances were recorded at the border. As a result, 127 kg of narcotic substances (2 kg - marijuana, 125 kg - hashish) were detected, representing an increase of 56% compared to 2014. Moreover, aiming at combating the consumption and illicit trafficking of vegetable drugs, the operation “MAC-2015”

was carried out during 01.06-31.08.2015. As a result, 10 cases of cannabis cultivation were documented and 13 486 plants destroyed, as well as 1 case of poppy cultivation and 18 plants destroyed. In most of the cases the Republic of Moldova is used as transit country for the transportation of narcotic substances on different routes.

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