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# **Visa Code – experiences of individual applicants**

**Krzysztof Mrozek (Visa-free Europe Coalition/Batory Foundation)**

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# Challenge 1: (very) short-term MEVs

## Multiple Entry Visas issued for one visit

- „I was granted a multiple entry visa. I had an invitation for 34 days. The visa is for 34 days” (whistleblower, 26.07.2013)
- Ukrainian activist, good visa history, was entitled to 3-year MEV, received 1-year

**EC proposal: „VIS-registered regular travellers”**

**Our recommendation: consider 10-year visa, enhance number of travellers entitled to 5-year visas, 3-5 years insted of 3-years**



# Challenge 2: problematic application process

## No available dates for lodging an application in consulate/Visa Centre

- „It is impossible to lodge an application without additional fees” (whistleblower, 22.08.2015)
- „I didn’t manage to register in the consulate. Again. Every time they give different explanations” (whistleblower, 22.08.2015)
- „Polish consulate in Lviv makes it impossible to lodge application not using „suspicious” service providers” (whistleblower, 29.05.2015)

## EC proposal: Simplified/online application

**Our recommendation: legal instrument ensuring possibility to apply for a visa directly in the consulate**

# Challenge 3: supporting documents

## Too many supporting/confirming the purpose of visit documents

- *„I was asked to write an additional motivation letter in German, explaining why I want to be a volunteer in Germany (...) despite the fact that the language of my EVS was English" (whistleblower, 25.11.2013)*

## EC proposal: exhaustive list of supporting documents

**Our recommendation: ensure, that "exhaustive" list does not contain all possible documents**

# Instead of conclusions

Quote from original message received 06.09.2014:

*"I still do not understand why we (Ukrainians) are so much despised and scared of. Are we all regarded as criminals or potential illegal migrants? If so, such stereotypical approach tends to sound very Nazi-like. Writing this I have only one idea in mind. Hopefully, the people who are decision makers and might want to read this complaint might also try to make this world a bit more different and people friendlier to each other."*



**Thank you!**

**kmrozek@batory.org.pl**