



# International Organization for Migration

Country Office Austria

## Editorial

Migration and Development is a very important topic for IOM. We are highly involved in the preparations for the 2013 United Nations General Assembly High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, which will be held during the sixty-eighth session from 3-4 October.

IOM is of the opinion that migration remains inadequately integrated into development frameworks at the local, national and international level. Even though progress has been made since the first High-Level Dialogue in 2006, migration should be further included in important instruments such as the Post-2015 Development Agenda. We understand that migration is integral to development, but is not a substitute for it, and that migrants can be agents of development, but are not responsible for it.

Our worldwide initiatives relevant to advancing issues on the agenda of the upcoming High-Level Dialogue include a handbook on "Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning", the Migration Crisis Operational Framework, the Diaspora Ministerial Conference held in Geneva in June this year, the Fourth Global Meeting of Chairs and Secretariats of Regional Consultative Processes on Migration as well as the IOM World Migration Report.

This year's World Migration Report is titled "Migrant Well-being and Development", and it explores the positive and negative effects of migration on individual well-being. It goes beyond the focus on broad socio-economic consequences of migratory processes and highlights how migration affects quality of life and human development across a broad range of dimensions.

Globally, further initiatives will follow; IOM Vienna as well is currently in the process of developing projects and initiatives in the field of migration and development. For example, a project idea concentrated on diaspora engagement in development activities in the country of origin and an event presenting the outcomes of the High-Level Dialogue to Austrian stakeholders is planned for 18 December 2013.



Katerina Kratzmann

## Seminar on Unaccompanied Minors in Brussels

From 24-26 June 2013, a seminar on family tracing, family assessment and the development of an enhanced reintegration approach for unaccompanied minors who wish to return voluntarily to their country of origin took place in Brussels. Key stakeholders and practitioners in the field of unaccompanied minors such as legal guardians, social workers and representatives of national authorities and international organizations like the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) or the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) from across Europe and selected countries of return (Albania, Iraq, Kosovo and Pakistan) attended the seminar, which was organized by IOM Brussels in the framework of the EU funded project "Enhancing capacities in EU Member States and third countries to promote durable solutions for unaccompanied minors (through identification of good practices in family tracing and assessments as well as provision of an enhanced reintegration approach)".

Following the presentation of country reports about the legal framework, family tracing and assessment techniques and reintegration approaches for unaccompanied minors, the seminar focused on the identification of innovative methods for carrying out family tracing and assessments for unaccompanied minors in which the best interest of the child is further promoted and the perspectives of EU Member States and countries of origin are taken into account. The outcomes of the seminar – an inventory of good practices and lessons learned – will be published in September 2013.

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Further information on the UAM project can be found on the [IOM Vienna website](#).



The first intercultural event 2013.



The first cultural orientation training in 2013.



Participants of the simulation conference.

## CulTrain II: Cultural Orientation Trainings for (Former) Unaccompanied Minor Refugees

IOM Vienna conducted the first Cultural Orientation Training for (former) unaccompanied minor refugees 27-28 April 2013 in Vienna in the framework of CulTrain II. Since then five further trainings took place in Vienna, Lower Austria and Styria with 45 participants in total, who were mainly male Afghans. Both participants and stakeholders were very enthusiastic about the trainings and reflected that the training helped their integration efforts.

IOM Vienna organised an intercultural event on 16 June 2013 together with members of the youngCaritas Vienna. The aim of the event was to improve the exchange between (former) unaccompanied minor refugees and Austrian youth and to reduce fears of contact on both sides. The participants designed posters together concerning various topics like "Being young together...", "If I won one million Euro, I would...", "When I'm 30 years old, I will...", "Living together is easy, because...". The event was very well received by the participants.

Due to the great success of the project the CulTrain project team was invited to various national and international conferences to present contents and methodology of the trainings as well as to share experiences and lessons learned.

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*The project is co-financed by the European Refugee Fund and the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior.*

## Viennese Pupils' Charta on Integration

In the framework of the [3<sup>rd</sup> Viennese Integration Week](#), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the association "Afghanische Jugendliche – NEUER START in Österreich" organised a simulation conference for pupils in the Vienna International Centre on 2 May 2013.

At the conference 59 pupils participated in a role play: they slipped into different roles (pupil, parent, teacher, director or official) and debated the topic "Integration of Young Refugees in Viennese Schools" from the respective point of view. Together they discussed ideas and compiled recommendations, which were then summarized in the first "Viennese Pupils' Charta on Integration in Schools". The Charta is available on the [website of the Viennese Charta](#).

The pedagogical toolkit is available in German on demand. Get further information on [our website](#).

## THB Seminar for Austrian Judges and Prosecutors

On 20 June 2013, IOM Vienna in cooperation with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Justice and the NGO LEFÖ-IBF organised a second seminar on trafficking in human beings for Austrian judges and prosecutors. This seminar was foreseen in the third Austrian National Action Plan against THB. The first seminar was held in October 2011.

The aim of the seminar was to raise awareness among judges and prosecutors of the multidimensional crime of trafficking in human beings and to foster the victim-centered approach.

Eleven judges and prosecutors from across Austria attended the specialized seminar. The main focus of the seminar was on labour exploitation and changes to Austrian law due to the implementation of the EU Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims. National experts and practitioners from law enforcement, civil society and the judiciary provided brief inputs and presented concrete cases in order to demonstrate the complexity of the subject matter. These presentations were followed by a discussion with seminar participants.

*The seminar was funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Justice.*



## Meeting Project Beneficiaries at Home: Monitoring Trip to Moldova

One year after starting the project „Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration of Minors and Young Adults from Moldova with emphasis on the Prevention of (Re-)Trafficking, IOM Vienna undertook a monitoring trip to Moldova from 10 to 13 June 2013. The purpose of the trip was to meet with returnees from Austria who had been assisted in their reintegration through the project and to assess whether the support was sufficient to help them re-start their lives in Moldova.

IOM Vienna travelled to various corners of the small country to meet with six people who had received support through the project. By visiting the beneficiaries at home and at their places of work, IOM Vienna was able to see how plans on paper had been put into concrete action. In one village IOM Vienna visited two cousins who had travelled to Austria and returned together. One had decided to invest his reintegration assistance in a flock of sheep, while the other chose to purchase fruit trees and grapevines to increase the output of his family's orchard. In another village, IOM witnessed friends and family members pitching in to help a project participant unload his building materials, which he will use to erect a barn for the cattle that will be purchased through the project. Further on down the road, IOM visited a young man who was able to expand his car repair shop with the assistance of the project. Outside the city of Cahul in the southern tip of the country, IOM visited a young man who was able to continue his schooling with the help of the project and at the same time start a rabbit farm that will assist him to be able to cover his schooling costs in the future.

Throughout all of these visits, IOM Vienna was glad to find that the assistance provided to the individual participants had also had a positive effect on their families. Indeed, family members were often involved in the implementation of the chosen reintegration plans, whether through milking the sheep, cleaning the rabbit cages or repairing vehicles. While some participants had not yet turned a profit (e.g. the fruit trees will not mature for another three years), many beneficiaries reported that they were earning enough to cover their living expenses and contribute to the overall wellbeing of their families. The visit clearly showed that the reintegration assistance had allowed the project beneficiaries the opportunity to earn a living in their own country, alleviating the pressure to find work abroad. This in turn has lowered the participants' vulnerability to trafficking for labour exploitation and other poor working conditions.



*This project was co-financed by the European Return Fund and the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior*

## Voluntary Return to Iraq – The Project MAGNET Comes to an End

The IOM project “MAGNET - Job Placement Assistance for Voluntary Returnees from Austria, Belgium, France and the Netherlands returning to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq” came to an end on 30 June 2013, after an implementation period of 18 months. This transnational project was coordinated by IOM Paris and co-financed by the European Return Fund, the French Ministry of Interior, the Dutch Ministry of Justice and IOM.

One of the main activities within MAGNET was to set up a job database, where both employers in Iraq and returnees could advertise their vacancies and qualifications, respectively. Furthermore, project participants could benefit from numerous job fairs and job counselling, work placement and trainings provided by the three IOM offices in Dohuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah.

On 14 June 2013, IOM Paris organized a final conference and presented the following results:

- ◆ A total of 106 returnees participated in the project; 48 participants were from Belgium, 43 participants were from the Netherlands, 10 participants were from Austria and 5 were participants from France;
- ◆ A total of 46 workplaces were matched to returnees;
- ◆ 73% of all participants are satisfied with their lives in the autonomous region of Kurdistan;
- ◆ 59% of all employers are very satisfied with their new employees.



*The project is funded by the European Return Fund Community Actions and co-funded by IOM Vienna.*



A project participant with his rabbits.



A project participant with his sheep.



A project participant with building materials.



For more information please contact our [homepage](#).





Participants at the EMN conference.



## Review: National EMN Conference “Austria and the Global Competition for Talent – Approaches to the Immigration of (Highly) Qualified Third-Country Nationals”

On 12 June 2013, IOM Vienna as the National Contact Point Austria in the European Migration Network organised a conference on the topic of “Austria and the Global Competition for Talent – Approaches to the Immigration of (Highly) Qualified Third-Country Nationals”. Following the introduction by Peter Webinger (Federal Ministry of Interior) and Katerina Kratzmann (IOM Country Office Vienna), Howard Duncan (Executive Head of the Metropolis-Project) delivered the keynote speech. In his speech he approached the conference theme from a global perspective in order to then apply his findings to the Austrian context. In the subsequent [Alfonso Giordano](#) (LUISS University Rom, European Centre for International Affairs), [Kenan Güngör](#) (difference GmbH) and [Marina Manke](#) (IOM Regional Office Vienna for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia) looked at the immigration of (highly) qualified third-country nationals to Austria from three different perspectives, in order to ensure a broad understanding of the topic in its various facets. Subsequently, the second session with presentations delivered by [Richard Jackson](#) (UK Home Office), [Saskia Koppenberg](#) (IOM Country Office Vienna), and [Bernd Parusel](#) (Swedish Migration Board) aimed at giving an insight into the approaches of selected EU countries towards the “global competition for the best talents”. In the concluding panel discussion Austrian stakeholders discussed future perspectives concerning the immigration of (highly) qualified third-country nationals to Austria.

To download the final agenda, the power point presentations of the speakers and the conference protocol (forthcoming) please click [here](#).

## Freedom of Movement, a Human Right?

IOM Vienna participated at the 6<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the National Contact Point Luxembourg in the European Migration Network (3-5 June 2013) on the topic of “Freedom of Movement, a Human Right?”. The three-day event welcomed participants from relevant ministries, international organisations, European Institutions and Agencies as well as high-level academic researchers and representatives of civil society organisations. The conference centered around the tension between the right to freedom of movement and the fact that the exercise of this right is often conditioned by the legal status of a person and the sovereign authority of a state. A presentation by IOM Vienna was held on “The freedom of movement of EU and non-EU citizens: Towards an approximation of rights?”, reflecting on the different discourses on mobility rights of EU citizens and third-country nationals and discussing the respective EU policy and legal framework. By drawing on findings from the EMN study on “The Intra-EU Mobility of Third-Country Nationals”, the presentation concluded that inter alia the efforts made by the EU and its Member States have not yet entirely proven effective and that more comparable data is needed to understand the phenomenon of intra-EU mobility of Third-Country Nationals.

For further information on the conference agenda click [here](#).

To access the Austrian national report “Intra-EU Mobility of Third-Country Nationals” and the EU Synthesis Report, please visit <http://www.emn.at/en/publikationen/studien> or [www.emn.europa.eu](http://www.emn.europa.eu).



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