

# Newsletter

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



Issue 01/2014 – January 2014

## N U M B E R

**183,603** / In 2013, IOM Migration Information Centre in Bratislava and Košice counselled 1,913 clients from more than 60 countries. Centres provided 3,480 consultations, MIC website recorded 183,603 visits.

**400** / Nearly 400 young people from primary and secondary schools viewed the documentary film *Aj my sme tu doma* (We Are At Home Here) at the One World Film Festival 2013. After each of the four projections the audience and IOM staff had a discussion about the film, migration and migrants in Slovakia.

**341** / Since the year 2010, altogether 341 public administration employees working with migrants in Slovakia took part in IOM trainings and workshops on migration, intercultural skills and regional cooperation.

**31** / In 2013, IOM Bratislava provided post-return reintegration assistance to 31 migrants. So far, we have assisted individuals and families in 21 countries in the world this way.

More information on IOM activities and achievements in 2013.

## U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

### One-Stop Shop – Consultation Day for Migrants in Košice



IOM Migration Information Centre (MIC) in Košice organizes consultation day *One-Stop Shop* on 6 February 2014 on the premises of Poštová 1. Free counselling on employment and residency in Slovakia is for third-country nationals (non-EU). Counselling will be provided by representatives of alien police department, labour offices, health insurance companies and MIC. For more information visit [www.mic.iom.sk](http://www.mic.iom.sk).

### EMN Studies in 2014

In 2014, IOM Bratislava as the National Contact Point of the European Migration Network (EMN) in the Slovak Republic will publish, on behalf of the Slovak Republic, following 5 studies: *Detention and alternatives to detention; Good practices in the return and reintegration of irregular migrants; Member States' entry-bans, policy and use of readmission agreements between Member States and third countries; Policies on unaccompanied minors: update of the EU comparative study produced in 2009; Business-related immigration in the EU, challenges faced and new solutions; Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policies 2013*. All studies will be available on [www.emn.sk](http://www.emn.sk) where you can also download previously issued reports.

## P R E V I O U S A C T I V I T I E S

### EMN Conference on Qualified Workers from Third Countries



On 20 November 2013 IOM as the National Contact Point of EMN in the Slovak Republic hosted the EMN conference *Migration of Qualified Workers from Third Countries: Policies and Practice* in Bratislava. The following topics were introduced by experts from Bratislava, Brussels, London, Prague and Vienna to over 70 participants: developments in migration policies, economic and

fiscal impact of migration and measures implemented by EU countries in order to attract qualified workers from third countries. EMN representatives introduced findings of the national study as well as the synthesis report dealing with this topic.

### IOM Trainings and Workshops on Migration

From October to December 2013, IOM organized two trainings in Piešťany and two workshops in Nitra and Trnava for 50 public administration representatives working with third-country nationals in Slovakia. The trainings, being the first part of the [training programme](#), as well as the follow-up workshops focus on gaining skills in intercultural communication, knowledge in the field of migration, migrant integration and cooperation among the key institutions.



*Representatives of migrant communities from Cameroon, Cuba and Vietnam shared their experiences of living and working in Slovakia with the training participants.*

### I N B R I E F

### IOM and the Diversity Festival

Košice – European Capital of Culture 2013 started the second year of the Diversity Festival on 8 October 2013. The installment [Hello&Goodbye](#) that presented life stories of migrants living in Košice or Slovaks who lived abroad was the attraction of the festival. The testimonies were compiled and recorded by Austrian artists from unit Kunstlabor Graz in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The Soup Festival held on 12 October 2013 in Kulturpark, Košice was the climax of the Diversity Festival. More than a thousand visitors could try and evaluate 27 soups. The professional jury, including an IOM representative, awarded The Golden Spoon for the best soup to Goral cottage cheese soup prepared by the Polish community.

### One-Stop Shops in Bratislava and Košice

IOM Migration Information Centre (MIC) organized so-called One-Stop Shops – consultation days on 17 October in Bratislava and on 21 November in Košice. The complex counselling at one place was provided by the representatives of alien police department, labour offices, trade licensing office, health insurance companies, department of state citizenship and registry office, and MIC counsellors. Migrants from more than 10 countries attended the consultation days.

### The Old Market Hall Experienced One Day on Migration



On Friday 18 October 2013 during the [Development Day 2013](#) at the Old Market Hall in Bratislava IOM presented its work and results along with organizations active in international development cooperation, humanitarian assistance, global education and in assisting people and development activities beyond the Slovak borders. [IOM presentation](#) attracted both young people and adults who wanted to learn more about migration in the world and in Slovakia, who needed to be advised of various aspects of life of migrants, and who were interested in materials and activities which they could use to introduce migration in the school education. After the screening of films [Aj my sme tu doma](#) (We Are At Home Here) and [Vitalie](#), the audience engaged in a discussion about migration in Slovakia and about the [IOM Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme](#).

### A New Home for 120 Refugees

Between October and December 2013 IOM, in cooperation with its partners, resettled [120 refugees from the Emergency Transit Centre \(ETC\)](#) in Humenné to the United States of America. Out of these 120 refugees, 78 were resettled in November which is the highest number of refugees resettled in one month since the Centre was opened in August 2009. The ETC serves to accommodate refugees who found themselves in a difficult situation and were accepted into the program of humanitarian transfers.

The refugees were evacuated to the Slovak Republic which provided them with a temporary shelter for a period of 6 months. In safe conditions of the Centre the refugees will complete all necessary preparations, after which they will be resettled to a country that accepts them and offers them an opportunity to start a new life.



## Info-meeting on Voluntary Returns and Reintegrations



IOM Bratislava organized a first information meeting on [assisted voluntary returns and reintegrations](#) (AVRR) with representatives of departments of alien and border police. The meeting took place on 8 October 2013 in Bratislava. A representative of IOM and of Bureau of Border and Alien Police of the Police Force Presidium introduced the way migrants are assisted before and after departure, current legislation in place and planned amendments to the legislation affecting the field of assisted voluntary returns. Short videos showing migrants' stories of return and their new beginnings following their return home were presented. The participants of the meeting expressed their appreciation as regards the services and various types of assistance provided to migrants by the Slovak Republic within the framework of the AVRR Programme. This meeting enabled individual participants to exchange their experiences with applicants for voluntary return and to discuss the issues linked to the implementation of voluntary returns in practice.

## Migrant Communities Events

In the last three months of 2013, cultural mediators – representatives of migrants' communities – in cooperation and support of MIC in Bratislava and Košice, organized several events that

introduced various countries, cultures and customs and supported community life of migrants. The newsletter presents three of these events, for information about other events, please visit the [IOM Bratislava website](#).



*Multicolour Christmas was hosted on the premises of Connect, Bratislava by cultural mediators. The evening of 14th December introduced Christmas customs of various cultures, singing, music and dance performances, food tasting, and even raffle prizes by cultural mediators of Afghan, Ukrainian, Latino American, Chinese, and African communities.*



*Information meeting Colours of Christmas in Beach Club, Košice created a pleasant atmosphere of pre-Christmas days for migrants and people from Košice. More than a hundred visitors could taste, see and learn about the Christmas customs and traditions held in Slovakia, Ukraine, Russia, USA, and Peru. All the good children were happy to welcome Saint Nicholas with his bag full of gifts.*



*10th annual popular festival Days of Ibero-American films took place in November in Bratislava, organized by the Latino American community. The three days of festival offered visitors films of contemporary Brazilian, Cuban, and Columbian cinematography; photography exhibitions or concert of Mariachi musicians. Moreover, presentation of MIC activities was part of this festival, attended by over a hundred people.*

### W E O F F E R

## Free Courses of Slovak Language for Foreigners



IOM Migration Information Centre offers third-country nationals a [free of charge Open Course of Slovak Language](#) in Bratislava and Košice. A new cycle of courses started in January 2014. The beginner [course in Bratislava](#) takes place every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Every Wednesday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. intermediates may attend course at Grösslingová 4. [Courses in Košice](#) are held at Poštová 1 on every Tuesday from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for beginners and on Thursdays from

5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for intermediates. The open courses are for third-country nationals (non-EU) with a temporary, permanent or tolerated residence in Slovakia. Courses are free of charge and open for all age categories. No registration or entry exams are needed. Interested foreigners may start the course at any time.

## Counselling on Changes in the Act of Residence for Foreigners

From 1 January 2014, an amendment of the Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Foreign Nationals and Act 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services came into effect. The changes relate to the terms of residence, work permit, employment or employment of foreign nationals in Slovakia. In addition to the above mentioned laws, the amendment also changes the Act on Asylum and the Act on Illegal Work and Illegal Employment.

Information on the changes in the Act of Residence for Foreigners is available in [MIC in Bratislava and Košice](#), and also on the website [www.mic.iom.sk](http://www.mic.iom.sk). More information about the actual changes is provided by the legal counsellors of MIC in person, via phone or e-mail.

### P U B L I C A T I O N S

## Post-return Assistance Provided to Migrants Following Their Return Home

IOM offers assistance to migrants who decide to return home with IOM and who register into the [Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme](#). After their return home mig-

rants can use this support for the following purposes: start-up of small business activities, improvement of own qualification, job search assistance, covering of their basic needs, temporary accommodation, legal and medical assistance. For further information in Slovak, English, Russian, Chinese, Vietnamese and Arabic, please consult our [new brochure](#) published by IOM.



## EMN publications:

### Migrant Access to Social Security and Healthcare in the Slovak Republic - Policies and Practice



This [study](#) is the first comprehensive publication in the Slovak Republic on the access of third-country nationals to social security and health care. It provides an overview of policies and legislation dealing with participation of third-country nationals in the social security system and health care in the Slovak Republic. Besides, it also contains case studies and statistics as well as a list of bilateral agreements on social security which the Slovak Republic concluded with third countries.

### The Fifth Edition of the EMN Bulletin



The latest edition of [the EMN Bulletin](#) by the European Commission informs about current issues, outcomes and statistics on various areas of migration, integration and asylum at EU and Member State level during the period from June to October 2013.

## Identification of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings in International Protection and Forced Return Procedures in the Slovak Republic



[English version \(available as a questionnaire\)](#) examines how (potential) victims of trafficking in human beings among rejected asylum applicants are identified in the Slovak Republic in procedures of international protection and in forced returns, as well as how such identification of a (potential) victim of human trafficking results in other residence granting procedures. Moreover, the study contains information about the number

of victims identified in this way and about the related educational and training activities and manuals for workers coming into contact with (potential) human trafficking victims in international protection or forced returns procedures.

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

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

### Migrants are an opportunity for the European Union

RTVS, 20. 11. 2013

<http://www.rtvs.sk/televizia/program/detail/4173/spravy-rtvs/archiv?date=20.11.2013> (report begins at 14:35)

### In 2013, 232 million people have migrated worldwide

Teraz.sk, 16. 12. 2013

<http://www.teraz.sk/zahranicie/svet-2013-migranti-pocet/67911-clanok.html>

### Slovak IOM branch commemorates the International Migrants Day

The Slovak Spectator, 19. 12. 2013

[http://spectator.sme.sk/articles/view/52442/10/slovak\\_iom\\_branch\\_commemorates\\_the\\_international\\_migrants\\_day.htmlmigrantov/188642/](http://spectator.sme.sk/articles/view/52442/10/slovak_iom_branch_commemorates_the_international_migrants_day.htmlmigrantov/188642/)

## SUPPORT OF ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

European Migration Network (EMN) National Contact Point in the Slovak Republic:



Co-funded by  
the European Union



Voluntary Return and Reintegration in Country of Origin (Individual Project). The project is co-funded by the European Union from the European Return Fund. Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows.

Migration Information Centre to Support Integration of Migrants in Slovakia (phase VI) – Individual project. The project is co-funded by the European Union from the European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals. Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows.

Enhancing Intercultural Competencies and Regional Cooperation of Professionals working with Migrants in the Slovak Republic IV (Individual project). The project is co-funded by the European Union from the European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals. Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows.



IOM Bratislava implements the Programme of Return and Reintegration for Trafficked Persons as a part of the national Programme of Support and Protection for Victims of Human Trafficking, which is financed by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic. Operation of the National Helpline for Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings 0800 800 818 is financed by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic. Technical operation of the helpline is provided by Slovak Telekom, a. s.

Activities of IOM in the project of Humanitarian Transfer of Refugees are financed by the by the US Government through its US-RAP Program – United States Refugee Admissions Program, or by similar programs of other resettlement countries.

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