IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INFORMATION SYSTEM OF PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION ABOUT PASSENGERS AT RAILWAY AND AIR CHECKPOINTS

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Abstract. *The aim of the study is to analyze the process of implementing and putting into practice the Information System of Preliminary Notification about Passengers at Railway and Air checkpoints into the activity of the Border Guard Service of the Republic of Belarus.*
The main tasks of the study are as follows:
to analyze the practical methods of operating of the Information System during the border control's procedures at railway and air checkpoints;
to estimate the functional practice of the Information System at railway and air checkpoints of Belarus.
The study under consideration is fundamentally based on the dialectical-philosophical method alongside with general scientific and specific scientific methods.
Background of the System's implementing, achieved results and directions for further development
Key words: *border control, information systems, automation, interaction, cooperation, notification.*

Introduction

Scientific new approach and a theoretical significance of the study under consideration is about effecting a theoretical research of fundamentals of implementing the Information System of Preliminary Notification about Passengers at Railway and Air Checkpoints into the activity of the Border Guard Service of the Republic of Belarus.

The study under consideration was carried over the period of 2015-2016.

The aim of the study is to analyze the process of implementing and putting into practice the Information System of Preliminary Notification about Passengers at Railway and Air checkpoints into the activity of the Border Guard Service of the Republic of Belarus, hereinafter called as **«Information System»**.

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to analyze the practical methods of operating of the **«Information System»** during the border control's procedures at railway and air checkpoints;

to estimate the functional practice of the **«Information System»** at railway and air checkpoints of Belarus.

The study under consideration is fundamentally based on the dialectical-philosophical method alongside with general scientific and specific scientific methods.

The hypothesis of the study under consideration lies in the assumption that the analysis of the practical results of implementing the **«Information System»** must give a clear idea about expediency and forthcoming perspectives of development of this activity.

Background and Purposes of Implementing the Information System of Preliminary Notification about Passengers

Well, as you know nowadays, the activity of the State Border Guard Service of the Republic of Belarus is attended by a number of factors affecting directly the quality of the State border control specifically and ensurance of national security in general.

These factors are the following:

growing danger of world terrorism;

a year-by-year increasing number of people and transport vehicles crossing the State border, alongside with an increasing volume of freight traffic;

instability of military and political situation in neighboring country Ukraine;

local war conflicts in the Middle East;

improvement of tactical actions and enhancement of various tricks used by illegal border-crossing-trespassers.

In view of the foregoing, what I'd like to emphasize, is that we need to implement the main goal set before the Belarusian State Border Guard authorities and also before the Border Guard Service of another states - that is to provide the best conditions for minimizing state national security's threat.

One of the most effective ways to reach this goal is the Information System's technology providing preliminary notification about passengers, which I intend to highlight in more detail in this study.

Over the years there has always existed a permanent key tendency with the Belarusian State Border Guard Service to improve and enhance its methods and techniques in order to improve national security system. Implementation of the **«Information System»** is considered to be one of the most perspective way to collect all necessary data before a passenger arrives at the checkpoint of the country of his destination.

Preliminary information could be used by the Border Guard Service with a purpose to minimize the time necessary for fulfilling some

formalities and planned distribution of resources. It also could be used for the control's optimization and for adequate and open predictable actions.

Technology of preliminary notification provides electronic transmission of preliminary information to the state's authorized information centers and its further usage by the Border Control officials in the control procedures with regard to the individuals crossing the border.

The main purpose of the **«Information System»** implementation is to minimize the threats for the State's border security and to facilitate the border capacity.

The main tasks set before the **«Information System»** are**:**
1. Automation of border control procedures with regard to individuals crossing border at checkpoints.
2. Increase of border checkpoints' capacity and reduction of time spent for enquiries' handling.
3. Early identification of the persons whose entry to the Republic of Belarus is forbidden or undesirable long before a real arrival of a transport vehicle on the territory of the country.

With the help of the information interaction technology the Border Guard officials are capable to facilitate exercising of the following targets:

to get full and true information necessary for legal border crossing;

to reduce a time period of the checkpoint's formalities allotted per an individual;

to create conditions promoting open and predictable actions of the Border Control officials;

to increase management efficiency and operational effectiveness of the relevant decisions made by Border Guard officials in respect to individuals under check, and to improve this check accordingly;

to make a due planning of control operations and to arrange effective distribution of labour resources.

In addition to the above-mentioned, the **«Information System»** makes it feasible:

to automate border control procedures fulfilled during check-and-control formalities in respect to individuals crossing border by railway, or any other way;

to effect all necessary actions in the frame of a risk-management system;

to make reports and statistics.

In connection with this, we have carefully analyzed our foreign partners' experience in implementing similar systems. Some positive points were found quite acceptable.

The Law of the Republic of Belarus «About the State Border of the Republic of Belarus» in the updated version adopted in the year of 2015,

hereinafter called as **«The Law»** has become an accelerating factor for implementing the **«Information System»**.

«The Law» entrusts a number of duties on legal entities and individual entrepreneurs who effect international transportation.

Thus, under the article 45 of **«The Law»** legal entities and individual entrepreneurs who effect international transportation of passengers by air to Belarus, as a country of final destination, or transit Belarus, are bound to submit personal data of planes' passengers alongside with another information related to passengers transportation, to the information systems of Ministry of Transport and Communication of the Republic of Belarus. The contents of the information are specified by the above Ministry.

Legal entities effecting international transportation of passengers by railway public vehicles are also bound to submit personal data of passengers who use railway transport, alongside with information related to passengers' transportation, to the information systems of the Ministry of Transport and Communication of the Republic of Belarus. The contents of the information are specified by the above Ministry.

The Ministry of Transport and Communication, in its turn, shall provide information about passengers' personal data for the Border Guard Service and other State authorities who effect operational-investigative activity. The order of this procedure shall be specified and agreed upon by the above Ministry.

The next step was creation of the interdepartmental legislative framework regulating interaction of the sides on the issue of passengers' data's transfer alongside with establishing some channels for data's transfer and systems of their handling.

Preliminary Results of the "Information System" Operation

From the very first days of the "Information System" operation, it has become evident that the new system has started giving some conspicuous results. The number of persons who were refused to enter Republic of Belarus directly at checkpoints has considerably decreased. The prior Information about the categories of the persons planning to cross border, considerably helped to make a correct and qualitative distribution of the Border Control subdivisions' officials during the border crossing formalities with individuals and transport vehicles. National carriers have actively joined this process, because they have been interested in reducing the number of persons who are expected to refuse crossing the border.

At present the **«Information System»** at railway checkpoints is presented as the automated information subsystem «Border Guard Control - Preliminary Railway Notification».

A carrier effecting international transportation of passengers by railway public vehicles (Belarusian Railway) submits the passengers' personal data in the adopted form to the Border Guard Service. The data are transmitted via approved electronic channels.

The **«Information System»** at air checkpoints is presented as the automated information subsystem «Border Guard Control - Preliminary Avia Notification».

Development and implementation of the automated information system of personal data of railway and air passengers is designed for:

transmitting to Belarus the railway and air passengers' personal data by international carriers (passengers arriving in Belarus and leaving Belarus);

submitting of passengers' personal data to the Border Guard Service and to other State bodies fulfilling operational-investigative activity;

giving to carriers information about the passengers who are expected to be refused entering Belarus.

The process of making decision about a passenger permit to cross the State border of the Republic of Belarus is effected automatically, that effectively assists to handle passengers' data in a very short period of time. It also helps to retrieve the missing information in order to make a prior decision about a person's border crossing with the following notification about the decision.

The scheme of succeeding logical actions leading to the final decision about a passenger's border crossing looks like that (figure 1).

As an example, we can say that the implemented **«Information System»,** only at the one checkpoint «National Airport Minsk» over the year of 2015, helped to prevent beforehand the border crossing of 1200 persons whose entry on the territory of Belarus was forbidden or undesirable.
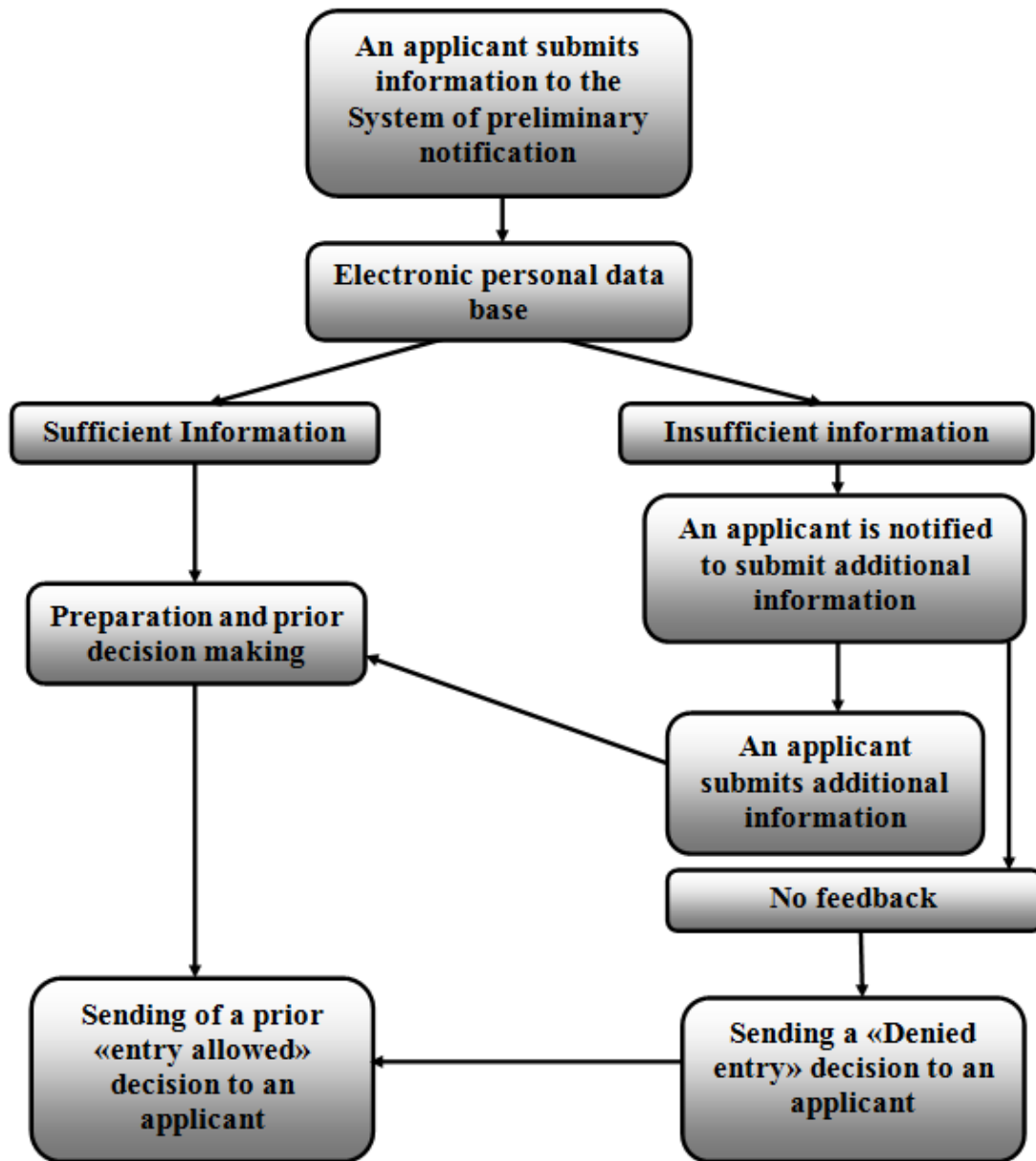
Fig. 1. Structural-logical sequence of actions leading to decision-making about a passenger's border crossing (author drawn)

Conclusions and suggestions

A study under consideration gives a thorough overview of some evident advantage of the implemented **«Information System»**.

It helps to reduce the time of the Border Control formalities. It also assists to the Border Control officials of different subdivisions to undertake definite actions with a purpose to minimize risks during the Border Control formalities.

Alongside with some positive aspects, the study under consideration also highlights new directions of further improvement of the implemented **«Information System»**. Priority comes to the further improvement of the legislative framework, regulating this activity. Cooperation with international carriers who fulfil international railway and air transportation to Belarus with a purpose to standardize transmitted information about passengers.

The next step is to improve technical facilities of the **«Information System»**, and finally, to elaborate some perspective ways of obtaining information from carriers who fulfil international car transportation, and also from the individuals who cross border by private vehicles or on foot.

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