

# Newsletter

of the International  
Organization for Migration (IOM)  
in the Slovak Republic

Issue 02/2013 – April 2013

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### One Stop Shop Consulting Days for Migrants

**23 MAY 2013**  
**FROM 8:30am TO 12:30pm**

**MUNICIPALITY OFFICE PREŠOV**  
**JARKOVÁ 26**  
**MEETING ROOM 217a, 1st FLOOR**

**COUNSELLING AND INFORMATION FOR FOREIGNERS IN SLOVAKIA**

**THÔNG TIN VÀ TƯ VẤN CHO NGƯỜI NƯỚC NGOÀI Ở SLOVEN**

**向在斯洛伐克的外國人提供諮詢和資訊**

**FORADERITVO A INFORMÁCIE PRE CUDZINCOV NA SLOVENSKE**

**ONE STOP SHOP**

Free counselling to non EU citizens will be provided by IOM Migration Information Centre (MIC) consultants together with officers from:

- Alien Police Department
- Labour Office
- Citizenship and Register Office

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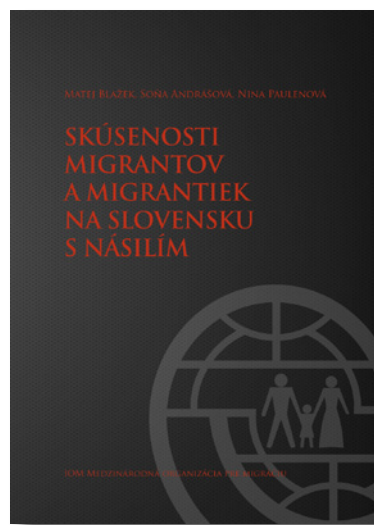
IOM Bratislava will organize *One Stop Shop* Consulting Days for migrants from countries outside the EU. The next *One-Stop Shops* will take place on 10 May 2013 at the premises of the Municipality Office in Žilina and on 23 May 2013 at the premises of the Municipality Office in Prešov. Migrants can receive free counselling about work and residence in Slovakia which will be provided at one place by employees of alien police departments, labour offices, citizenship and registry departments of the district office as well as by lawyers from the IOM Migration Information Centre. More information on [www.iom.sk](http://www.iom.sk).

### Trainings on Trafficking in Human Beings

IOM Bratislava is realizing five trainings focused on prevention of human trafficking and identification of human trafficking victims in the first half of this year. Around 150 various professionals should be trained including employees of spare time centres, Social Development Fund, pastoral centres, town policemen and field social workers.

## PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES

### Research on Migrants' Experiences with Violence



43 per cent of migrants experienced lighter forms of violence with the character of hate crime, domestic violence or labour abuse. 15 per cent has experiences with serious forms of violence requiring intervention and help from police or helping organisations. Estimated every ninth migrant living in Slovakia has experiences with forced labour. These are only partial findings of IOM's research on migrants' experiences with violence and exploitation in public space, domestic violence and violence at workplace resulting from 690 collected questionnaires and dozens of in-depth interviews with third-country nationals living in Slovakia. IOM Bratislava carried out this research from January 2012 to March 2013 under the project *Causes, Forms and Consequences of Violence against Third-Country Nationals*.

Research findings have been published in the publication [Migrants' Experiences with violence in Slovakia](#). Information is followed by a review and characteristics of the largest migrant groups in Slovakia, evaluation of existing legislation, politics and practice in the field of violence, comparison and best practices from abroad and recommendations for institutions, practice and policies.

*Financed by the European Union from the European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals. Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows.*

### New Educational Materials on Migration

Within the project *We Are at Home Here!* IOM Bratislava has published a set of educational materials: a documentary film, a didactic material and an information poster. Educational materials are to be used as presentation tools on migration and migrants in public life and multicultural education at all levels of formal education, trainings for professionals working with migrants in intercultural skills. The main aim of these materials is to promote balanced and evidence-based information with which everyone can make an informed opinion on migration and migrants.



The new [documentary film We Are at Home Here](#) highlights the attitudes of Slovak public towards migrants and through personal stories of migrants from different countries as well as the well-founded data presents the life of migrants and the reality of migration in Slovakia. On 27 March 2013 in Bratislava, IOM carried out a [public presentation](#) of the film and showcased the methods of its usage in education and raising

public awareness on migration. [Didactic material We Are at Home Here](#) provides teachers and lecturers with information, activities, options how to work with the film and links to other sources, enabling them to easily and attractively prepare and incorporate topic of migration into the school education and trainings for practitioners from various institutions and organizations.

Educational materials are freely available [at the IOM website](#).

*Implemented with the financial support of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic within the framework of the Grant Programme: Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is only responsible for the content of this document.*

### IN BRIEF

### IOM Trainings about Migration and Interculturality

In January 2013, IOM Bratislava held two [trainings to enhance intercultural competencies and regional cooperation](#) of state employees who work with migrants from third countries.

Altogether 45 people participated in the trainings, among them employees of alien police departments, border control departments, border police directorate and employees of labour offices, district offices, city councils and legal advice centres.



*The project Enhancing Intercultural Competencies and Regional Cooperation of Professionals Working with Migrants in Slovakia is funded from the European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals. Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows.*

### Interest of Migrants in One Stop Shop

IOM Migration Information Centre (MIC) prepared another days of specialised consulting for migrants, so called "One Stop Shops" – places, where consultants from various institutions are available for migrants - on January 24th, February 7th and March 21st 2013 in Bratislava and Košice. Migrants were consulted by employees of alien police departments, labour offices, trade office, health insurance companies and MIC. Overall, this opportunity was utilized by 30 migrants from 12 countries.

*The project MIC is co-financed by the European Union from the European Fund for Integration of Third-Country Nationals. Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows.*

### Migrants' Multicultural Happenings in February



Main topic of a multicultural meeting "Latino Carnival", which was organised by a representative of Latin America community in cooperation with MIC in Košice, was mutual cultural customs and traditions exploration – introducing carnival tradition of Latin American culture to Slovaks and Slovak carnival customs to migrants.

The Islamic Foundation in Slovakia together with MIC organised another continuation of multicultural meeting “BaBinec” in Bratislava. Female participants of this meeting had a chance to participate in the workshop “mysterious mandala”, try henna painting and taste traditional food and drinks.

## Working Breakfast on the EMN Study



In March 2013, IOM Bratislava as the coordinator of the European Migration Network (EMN) activities in Slovakia held a [working breakfast on the upcoming EMN study](#) titled *Attracting Highly-Qualified and Qualified Third-Country Nationals: Good Practices and Lessons Learned*. IOM representatives introduced approved study content and discussed the situation in the Slovak Republic as well as availability of data and statistics in the related areas with invited participants.

*The EMN was established via Council Decision 2008/381/EC and is financially supported by the European Union. The EMN activities in the Slovak Republic are co-financed by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic. More information about the EMN can be found on [www.emn.sk](http://www.emn.sk) and [www.emn.europa.eu](http://www.emn.europa.eu).*

## Assistance to Slovak Citizens Returning from Canada

Since October last year, IOM Bratislava helps the citizens of the Slovak Republic, whose asylum was rejected in Canada and they return back to Slovakia. IOM provides them pre-return assistance, departure assistance from Canada, assistance at transit airports, upon arrival assistance in Slovakia and reintegration assistance - material assistance, temporary accommodation, legal, educational or business set-up assistance. The provided assistance is a part of the Canadian Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme. Since the beginning of the program, 43 Slovak citizens were returned from Canada to Slovakia with the assistance of IOM.

## Third Edition of the EMN Bulletin



The European Commission's third edition of the [EMN Bulletin](#) informs about actual situation, outputs and statistics in the fields of migration, integration and asylum at EU and Member State level. It covers the period from October 2012 to January 2013.

## Meeting of the Voluntary Return European Network

IOM Bratislava organised a meeting of members of the Voluntary Return European Network (VREN) that took place in Bratislava on 25 March 2013. The participants - representatives of consulates operating in Slovakia and Austria, the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Bureau of Border and Alien Police of the Police Force Presidium of the Ministry of Interior, NGOs and IOM – were informed about the current situation in the field of voluntary returns in Slovakia and the progress of the VREN project. The aim of the project is to identify the needs, priorities and best practices in the field of voluntary returns in selected EU Member States, Switzerland and the main countries of transit and origin. There is also a [VREN web platform](#) which serves for exchanging, sharing and coordination of information about voluntary returns among partners.

## I O M C L I E N T S T O R I E S

### Family Without Home Begins a New Life

Family with three small children left Kosovo, where they had lost a house during the armed conflict, and asked for asylum in Slovakia. During the asylum procedure, they decided to return home and registered to the [IOM Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme](#) (AVRR). IOM staff helped with their return and provided a reintegration assistance, which has helped them to deal with their life situation immediately after returning home: IOM Bratislava contributed to the rent costs, the purchase of essential household goods and building materials.



During the pre-return counselling the IOM Bratislava staff provided family with all necessary information, valid travel documents, tickets and return plan.



IOM Bratislava staff accompanies the clients at the airport until boarding.



Reintegration assistance provided to returnees by IOM Bratislava included the purchase of a power saw, horse with a carriage, which the family will use for transporting and logging the wood and scrap material and thus ensure a long-term source of income.

You can read more about the reintegration assistance to migrants on the [AVRR Programme website](#).

*The AVRR is co-funded by the European Union from the European Return Fund and the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic. Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows.*

## WE OFFER

### IOM Bratislava Publications Issued from 2012



Misuse of the Right to Family Reunification: Marriages of Convenience and False Declaration of Parenthood in the Slovak Republic

English version: [http://emn.sk/phocadownload/emn\\_studies/emn-sk\\_study\\_on\\_misuse\\_of\\_the\\_right\\_to\\_family\\_reunification\\_en.pdf](http://emn.sk/phocadownload/emn_studies/emn-sk_study_on_misuse_of_the_right_to_family_reunification_en.pdf)

Organisation of Asylum and Migration Policy in the Slovak Republic – updated version from July 2012

English version: [http://www.emn.sk/phocadownload/emn\\_studies/emn-sk\\_study\\_on\\_organiz\\_of\\_migr\\_asylum\\_policy\\_sr\\_en\\_v-july-2012.pdf](http://www.emn.sk/phocadownload/emn_studies/emn-sk_study_on_organiz_of_migr_asylum_policy_sr_en_v-july-2012.pdf)



Immigration of International Students to the Slovak Republic

English version: [http://www.emn.sk/phocadownload/emn\\_studies/emn-sk\\_study\\_on\\_immigration\\_of\\_international\\_students\\_sr\\_en.pdf](http://www.emn.sk/phocadownload/emn_studies/emn-sk_study_on_immigration_of_international_students_sr_en.pdf)



Establishing Identity for International Protection in the Slovak Republic: Challenges and Practices

English version (available as a questionnaire): [http://emn.sk/phocadownload/emn\\_studies/emn-sk\\_study\\_on\\_establishing\\_identity\\_for\\_international\\_protection\\_in\\_the\\_sr\\_en.pdf](http://emn.sk/phocadownload/emn_studies/emn-sk_study_on_establishing_identity_for_international_protection_in_the_sr_en.pdf)





**Intra-EU Mobility of Third-Country Nationals in the Slovak Republic**  
English version (available as a questionnaire): [http://emn.sk/phocadownload/emn\\_studies/emn-sk\\_study\\_on\\_intra-eu\\_mobility\\_sr\\_en.pdf](http://emn.sk/phocadownload/emn_studies/emn-sk_study_on_intra-eu_mobility_sr_en.pdf)



**We Are at Home Here – Documentary Film on Migration and Migrants' Life in Slovakia**  
Only in Slovak: <http://youtu.be/1LA93hi7HNk>

## Providing Social and Cultural Orientation for Migrants – Exchange of Experience with Foreign Experts from EU Member States

Only in Slovak: <http://mic.iom.sk/sk/uzitocne/na-stiahnutie/category/12-os-tatne.html?download=229%3Abrozura-socialna-a-kulturna-orientacia-sr-2012>



## We Are at Home Here – Didactic Material for Teachers and Lecturers

Only in Slovak: <http://www.iom.sk/sk/aktivity/integracia-migrantov/dokumenty?download=100%3Aaj-my-sme-tu-doma-instrukcny-material>



**Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policies in the Slovak Republic 2012**  
English version: [http://emn.sk/phocadownload/emn\\_reports/emn-sk\\_ann-report-on-migr-asy-l-policies-sr\\_2012\\_en.pdf](http://emn.sk/phocadownload/emn_reports/emn-sk_ann-report-on-migr-asy-l-policies-sr_2012_en.pdf)



**State Citizenship of the Slovak Republic**  
In 6 languages incl. English, information valid as of January 2013:  
<http://mic.iom.sk/sk/uzitocne/na-stiahnutie/category/13-obcianstvo.html?download=79%3Aobcianstvo-slovenskej-republiky>

## Residence of Foreign Nationals in Slovakia

In 6 languages incl. English, information valid as of August 2012: <http://mic.iom.sk/sk/uzitocne/na-stiahnutie/category/14-pobyt.html?download=80%3Apobyt-cudzincov-na-slovensku>



**Migrants' Experiences with Violence in Slovakia**  
In Slovak with an English summary: <http://www.iom.sk/sk/aktivity/integracia-migrantov/dokumenty?download=99%3Askusenosti-migrantov-s-nasilim-vysledky-vyskumu-iom-2013>

## I O M I N M E D I A

News selection about activities of the IOM Bratislava published in the Slovak media from January 2013:

**Forty victims of human trafficking identified in Slovakia in 2012**  
Hlavnospravy.sk, 6. 2. 2013  
<http://www.hlavnospravy.sk/v-minulom-roku-identifikovali-na-slovensku-40-obeti-obchodovania-s-ludmi/69624/>

**Migrants in Slovakia are mostly abused in the workplace**  
Pravda.sk, 21. 3. 2013  
<http://spravy.pravda.sk/domace/clanok/274958-cudzincov-na-slovensku-najcastejsie-zneuzivaju-na-pracovisku/>

**Luring 'third' country students**  
The Slovak Spectator, 8. 4. 2013  
[http://spectator.sme.sk/articles/view/49630/2/luring\\_third](http://spectator.sme.sk/articles/view/49630/2/luring_third)

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