

**EUROPE  
WITHOUT BARRIERS**  
civic organisation



# Annual Report 2019



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## ABOUT THE NGO

Europe without Barriers is **an independent non-governmental organisation that focuses on analysis and advocacy**. We examine the issues of migration and freedom of movement. We also support socially salient reforms that pertain to the rule of law, border and migration management, public order and security, European integration. We are fully committed to tackling discrimination at all levels.

**The NGO's mission is to find a balance between freedom of movement**, human rights and human and state security with the ultimate goal to see Europe without barriers and Ukraine being a part of this Europe.

## OUR TEAM

**Iryna Sushko**- Executive Director  
**Tetiana Malysheva** - Head Accountant  
**Ruslan Minich**- Policy Analyst  
**Kateryna Kulchytska** - Analyst  
**Pavlo Kravchuk** - Communications Manager  
**Lesia Dubenko** - Analyst and Fundraiser  
**Olha Sovenko**- Involved Sociologist  
**Olena Machulska** - Project Assistant  
**Viktor Fedyna** – Involved Designer

## Interns in 2019

**Nijat Eldarov**, Lund University, Sweden  
**Maria Chernova**, Open University of Reforms, Ukraine  
**Daria Synhaievskia**, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine  
**Mykhailo Kremer**, Mikolas Romeris University, Ukraine-Lithuania  
**Iryna Zasimovych**, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine

# What We Did in 2019

Friendly Borders	European Integration	Visa Policy towards Foreigners	Labour Migration
<p>Analysed how Ukrainian citizens and foreigners crossed the Ukrainian border</p> <p>Examined how people crossed the Polish-Ukrainian border and suggested ways of improving this experience</p> <p>Elucidated the border's impact on the border communities</p> <p>Contributed to the development of the Integrated Border Management Strategy</p>	<p>Explicated EU visa waiver rules as well as procedures for studying and working in the EU</p> <p>Analyzed visa policies of the United Kingdom and the Schengen states</p> <p>Examined the implementation of the reforms envisioned by the Visa Liberalization Action Plan and migration indicators pertaining to the 'suspension mechanism'</p> <p>Analyzed implementation of EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, priorities of EU-Ukraine cooperation in the field of Justice, Freedom and Security</p> <p>Examined and promoted EU-Ukraine cooperation in the framework of Eastern Partnership</p>	<p>Monitored and analyzed the state policy of Ukraine related to the issuance of citizenship and residence permits</p> <p>Analyzed Ukrainian visa policy, particularly, towards nationals from "countries of migration risk"</p> <p>Assessed the Ukrainian migrant integration policy based on the MIPEX methodology</p>	<p>Examined data on Ukrainian external labour migration</p> <p>Facilitated the spread of accurate information on Ukrainian labour migration; combatted fakes and manipulations</p>

## I. PROJECTS

**In 2019, EWB implemented five projects aimed at enhancing freedom of movement and security**

### I. [Building safe and humane borders through the public assessment of the Polish-Ukrainian border](#)

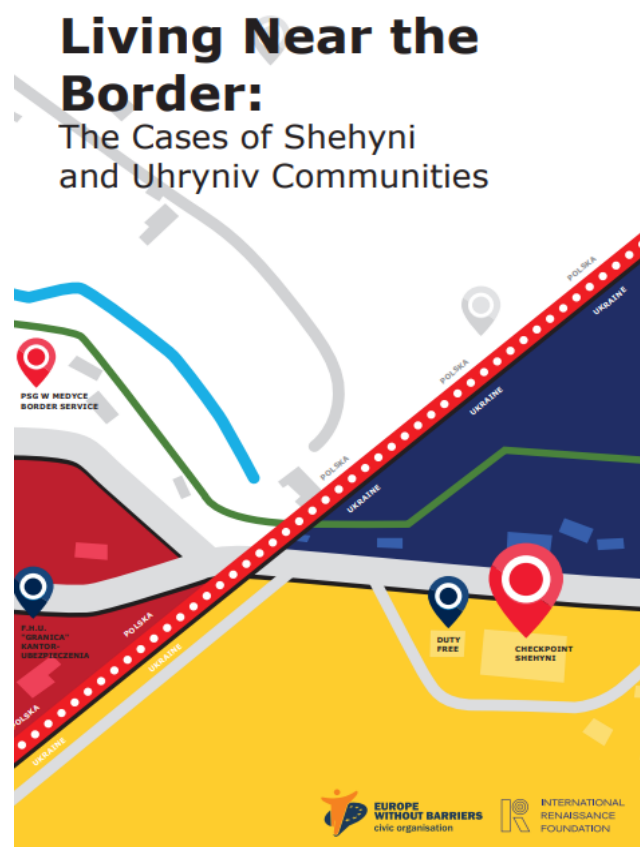
**Implementation period:** Feb. 2019 – Feb. 2020

In 2019, Europe without Barriers (EWB) carried out the first ever comprehensive analysis of the Polish-Ukrainian border. The organisation heeded the border and examined its impact on life of the local communities.

The project was based on a qualitative research design; semi-structured interviews were employed to collect data on the spot. EWB's team interviewed the representatives of the communities. The Polish IdeaForum (Stefan Batory Foundation) carried out identical research within the Polish border communities.

To ensure the study's thorough nature, EWB also performed a statistical analysis, using aggregated big data on cross-border mobility.

The results are available in two analytical reports, containing policy recommendations. The suggestions were taken into consideration during the elaboration of the National Integrated Border Management Strategy.



**Support:** Open Society Foundation, International Renaissance Foundation



*EWB's experts together with the representatives of the Shehyni community*



*Head of EU Advisory Mission for the Civilian Security Sector Reform in Ukraine during the discussion "European Border: Challenges and opportunities"*

## II. Promoting evidence-based media coverage of labour migration from Ukraine to V4 countries

**Implementation period:** February 2019 – June 2019

In this project, EWB partnered with four NGOs from the Visegrad countries and analyzed how the media and the public discourse portray labour migration in Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Ukraine.

In March 2019, EWB held a journalist workshop on how to cover labour migration issues without succumbing to clichés and distorted information.

The analytical report “Myth and Facts” was published in six languages and presented in Kyiv, Bratislava, Prague, Warsaw, and Budapest.

Besides, EWB held a [specialised competition](#) for journalists focused on covering labour migration from Ukraine.

**Support:** the International Visegrad Fund



*Journalist workshop “How to cover labour migration and avoid fakes”, Kyiv, March 2019*



### III. Border with humane face. Enhancement of border crossing points functioning

**Implementation period:** February-August 2019

EWB partnered with the Polish analytical centre “Freedom Institute” to pinpoint the main problems at the Ukrainian-Polish border checkpoints and suggest ways of reducing them.

The project’s goal was multifold. First, it aimed to communicate the experts’ point of view when it comes to establishing the *modus operandi* of the Ukrainian-Polish border checkpoints. Second, project’s goal was to improve the quality of media content that focuses on border-related issues. The NGO also aimed to attract the public awareness and interest to the existing problems of border checkpoints’ functioning.

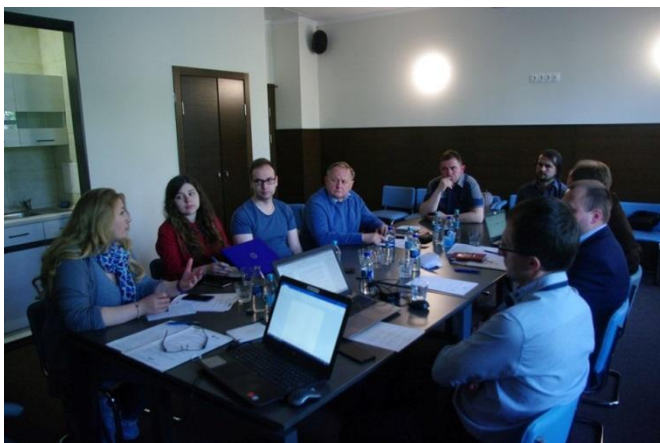
Within the project, its team held two Ukrainian-Polish expert seminars in Kyiv and Warsaw, created an analytical report titled ‘Border with Human Face’, where it shed light on how the border checkpoints function. Project team also published a specialised [journalist guide](#) for Ukrainian and Polish journalists.

Besides, the NGO held a competition aimed at generating new approaches towards the issue.

Based on them, four Polish and Ukrainian journalists received funding to create publications about border.

Also the project’s participants [launched an initiative](#) titled ‘Border with Human Face’.

**Support:** RITA Program (“Region in Transition”)



Ukrainian-Polish Expert Meetings in Kyiv and Warsaw, March-May 2019

#### IV. Public assessment and advocacy of changes to the state policy of providing citizenship

**Implementation period:** June 2018 - Feb 2019

Europe without Barriers comprehensively looked into Ukrainian state policy of granting citizenship. Particularly, EWB examined the legislation, the procedures and the media publications on the issue. Besides, it executed a comparative analysis of the respective rules in Poland and the Czech Republic, carried out in-depth interviews with foreigners familiar with the matter and obtained data on the intricacies of Ukrainian citizenship policy.

Once all the relevant data had been collected, EWB published an analytical report on of Ukrainian citizenship policy. In it, EWB drew up a bevy of recommendations for the Ukrainian authorities and relevant stakeholders on how to improve the process. In March 2019, EWB discussed the recommendations together with the representatives of Ukrainian authorities, municipalities, foreigners and experts on legislation.

Besides, EWB created a [video](#) and infographics about the procedure of obtaining Ukrainian citizenship.



**Support:** The project was implemented under the auspices of the Ukrainian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum with the support of the European Union and the International Renaissance Foundation within the grant component of the project 'Civic Synergy'.





## V. Promoting implementation of the effective visa policy of Ukraine

**Implementation Period:** March 2019 – Oct 2019

EWB's team examined Ukraine's visa policy. Particularly, it interviewed foreigners eligible for e-visas and those who come from "migration risk" countries. It also carried out in-depth interviews with civil servants working at the Ukraine's consulates.

EWB analysed the obstacles that the foreigners encounter when applying for Ukrainian visas and suggested ways of ameliorating the state of affairs.

The recommendations have been submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and published in the media. EWB also communicated the results of the research during a specialised roundtable. Besides, within this project EWB created a [Ukrainian visa policy map](#) and eliminated a couple of inaccuracies on the Ukrainian MFA's site.

**Support:** The project was implemented under the auspices of the Ukrainian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum with the support of the European Union and the International Renaissance Foundation within the grant component of the project Civic Synergy'



## II. ANALYTICS

In 2019, EWB published [8 analytical reports and notes](#). Three of them have been translated into English, two into Polish and one into Czech, Slovakian and Hungarian. Besides, EWB's experts published 9 articles and blogs about border management, EU visa waiver and Ukraine's migration policy as well as [5 infographics](#).

### Our reports

[Living Near Border: the Cases of Schehyni and Uhryniv Communities](#)

[Border with Human Face. Recommendations](#)

[Visa Policy of Ukraine in the Context of European Values and Security](#)

[Priorities of Cooperation with the EU in Mobility and Security](#)

[Ukrainian-Polish Border: the Guide for Journalists](#)

[Myths and facts about Ukrainian labour migration to Visegrad Four countries](#)

[Immigration Policy: Analysis of Procedures and Legislative Novelties in Ukraine](#)

[How to Implement Effectively Novelties in Border Management?](#)

ENGLISH

UKRAINIAN

POLISH

HUNGARIAN

CZECH

SLOVAKIAN

### Selected publications

[Балансуючи між безпекою і відкритістю](#)  
Dzerkalo Tyzhnia (Ukrainian)

[The promise and peril of Ukraine's borders](#)  
Atlantic Council (English)

[Реалії безвізу: за що та як часто українцям відмовляють у праві в'їзду до ЄС](#)  
European Pravda (Ukrainian)

[Two years of visa waiver: main trends](#)  
Europe without Barriers (English)

[Зупинити візову капітуляцію: що відбувається із британськими візами для українців](#)  
European Pravda (Ukrainian)

[Відкрити закриті кордони](#), Dzerkalo Tyzhnia (Ukr)

[New Ukraine-EU Action Plan in the Sector of Justice, Freedom and Security](#), Brussels Ukraine Review

NEW UKRAINE-EU ACTION PLAN IN THE SECTOR OF JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY



The Next Tasks for Ukraine and Monitoring their Completion

IRYNA SUSHKO,  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR  
OF THE NGO  
'EUROPE  
WITHOUT  
BARRIERS',  
KYIV

The decision to introduce a visa-free regime with the European Union (EU) was, in particular, a recognition of the successful implementation of the reforms in Ukraine. Significant changes have taken place in such government policies as "document security", "migration and border control", "public order and security" and "fundamental human rights". Formally, Ukraine has completed more than 140 tasks in these sectors. In practice, society has been given the opportunity to use modern biometric passports, and citizens' personal data has become more secure. Collaboration with Europol, initiated under visa liberalisation, has also facilitated the control lost and stolen documents. Now there are less opportunities for identity fraud.

REFORMS  
60

### III. IMPACT

#### Research and Analysis

In 2019, Europe without Barriers pioneered the field by examining how the Ukrainian-Polish border influences the local communities and vice versa. EWB **developed a three-level methodology**. It encompassed the intergovernmental and interregional cooperation, the infrastructure's condition, relevant legislation, socio-cultural aspects. It also looked into the procedure and experience of crossing the border.

The results and correspondent recommendations were subsequently [presented](#) to the State Border Guard Service, the State Fiscal Service, the Ministry of Infrastructure, relevant Directorates of the European Commission, the EU Delegation to Ukraine, the Polish Embassy, the EU Advisory Mission. The results were heeded when [developing](#) the *Integrated Border Management Strategy until 2025*.

Besides, in 2019, EWB together with colleagues from four EU states created **two booklets** that are aimed at enhancing the quality of content pertaining [to border issues](#) and [labour migration](#).

The NGO surveyed **Ukrainian civil servants working at the consularies** and asked them about the peculiarities of **Ukraine's visa practices**, especially those aimed at the citizens of "migration risk" countries. Research-based results were subsequently submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It is also noteworthy that in 2019 EWB's experts analysed ways of implementing the *New Ukraine-EU Agenda in the Area of Justice, Freedom and Security*. As a result, EWB produced [an analytical note](#) and held a roundtable on the priorities in the field of freedom of movement, particularly, migration, borders, and visa policy.

Besides, EWB's experts [have partnered with](#) Migration Policy Group to examine the issue of migrant integration policy (**MIPEX Core index**), researched labour migration from Ukraine to the EU together with Polish colleagues, which will be presented in 2020, and partook in the creation of a [collective monograph](#) devoted to the EU visa liberalisation in Moldova and other countries of Eastern Partnership.

#### Informing and Consulting

In 2019, EWB continued informing citizens about the visa-free travel rules with the EU. It also shed light on how to obtain study and work permits in the EU and addressed individual travellers' concerns upon request.

#### Developing Policies and Documents

In 2019, EWB helped relevant actors develop European integration agenda on various levels with participation of governmental agencies and NGOs.

I. The executive director of EWB Iryna Sushko together with other experts of the NGO worked on the elaboration of the *Integrated Border Management Strategy until 2025 and Action Plan on its implementation in 2020-2022*. The government [has approved](#) both documents, and they have now entered into force.

II. In the summer, EWB experts were invited to participate in the creation of [Transition Book on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration](#).

This book contains a set of governmental aims and objectives that are based on the *Action Plan for the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU*, decisions and operational conclusions of bilateral association bodies between Ukraine and the EU as well as roadmaps, concepts and strategies of public policy. The document's main goal is to ensure that the eurointegration path remains intact under the new government.

III. EWB experts contributed to the amendments of *the Strategy for State Migration Policy, Laws of Ukraine 'On Ukrainian Citizenship' and 'On Ukrainians Abroad'*.

IV. EWB Executive Director Iryna Sushko participates on regular basis in [monitoring of implementing](#) "20 Deliverables of Eastern Partnership for 2020"

## Participation in Advisory Bodies

In 2019, Europe without Barriers was part of the following advisory bodies:

1. Public Council under the State Migration Service (Iryna Sushko)
2. Interagency Working Group on Integrated Border Management (Iryna Sushko)
3. Expert Council on Migration Policy at the National Institute for Strategic Studies (Iryna Sushko, Ruslan Minich, Pavlo Kravchuk)

## Media Visibility

In 2019, EWB's experts were in the limelight on multiple occasions. They partook in TV and radio programmes and published their own pieces. Our views and quotes have been [cited](#) in Ukrainian, English, Polish, and Russian.

Prominent outlets like [Ukrainian Pravda](#), [Dzerkalo Tyzhnia](#), [Novoye Vremia](#), [Texty](#), [UNIAN](#), [Ukrinform](#), [KyivPost](#) all turned to EWB for in-depth expertise.

TV: [Channel 5](#), [UATV](#), [Pershyi Zahidnyi](#)

Radio: [Hromadske Radio](#), [Radio NV](#), [Donbass.Realii](#)

## Our Info Platforms

In 2019, 56,000 users visited EWB's site and its subsites. We now have 3400 subscribers on Facebook and 230 followers on Twitter.





You can also find us here:

[Medium](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Academia](#), [SlideShare](#), [ResearchGate](#), [Youtube](#)

## Networks

EWB actively participated in the activities of:

- Ukrainian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum
- EU-Ukraine Civil Society Platform
- Ukrainian Think Tanks Liaison Office in Brussels
- Reanimation Package of Reforms
- Also, we launched the Ukrainian-Polish [initiative](#) dubbed “Border with Human Face”



## IV. OUR EVENTS

In 2019, EWB organised 13 **public events**, including 4 briefings and press-conferences, 1 workshop and 2 competitions for journalists, 8 round tables and expert discussions. Representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Infrastructure, the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, the State Migration Service of Ukraine, the State Fiscal Service of Ukraine, the Government Office for European Integration, the EU Delegation to Ukraine, the EU Advisory Mission, the Embassies of Poland, Hungary, USA, and Hungary participated in them.

The International Renaissance Foundation, the "Civic Synergy" project, the International Visegrad Fund, the Foundation "Our Choice" (Fundacja "Nasz Wybór"), the Hungarian European Society (Magyarországi Európa Társaság), the Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Association (Výskumné centrum Slovenskej spoločnosti pre zahraničnú politiku), the Integration Advisory Center (Poradna pro Integraci) were our main event partners.

Besides, EWB's experts gave speeches and moderated discussions at the events organised by other organisations:

- Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration, Mobility and Integrated Border Management ([Minsk](#))
- Congress of Eastern Europe Initiatives ([Lublin](#))
- The Ukraine-Poland Forum ([Warsaw](#))
- Conference "European Integration: The Power of Opportunities" ([Zaporizhzhia](#), Khmelnytsky)
- "10 Years of the Eastern Partnership" Conference ([Kyiv](#))



## V. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

In 2019, the total Europe without Barriers' budget was **2 944 388** UAH

### Funding Structure

PROJECT	DONOR	FUNDING	
		UAH	Percentage
<a href="#"><u>Building safe and humane borders through the public assessment of the Polish-Ukrainian border</u></a>	Open Society Foundation, International Renaissance Foundation	1 915 000	65,04%
<a href="#"><u>Promoting implementation of the effective visa policy of Ukraine</u></a>	Civic Synergy	225 000	7,64%
<a href="#"><u>Border with humane face. Enhancement of border crossing points functioning</u></a>	Program RITA	162 629	5,52%
<a href="#"><u>Promoting evidence-based media coverage of labour migration from Ukraine to V4 countries</u></a>	International Visegrad Fund	641 759	21,8%

***We are promoting freedom of movement  
and we need help.***

***Join our [Patreon community](#) to support***

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