

Newsletter of the IOM International Organization for Migration in the Slovak Republic

Issue 03/2012 – July 2012

Dear colleagues,

The third issue of the newsletter contains a brief overview of selected activities and events of IOM Bratislava in the field of migrant integration, counter trafficking, humanitarian transfers of refugees, and other main operations conducted from April to June 2012. At the same time, the newsletter brings a summary of achievements in 2011 in the field of assisted voluntary returns and preventing human trafficking and help to human trafficking victims. For further information please visit our website www.iom.sk.

IOM Bratislava

UPCOMING EVENTS

One Stop Shop – counselling day at MIC

Migration Information Centre IOM (MIC) is organizing a *One Stop Shop* Counselling day in its own premises in 4 Grösslingova Street on August 2, 2012 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. During this time MIC will provide free counselling for non-EU citizens working or living in Slovakia who need advice. Information will be provided in one place by the MIC consultants, together with officers from

Alien Police Department, Labour Office and Health Insurance Companies.

EMN Educational Seminar “Migration Globally and Locally”



Aj my sme tu doma?

Diskusný večer o integrácii migrantov

21. 8. 2012 o 19.00 hod. | KC Dunaj

- Kto sú migranti prichádzajúci na Slovensko a ako sa im tu žije?
- Čo to vlastne znamená integrácia?
- Ako vyzerať integrácia migrantov na Slovensku a v Českej republike a aké sú názory odborníkov z týchto krajín?
- Existuje funkčný model integrácie, ktorý zaisťuje kvalitné súžitie spoločnosti a migrantov?
- Dá sa to u nás aplikovať?

Čaká nás zaujímavá diskusia aj s premietaním filmu *Rodina odvedla* o integrácii cudzincov v ČR. Viac informácií nájdete na www.emn.sk

EMN European Migration Network European migracná sieť
Diskusný večer sa uskutoční v rámci vzájomnej spolupráce Slovenskej migračnej siete EMN Slovensko, globálneho zväzku, ktorý organizuje EMN Medzinárodná organizácia pre migráciu, EUI koordinátor Národného kontaktného bodu Európskej migračnej siete a IOM v rámci svojho programu. Národného kontaktného bodu Európskej migračnej siete Slovensko zastrejuje IOM.

IOM International Organization for Migration as the coordinator of the EMN National Contact Point in the Slovak Republic is organizing a summer educational seminar entitled *Migration Globally and Locally*. The seminar will take place in Bratislava from 20 to 23 August 2012. Educational seminar is aimed at professionals working in the state and public institutions, academic field as well as non-governmental

organizations who are interested in migration issues. The seminar programme includes discussion evening on integration of migrants called *Are we also at home here?* which will be open to the public. Discussion with experts from the Slovak and Czech Republic will be held at KC Dunaj in Bratislava on 21 August 2012. More information on seminar is available on EMN website.

Experience a slightly different Sunday lunch!

Would you like to gain an interesting experience, get to know other cultures and interesting people? IOM Bratislava prepares 20 meetings of migrant and Slovak families within the framework of the project *Next Door Family EU – Inclusive Neighbourhoods*. Each meeting will include one Slovak family and one migrant family that will share Sunday lunch on 18 November 2012 at 1:00 p.m. Apart from the Slovak families, the meetings are opened to third-country nationals who legally reside in

Slovakia. The meetings shall be attended by, at least, a couple (spouses, mother and child/children, grandparents or partners - not individuals). If you want to participate, please fill out the [online application](#) on the project website.

PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES

Reintegration help for migrants after the return to country of origin

In 2011 IOM Bratislava within the framework of the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme provided reintegration help in total amount of 35 783,79 € to 26 individuals or entire families from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iraq, Moldova, Serbia (Kosovo), Ukraine and Vietnam who applied for assisted voluntary return and reintegration grant. For example, targeted IOM aid helped to improve living conditions of a 50-year old client and his family, who have returned from Slovakia to their home village in Velesniv, Ukraine. The married couple with two daughters has owned an old simple house there, but high maintenance costs and costs of energy complicated their life situation. IOM Bratislava decided to help them with their troubles and contributed to buying some building materials and new windows.



The house of the Ukrainian family from Velesniv before the reconstruction and after outer insulation and windows replacement.

Photo: Rudyk Bogdan

With renovation and insulation of the house they have achieved the decrease of high energy consumption and their heating costs. The family from Velesniv has become a positive example for other migrants returning from Slovakia back to Ukraine and their interest in getting the reintegration assistance and support has increased. Growing number of successful reintegration stories in Ukraine was also noted.

You can find more information about the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme (AVRR) on the newly updated website www.avr.iom.sk.

The Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme (AVRR) is funded by the European Union, Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows. Co-funded by the Ministry of the Interior of the SR.

Multicultural party 'We are also at home here' has had notable success



Photo: Michal Huštaty

IOM International Organization for Migration carried out an event entitled *We are also at home here*. This multiCOOLtural evening was held on 19 April 2012 at KC Dunaj in Bratislava. With rhythms, dances and flavours of Asia, Africa, Orient and Caribbean it attracted over 500 guests. The programme introduced a fusion of different cultures - both Slovak and foreign ones - and it underlined the fact that they can mutually complement and enrich each other.

The programme was opened by Vanessa Wang by playing Chinese string instrument gu zheng while Olia El Hassoun and Roman Kozák introduced to the audience oriental music accompanied by the dance performance of a belly dancer Dia. Moreover, Thierry played African drums and rhythms. The headliner of the evening was the music band Team Cuba interpreting original Cuban son, salsa, merengue and cha-cha. Except for their own songs its repertoire was appreciated for the favourite pieces of the legendary Cuban band Buena Vista Social Club. The dancing duo Sabor Cubano swayed the audience to the rhythm of the traditional Cuban dances, encouraging the visitors to join them on the dance floor. In addition to the performances,

the visitors also had the opportunity to taste traditional Indian and Lebanese cuisines, oriental sweets as well as traditionally served Turkish coffee and tea.

The event “We are also at home here” opened up the 7th [fjúžn] festival and was part of the international project *Next Door Family EU – Inclusive Neighbourhoods* conducted by the Czech non-governmental organization SLOVO 21 in collaboration with partners from seven European countries. The project is implemented in Slovakia by the IOM International Organization for Migration. More information on the project is available on www.nextdoorfamily.eu.

The project is co-funded by the European Commission from the European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals (EIF).

The Slovak Republic provides a temporary shelter to a fifth group of refugees



A group of 44 Afghan refugees arrived to Slovakia on 19 April 2012. The group consists of divorced or widowed women with children who fled from Afghanistan to Iran during the armed conflict and were granted asylum status there in 2001. Being women living without their husbands, they were ostracized in their homeland and the situation did not improve much even in the refugee camp in Iran.

Women with children are temporarily accommodated in the asylum facility of the Ministry of Interior in Humenné where they will stay for a period of 6 months. This period is meant for the refugees' physical and mental recovery, necessary medical examinations and course of cultural orientation. Refugees will be then resettled to the United States of America (USA). Resettlement to a third country has shown to be the last resort for their situation and it represents a unique opportunity for a new beginning in a secure country.

The 6-month temporary shelter is provided by the Slovak Republic on the basis of the trilateral treaty signed on 22 December 2010 by the Government of the Slovak Republic, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). In accordance with the treaty, IOM is responsible for the provision of medical services and cultural orientation, as well as for the transport of refugees to the Slovak Republic and from the Slovak Republic to the country of resettlement.

The refugees are the second group of Afghan women and children from Iran, and at the same time the fifth group in total which will be resettled through the Emergency Transit Centre (ETC) in Humenné. Since the establishment of ETC in 2009 267 refugees - 98 Palestinians, 90 Afghans, 53 Somalis, 12 Eritreans, 8 Ethiopians, and 6 Iraqis - have been resettled through the Slovak Republic.

The activities of IOM in this project are financed by the US Government through its USRAP Program – United States Refugee Admissions Program.

Trend in human trafficking: forced labour



Even though forced prostitution was the most common purpose of trafficking in human beings, in recent two years the social workers of IOM Bratislava have noticed an increased number of the victims of forced labour, forced begging and an increased number of trafficking of men in working-age.

IOM Bratislava has responded to the current situation by creating a prevention film named '0800 800 818', directed by Marcel Pázman. The movie presents the topic of forced labour, or men as the victims of trafficking, through the several real stories – a man forced to beg in Italy, a woman working in England without salary, a man exploited on construction in England or a woman forced to work in sex-business in Switzerland. Movie shows practices of traffickers and their methods of manipulation with potential victims and explains what to do if a person becomes a victim of trafficking. The film had its premiere on 22th May 2012 on Slovak Television (RTVS) and it was followed by a discussion of involved experts. It is possible to watch the film on [YouTube channel of IOM](http://www.youtube.com/IOM). Currently, IOM is working on creating the English subtitles for the film. For using the film in practical prevention, IOM recommends to use the methodology created for this purpose by IOM Bratislava social workers, available on [IOM website](http://www.iom.sk).

During May and June 2012 the film '0800 800 818' was used by the lecturers of IOM Bratislava Countertrafficking Unit for the first time as the one of the training tools. The trainings within the project „Prevention and extended harmonized system of data

collection on human trafficking”, which is implemented by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic in partnership with The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), were focused onto specifics of forced labour. Within 6 training blocks 119 selected staff of The National Labour Inspectorate, Ministry of Labour, Social affairs and Family, police officers and field social workers were trained.

The movie ‘0800 800 818’ was created with financial support of Crime Prevention Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic, the British Embassy, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Slovak Audiovisual Fund.

Food and Culture from around the World in Bratislava

Second annual *Gastrofestival of Migrant Communities* was held on Sunday June 10, 2012 in Grassalkovich Garden in Bratislava. Foreigners from different countries living in Slovakia presented their culture through traditional food and music performance.

The Gastrofestival was organized within the event Open Parks and Gardens Weekend 2012. The representatives of Afghan, African, Ecuadorian, Cuban, Latino-American and Turkish communities presented themselves through their traditional food in Grassalkovich Garden. International market of receipts, presentation of communities and mini festival of drums and percussions, which were available to guests to play during the workshops, were part of the festival as well.



The objective of the Gastrofestival was to present to the majority the life, culture and gastronomy of the foreigner communities living in Slovakia. The event was organized by the communities in cooperation with IOM Migration Information Centre (MIC) which covered and financially supported this multicultural event.

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

Multicultural Friday Hot Fever in Košice



Košice is gradually becoming hometown for people of various cultures and from different countries. Lot of people has no idea about the number of manifold nationalities crossing the streets of Košice. Multicultural Information Meetings, that are supported by the IOM Migration Information Centre (MIC) in Košice, are the best options for them to meet various cultures “under one roof”. MIC cultural mediators Jose Dario Garcia Villena (Peru) and Shreyas Kadam (India) decided to arrange an event which would conjoin cultures of number of the Latin America countries and that of India. On June 29, several cultures from all over the world met by the lake – Jazero in Košice.

Friday Hot Fever began in the afternoon and those people who were attracted by the Latin-American and Indian culture had the option to see and hear the DJ from Peru, dance group Salsa Caliente, Brazilian martial art Capoeira or demonstration of the Indian festivals – Holi (festival of lights) and Diwali (festival of colours). Almost 200 people attended the event and most of them did not miss the chance to degust the original Indian food that confirmed another sense of the word “HOT” in the event’s name. The number of visitors proves the interest of the people in Košice and their willingness to get to know other cultures. On the other hand, communities had a chance for a positive representation of their home country and original culture.

In brief

Improving the Quality of Unaccompanied Minor Asylum Seekers’ Guardianship and Care in Central European Countries

Between 31 May and 1 June 2012, IOM Bratislava together with the Society of Goodwill has carried out a training to improve the quality of guardianship and care. Nineteen guardians and social workers dealing with unaccompanied minor asylum seekers were professionally trained during this event. Training was conducted within the project ‘Improving the Quality of Unaccompanied Minor Asylum Seekers’ Guardianship and Care in Central European Countries’, which was realized together with IOM partners in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania,

Slovakia and Slovenia. Highlight of the project was the international conference in Budapest held on 14 and 15 June 2012.

The Project is co-financed by the European Commission from the European Refugee Fund – Community Actions 2010.

European Migration Network published the first edition of the EMN Bulletin



The first edition of the EMN Bulletin from June 2012 summarises EU, national and related developments in migration policy published in the period January to May 2012, and provides an overview of key statistics plus related EMN outputs and developments that have occurred in this period. It contains information about [Third Annual Report on Immigration and Asylum 2011](#), accompanied

by a Eurobarometer report on [Awareness of Home Affairs](#) on the basis of which the European Commission synthesised [main findings](#) in the area of migration in comparison with European citizens' attitudes towards cross-border mobility, migration and security. In relation to the Slovak Republic, EMN Bulletin provides also information about the new [Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Aliens](#).

EMN Bulletin is prepared by the European Centre of the EMN in Brussels.

The EMN activities in the Slovak Republic are co-financed by the European Commission and the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic. More information about EMN can be found on www.emn.sk or www.emn.europa.eu.

WE OFFER

Support for Educational and Requalification Courses

IOM Migration Information Centre (MIC) offers foreigners living in Slovakia an opportunity to apply for a **financial contribution for educational and requalification courses** according to the choice of the client. The objective of the financial contribution

is mainly to increase the qualification or education of the client, help him/her to integrate into the society and labour market in Slovakia, or eventually to change job or extend the subject of business etc.

The financial contribution may be awarded to a **third country national** (i.e. non EU, EEA and Switzerland citizen), who has a **legal residence in Slovakia according to the Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on the residence of foreigners**, has or is eligible for work permit and by the completion of the course will fulfil the objective of the educational and requalification courses.

The eligible applicant can apply for three types of the financial contribution. The **starting contribution** is intended for clients who are not integrated into the labour market and the completion of the course and the extension or change of his/her qualification is a condition for employment of the client or can in a large extent contribute to acquiring a new job. Maximum financial contribution for one client is 450 EUR. Foreigners already integrated into the labour market who are interested in extending their qualification in order to improve their position on the labour market or to extend the subject of their business may apply for the **subsidiary contribution** up to 225 EUR. The group contribution is intended for cases when MIC identifies a group of applicants for the same type of course. The maximum contribution is 840 EUR.

More information on educational/requalification courses is available on the web page www.mic.iom.sk in the Section Job Counselling & Courses.

I O M I N M E D I A

News selection about activities of the IOM Bratislava published in the Slovak Media from April to June 2012:

Trafficking in Human Beings is profitable business, prevention is important

TASR, 21. 5. 2012

<http://www.teraz.sk/ekonomika/obchodovanie-s-ludmi-je-vynosny-bizn/9077-clanok.html>

Trafficking in Human Beings is still topical and concerns Slovaks too

TA3, 21. 5. 2012

<http://www.ta3.com/clanok/15120/obchodovanie-s-ludmi-je-stale-aktualne-tyka-sa-aj-slovakov.html>

Traffickers sell also men, mainly from the East

Pravda, 22. 5. 2012

http://spravy.pravda.sk/obchodnici-predavaju-aj-muzov-najma-z-vychodu-fok/sk_domace.asp?c=A120522_092820_sk_domace_p23

GOVERNMENT: We will accept 150 refugees, who head to the third countries

Rozhlas.sk, 1. 6. 2012

<http://www.rozhlas.sk/Z-domova-?l=1&c=0&i=38234&p=1>