

Newsletter

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

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NUMBER

1 148 / In the first half of 2014, IOM in Slovakia helped 23 migrants to return from Slovakia to 13 home countries and provided comprehensive assistance to 12 Slovak citizens who became victims of trafficking in human beings abroad. IOM Migration Information Centre in Bratislava and Kosice counselled 1,113 clients.

649 / Already 649 refugees from Africa and Asia found a temporary shelter in the Emergency Transit Centre (ETC) in Humenne between August 2009 and June 2014. IOM, in cooperation with its partners, organizes their humanitarian transfer through Slovakia, where they complete the needed preparations, and then arranges their transportation to countries providing them with a new home.

349 / During the first six months of 2014, 349 people attended the open courses of Slovak language organized by IOM Migration Information Centre (MIC) for non-EU citizens living in Slovakia.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Invitation to the EMN Discussion Evening: People Forced to Flee



EMN National Contact Point in the Slovak Republic cordially invites you to the EMN Discussion Evening: People Forced to Flee which will be held at [KC Dunaj](#) in Bratislava on August 19, 2014 at 6.30 pm. It will be attended by internationally recognized experts who will speak on the topic of forced migration, its causes, refugees and ways to help.

The event is free of charge and it will be held in English language. The EMN Discussion Evening is part of the [EMN Educational Seminar: Forced migration – causes and possible solutions](#).

IOM One-Stop Shops – Advisory Days for Migrants Held Each Month



Advisory days One-Stop Shop for migrants from outside the EU will be regularly organized every last Thursday of the month simultaneously [on the premises of the IOM Migration Information Centre \(MIC\)](#) in Bratislava and Kosice.

One-Stop Shop means that migrants can obtain in one place comprehensive and free advice from the alien police department, labour and health insurance offices and the legal consultants of the MIC. The first of a series of One-Stop-Shops will be held on Thursday, 25 September 2014 from 12:00 until 16:00 in MIC in Bratislava and Kosice. You can find more information on the [MIC website](#).

PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES

IOM Has Trained More Than 440 Professionals



In April IOM Bratislava organized two workshops in Trenčín and Dunajská Streda for officers from alien police departments and officials from labour and district offices, insurance company Union and labour inspectorate. The participants gained infor-

mation on the latest legislative changes (Act on Residence of Foreign Nationals and Act on Employment Services), presented the activities and services of their institutions in the field of migration and solved case studies that can be helpful in their future work and communication with third-country nationals.

Since the beginning of this capacity building project for public sector and local government workers in 2010, IOM has organized 20 initial trainings and 12 follow-up workshops in seven regions of Slovakia. More than 440 professionals from key institutions all over Slovakia attended these events. [More information.](#)

All the World Came to Stará tržnica

During the second weekend of April, Nedeľná paráda (The Sunday Parade) took place in Bratislava's Stará tržnica (The Old Market Hall) as an accompanying event of the [9th \[fjúžn\] festival](#). In addition to concerts, circus workshop or theatre performance, migrant communities living in Slovakia also contributed to the great atmosphere. The visitors could get to know the culture and customs of different countries and also taste food specialities from Brazil, Iran, Ghana, Latin America and Kazakhstan. Among other organizations, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) presented both itself and the activities and services of the [IOM Migration Information Centre \(MIC\)](#). You can visit the photogallery from the event [here](#).

Next Door Family film at the [fjúžn] Festival



Zuzana Vatráľová from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Miroslava Hlinčíková from the Institute for Public Affairs and the Institute of Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and Aaron Chase from the toy store Hravý svet met at the [\[fjúžn\] festival](#) in the discussion *What Kind of Neighbours Are We?* The audience learnt interesting things about research on the integration of migrants at local level and about migrants' experience with violence, and personal experience with life of foreigner in Slovakia. The discussion opened with the film [Next Door Family](#) documenting the coexistence of the majority communities and migrants in Slovakia and five other European countries. [Read more.](#)

Another 33 Refugees Are Preparing for Life in a New Country



In May 2014, a new [group of 33 Ethiopian and Somali women and families with children](#) arrived to Slovakia, where they were provided with a temporary shelter. The women and families with children had to leave their homes and they fled to Yemen. The refugees' return to their home countries is not possible; due to the trauma they had survived and risk of persecution, they were granted international protection and included in the program of [humanitarian transfer of refugees](#). IOM organized their transportation from refugee camp to Slovakia. For a period of 6 months they will be accommodated in the Emergency Transit Centre (ETC) in Humenne. The Centre is an important part of the refugees' journey towards a new life. Here they will undergo medical examinations and complete other necessary preparations. After that IOM will arrange the refugees' transportation to the countries that will provide them with a safe home.

Courses of cultural orientation are part of the preparations refugees need to complete before resettlement. With the IOM staff they get to know the culture and customs of the country they will be resettled to, and so prepare as much as possible for their new lives already during their stay in Slovakia. Refugees receive information on social and health system of the receiving country; on how to look for a job or enroll in school; or on the currency of their new home and on how to plan their household monthly budget.

Trained Social Workers Are Helping Their Communities

In May 2014 IOM organized education sessions for 24 field social workers in the [prevention of trafficking in human beings](#) (THB). During the two-day workshop "Training of Trainers" lecturers from IOM introduced current trends in THB and their experience with the assistance to Slovak citizens who became victims of this crime. These victims come mainly from Eastern Slovakia, which is also where the workshop participants work. An important part of the workshop was a training of preventive activities that the workers can use in their work with communities and in passing information and skills in the field of prevention of THB to their colleagues.

The World in Your Palms



Representatives of migrants from different countries, in cooperation with the IOM Migration Information Centre (MIC), held already for the third time an event called “The World in Your Palms”. The happening took place in June in Kosice in the neighborhood Sídliisko nad Jazerom. Migrant communities presented interesting information about their countries, traditional gastronomy, music, dances and they created an especially friendly atmosphere. Visitors could taste the Thai soup, Indian main course and Peruvian dessert; admire Brazilian dancers and learn Latin dances; celebrate the festival of lights – Diwali; and most importantly get to know people from different countries and cultures from around the world, who live together in the metropolis of Eastern Slovakia.

Migrants from 10 Countries at IOM One-Stop Shops in June

Migrants from more than 10 countries benefited from the services of One-Stop Shops – advisory days for migrants from outside the European Union, which were organized by MIC on June 26, 2014 simultaneously in Bratislava and Kosice. On the One-Stop Shops migrants received important information from various aspects of life and stay in Slovakia from representatives of the alien police department, experts from the labour office, health insurance company and consultants of the MIC.

IOM CLIENT STORIES

She Went Abroad to Help Her Family



Ms. Vu Thi My left her native Vietnam and departed for Russia to help her sister. Ms. My lived with her son for some time in Moscow where she worked in a garment factory. “I did not have enough money and experience to open my own business,” she said. Life in

Russia was difficult for her, because she had to pay high school fees for her son, but was receiving only a low salary at the factory.

“My cousin called me to come to her to Slovakia,” she remembers. “She promised to pay a higher salary to me, but on arrival I found out that she had lied.” She crossed the Slovak border illegally. “I did not have proper documents and I was without any help from my family,” she remarks. “I really regretted my decision...” You can watch My’s entire story in the [documentary film](#).

For more authentic stories of migrants who returned home from Slovakia with the help of IOM under the Voluntary Return and Re-integration Programme you can visit the website www.avr.iom.sk.

WE OFFER

IOM Migration Information Centre Provides Free Advice and Services



IOM Migration Information Centre (MIC) [provides migrants from outside the EU](#) with free legal advice, labour and social counseling, and support for education or retraining. It also organizes free of charge open courses of the Slovak language, and

cooperates with migrant communities and supports their cultural life. Moreover, it builds capacities of state representatives, local government and non-governmental organizations in different areas of migration, intercultural and communication skills.

Clients can use all of the above-mentioned services free of charge in the MIC in Bratislava, Grösslingová 4 and in the MIC in Košice at Poštová 1. Those who are interested may contact counselling workers also through the MIC helpline 0850 211 478 or via e-mail at mic@iom.int.

For more information about the MIC please visit the website: www.mic.iom.sk.

We Are Looking for New Cultural Mediators!



The MIC is seeking to expand its cooperation with migrant communities in Slovakia and is looking for people who:

- come from outside the EU, or have a direct link to migrants from outside the EU and know their culture and life of migrant communities in Slovakia;

- have a good command of the Slovak language and also speak the language of the community;
- have an interest in supporting cultural life and want to get involved in activities for the benefit of migrant communities in Slovakia;
- want to learn about topics such as migration and integration of migrants, intercultural dialogue and other project work.

We offer new cultural mediators the opportunity to gain new experience; support and assistance in organizing events for your community; contacts to migrant communities; intensive cooperation and an opportunity to learn new skills.

If you are interested in becoming a cultural mediator and cooperate with the MIC, please contact us on the number 02 – 5263 0023 or send an e-mail at: npaulenova@iom.int.

What Does Migration Mean to You? Say It by a Photo!



IOM launched a worldwide social media campaign [#MigrationMeans](#). You are invited to contribute to the campaign with your own view of what migration means to you and how it has changed your life. Get involved and publish your photos and videos on Facebook or Twitter, using the [#MigrationMeans](#) hashtag. The campaign runs from 18 June 2014 and will culminate in December on the International Migrants Day. [Read more.](#)

Screen the IOM film We Are At Home Here in Your Town



The One World Film Festival ranked the documentary film [Aj my sme tu doma](#) (We Are At Home Here) among the selected festival films that you can borrow and organize a public screening of these films to the general public in your municipality – in your school,

library, on premises of your organization, or in your film club. More information on the Screen Yourself project is available [here](#).

PUBLICATIONS



Welcome to Slovakia

This new [brochure](#) in the Slovak, English and Russian language provides foreigners with basic information about Slovakia prior to their arrival and about their first steps in the country. You can find here information and practical advice about stay and employment of foreigners; about education system, health care, social security system and other important aspects of living in Slovakia. The brochure also includes an overview of important contacts and institutions.

Publications of the European Migration Network:



Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policies in the Slovak Republic 2013

The report provides information about the most significant political and legislative developments, as well as public debates in the field of migration and asylum in Slovakia during the year 2013. It focuses on legal migration and mobility, irregular migration and return, international protection and vulnerable groups. Apart from this, the report also analyses measures against trafficking in human beings, migration and development policy as well as implementation of EU legislation. The annual report is available for download in [Slovak](#) as well as in [English](#).

Detention and Alternatives to Detention in the Context of the Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic

[English version \(available as a questionnaire\)](#) deals with legislative regulation and good practice in the field of detention and alternatives to detention of third-country nationals, while discussing the reasons for detention and release from detention. It provides mapping of the types of detention facilities as well as conditions in detention. The impact of detention and alternatives to detention is analysed in relation to returns and international protection procedures.



Migrant Access to Social Security and Healthcare: Policies and Practice

The study describes the political and legislative framework regulating the participation of third-country nationals in EU Mem-

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ber States' and Norway's social security system, their access to various social security benefits and health care. The included case studies present the forms of applying for the respective types of benefits as well as granting of benefits. [The synthesis report](#) is available in English, together with the [EMN Inform](#) including the study summary. Contribution of the Slovak Republic to this study can be downloaded [here](#).

7th Issue of the EMN Bulletin

The European Commission's current issue of the [EMN Bulletin](#) informs about the present situation, outputs and statistics in the field of migration, integration and asylum at EU and Member States level. It covers the period from February 2014 to May 2014 and is available in [English](#).



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 VII) – 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 V (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.



British Embassy
Bratislava

Training of trainers in the field of human trafficking prevention for field social workers in 2014 was funded by the [British Embassy in Bratislava](#).

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

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 2014:

Telling the truth about immigration

The Slovak Spectator, 7. 4. 2014

<http://www.slovakspectator.sk/articles/view/53568/12/telling-the-truth-on-immigration.html>

Slovakia became a temporary home to a hundred of refugees: we sheltered people from Somalia and Afghanistan

Cas.sk, 14. 4. 2014

<http://www.cas.sk/clanok/278644/slovensko-sa-stalo-docasnym-domovom-pre-stovku-utecencov-prichylili-sme-ludi-zo-somalska-a-afganistanu.html>

We commemorate World Refugee Day

TA3, 20. 6. 2014

<http://www.ta3.com/clanok/1042313/pripominame-si-svetovy-den-utecencov.html>

SUPPORT OF ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

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



Spolufinancované
Európskou úniou



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