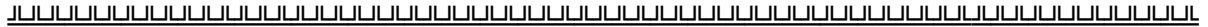


The State of Januan



1) General Information

The state of Januan is situated on the mainland and is a neighbouring country of Russia and Latvia. It has population of approx. 2,3 million, out of whom 25% constitute minorities such as Russian (12 %), Latvian (5 %), Lithuanian (2 %) and Finnish (6 %). There are three official languages: Januese, Russian and English. English is used by the minorities to speak to each other, since Januese is a Ugrofinnish language which is very difficult to learn. The capital of Januan is Nijitvan and is located right at the Russian border. The name of the capital is derived from the word „open“to signalize the openness of the country after the fall of the communist regime.

2) Political System

The Januan state is a monarchy. The head of the state had fled the republic after the WW2 and his ancestors only returned after the fall of the Soviet Union, to which Januan state used to belong. Since then, the Parliament (so-called Dumka) has legislative role. Elections are held every 4 years. While the monarch retains some state functions, his position is more or less representative. However, he may veto legislation. Thereafter 3/5 of MPs must vote for the law to pass it. The head of the Government is the Prime Minister. The country is not a full member of the EU. However since it endeavours to become one, it has committed itself to comply with the Union's standards and policies and applies the EC legislation.

3) Economy

Januan has a market economy. After the fall of the Iron Curtain the state has gone through turmoil and the government was changed frequently and dramatically. However in the past 3 years the country has become quite stable and since it offers favourable legislation for foreign investors, the unemployment rate has been falling steadily. Therefore a lot of Russians are arriving in the country to earn their living here. English is the main communication language among the minorities and between the minorities and Januese. Russian is also very common, although Januese are sometimes reluctant to speak it. The official currency is Draga.

4) Legal and Judicial System with Emphasis on Asylum Law and Asylum Situation

The legal system is based on the civil law system. The Constitution is considered the supreme law of the country. International and regional legislation has primacy over national legislation. The country's judicial system has regular, appeal, and cassation instances. The decisions of the Supreme Court are generally followed in court practices. The country has an Ombudsperson. The country accepts the European Court of Human Rights jurisdiction (it has been a member of the Council of Europe since 1991). The country became party to the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol in 1991. The government body responsible for the determination of the status of asylum-seekers and immigrants is the Koltozeskomod (Migration Office). Within the procedure on "international protection" both asylum and subsidiary protection are examined. The decisions of Migration Office can be appealed against before a first-instance administrative court. The Court can only return the case to the administrative phase and cannot decide on the merits of the case. It can examine the cases on both factual and legal issues. The administrative phase of determining refugee status or subsidiary protection status ranges from 6 months to three years. Main countries of

origin of asylum-seekers are Belarus, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and other former Soviet Union republics. In the past year the number of asylum-seekers has increased by 25%, and out of 1,000 asylum-seekers, 70 were granted asylum or subsidiary protection. The subsidiary protection status was introduced in 2006 and is based on the same criteria as EU Qualifications Directive.

Januan is not a member of the EU and therefore it is not obliged to transpose the asylum Directives into its national legal system, however it follows the same harmonization process as Member States and applies all relevant EU asylum instruments directly.