



# International Organization for Migration

## Country Office Austria

### EDITORIAL

IOM has been working on counter-trafficking in numerous countries since 1994 and approaches the issue based on three principles: respect for human rights; physical, mental and social well-being of the individual and his or her community; and sustainability through institutional capacity building of governments and civil society.

While the global scale of human trafficking is difficult to quantify precisely, we assume that as many as 800,000 people may be trafficked across international borders annually, with many more being trafficked within the borders of their own countries.

These figures also include many migrants who have been trafficked for labour exploitation, a theme of growing significance for IOM Vienna. The ILO speaks of 20.9 million persons who are subject to forced labour (including sexual exploitation) world-wide; 5.5 million of these are children. The most affected continents are Asia and Africa, and in the EU most trafficked persons come from China, Nigeria, Bulgaria and Rumania. The Council of Europe highlighted that stronger measures must be adopted and the expert group called for actions against the underestimated phenomenon of forced labour.

IOM Vienna's past counter-trafficking activities have focused primarily on trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation and measures to prevent the import of goods produced partially or wholly by trafficked workers, such as the "Buy Responsibly" Campaign of 2010. This year, in line with other events in Austria and international developments, we are increasingly shifting our focus to addressing trafficking for labour exploitation.

Within this context, IOM Vienna organized a national EMN Conference titled: "Irregular Work and Exploitation of Migrants in Austria". The conference was very well received and emphasized that trafficking in persons is a changing subject and that even though sexual exploitation is still the main form – the EC speaks of 76% – trafficking for labour exploitation is on the rise. At the same time, there is low awareness of the phenomenon and it is very difficult to prove.

The work of the "Berlin Alliance against Trafficking for Labor Exploitation" was also presented at the conference. We consider this initiative very useful and are considering the options for implementing a similar project in Austria in order to raise awareness, offer concrete assistance to persons who are in contact with potential victims and further strengthen the network of involved stakeholders.

Further details, also on the EU Anti-Trafficking Day, can be found in this newsletter.



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# Improving Bilateral Cooperation Between Austria and the Republic of Moldova to Assist Trafficked Persons

Migrants who choose to return to the Republic of Moldova are often faced with a variety of challenges upon their arrival which increase their susceptibility to being subjected to human trafficking. Young returnees in particular have an increased level of vulnerability, especially if their families live in poverty.

In order to address this situation and provide better assistance to vulnerable returning migrants, IOM Vienna is currently implementing the "AVRR CT Moldova" project\*, which aims to improve coordination and exchange between the sending and receiving ends of the voluntary return process and to assist a small number of young, vulnerable voluntary returnees to restart their lives in the Republic of Moldova. The project recently brought together relevant Austrian and Moldovan authorities and service providers for the project's first Steering Committee meeting. The aim of the Steering Committee is to identify areas where cooperation between Austria and the Republic of Moldova could be improved to better assist vulnerable voluntary returnees to the Republic of Moldova, including trafficked persons.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Moldovan Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior, the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, the Austrian Criminal Intelligence Service, the "Drehscheibe" child crisis centre of the City of Vienna, LEFÖ-IBF and IOM colleagues from Chisinau and Vienna. During the meeting, the Moldovan and Austrian stakeholders presented their existing national systems for assisting trafficked persons and vulnerable individuals and discussed current challenges in assisting persons who voluntarily return to the Republic of Moldova and require support services.

This transnational dialogue continued in October, when the Austrian actors undertook a Study Visit to the Republic of Moldova to meet additional Moldovan counterparts and discuss more concrete steps for future cooperation.

*\*"Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration of Minors and Young Adults from Moldova with emphasis on the Prevention of (Re-) Trafficking". This project is co-funded by the European Return Fund and the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior.*



Map of the Republic of Moldova with neighbouring countries.



## CulTrain - Cultural Orientation Trainings for Unaccompanied Minors

Since May, the CulTrain team has been coordinating and conducting cultural orientation trainings for young refugees in Austria. By October 2012, 8 trainings with 60 participants in Vienna, Linz, Steyr and Salzburg had been conducted. Thus far, the vast majority of participants have been males (58) from Afghanistan (55) and under-aged (16-18 years). Due to time constraints of the beneficiaries, the trainings were mainly carried out on weekends; each training lasted between ten to twelve hours. Participants are provided with comprehensive information about Austria via three different modules: "Austria and its people", "Living together", and "Society". Teaching methods are designed low threshold according to the needs of the target group, being interactive and learner-centred.

The feedback provided by the training participants is very positive. Frequent comments of the adolescents after visiting the trainings included "It was really interesting and we had a lot of fun", or "I want to attend such a training again". In particular, discussing topics such as history, family, gender, politics, and democracy is highly interesting for the young refugees. Also, most of the training participants highlight the interactive methods as a welcome means to learning more about Austria.

The cultural orientation trainings will be offered until the end of 2012. A follow - up project will begin in 2013. More information is available at [www.iomvienna.at](http://www.iomvienna.at). Furthermore, CulTrain can be found on facebook, where photos of past trainings and announcements of future trainings are posted regularly.

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



The participants engaging in an interactive exercise.



Project staff at the project presentation on 25 August 2012 at an Eid Al-Fitr celebration in Vienna.



# EU Anti - Trafficking Day 2012 - “Joining Forces Against Human Trafficking”

The annual EU Anti Trafficking Day was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna. The event was hosted by the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (FMEIA) in cooperation with various governmental and non-governmental institutions and organizations, including the International Organization for Migration in Vienna.

The opening session was attended by approximately 300 international participants, among others Ambassadors, international experts, students, practitioners, and other interested people, who listened to the opening words of Mr. Reinhold Lopatka, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (FMEIA), Ms. Gabriele Heinisch-Hosek, Federal Minister for Women and the Civil Service and Mr. Sebastian Kurz, State Secretary for Integration at the Federal Ministry of the Interior. The opening words were followed by the first panel discussion “Joining Forces against Human Trafficking – Strengthening the Rights of Victims of Human Trafficking”. The experts of the panel, consisting of members of the Central Unit against Smuggling and Trafficking of Human Beings at the Federal Ministry of the Interior, the judiciary, the University of Vienna and other institutions, who brought forth their arguments and engaged in a heated debate.

Many participants used the lunch break to have a closer look at the photo exhibition of the Bulgarian artist Borjana Ventzislavova on trafficking in women and forced prostitution, which accompanied the event.

The afternoon kicked off with a second panel discussion on “Cyber Trafficking and Mail-Order Brides”. For this occasion, the experts Assistant Professor Athanassia Sykiotou from the University of Thrace (GR) and attorney-at-law at the Supreme Court of Greece, and Ms. Yulia Zabyelina from Masaryk University (CZ) took the stage to discuss this rather marginalized topic.

In the late afternoon, four different workshops were conducted. Workshop 1, held by Ms. Barbara Salcher, Head of the Counter Trafficking and Vulnerable Groups Unit at IOM Vienna, targeted the topic of human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation and the international dimension thereof. Workshop 2 dealt with the rights of trafficked minors and was held by Ms. Katrin Lankmayer from the NGO ECPAT. Workshop 3, which was led by Ms. Evelyn Probst from the NGO LEFÖ-IBF, concentrated on strengthening the rights of trafficked persons in the Austrian context. Workshop 4, which was hosted by Ms. Julia Planitzer from the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, dealt with the nexus of international human rights standards and human trafficking. Finally, the workshops were followed by a wrap-up session and concluding remarks with the chairpersons of the workshops.

## iYouth - National Workshop

The national workshop of the iYouth project was held in Vienna on the 19th and 20th of October. The event was hosted by IOM Vienna, the Austrian Youth Council and Interface Wien, and aimed to enhance the local capacities and the interconnectedness of the participating stakeholders.

In total, 24 representatives of different organizations dealing with young migrants attended the workshop. The event began with a short presentation of the project and an introduction of the participants, after which a member of the NGO ZARA (Civil courage and anti racism work) gave a presentation on intercultural sensibility and prejudices. The first half of Saturday’s program consisted of a presentation of the online training platform (OTP), which was developed through the iYouth project.

Small groups were formed to work on relevant topics by using the wide range of materials available on the platform, such as background information on migrant youth integration, training materials and exercises, case studies of good integration practices, video success stories of migrant youth and much more. The other half of the program consisted of a “bazaar of ideas”, during which people could present and exchange their ideas on the topic, and a continuation of the presentation on intercultural sensibility and prejudices.

The feedback of the participants reflected positively on the workshop, and IOM Vienna would like to thank all the involved organizations and participants for a successful event.

The online training platform (OTP) is available at [www.iyouth-project.eu/de](http://www.iyouth-project.eu/de)



## The EU Anti - Trafficking-Day:

The EU Member States are called upon to carry out public events at the national level on the occasion of the “EU Anti - Trafficking Day”. The Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs - in its function as chair of the Austrian National Task Force on Combating Human Trafficking - organized the annual event in Austria.



## Online Training Platform

The website was developed in the framework of the iYouth project in cooperation with partners in five EU countries. It gives background information on migrant youth integration, on the meaning of integration, on the EU strategies on youth, on how youth organizations can contribute to migrant youth integration and on youth work in general. The training materials on the platform give practical advice on how to understand, engage and empower migrant youth. Furthermore, users can find video success stories of migrant youth and good integration practices.

[www.iyouth-project.eu/de](http://www.iyouth-project.eu/de)



Learning from best practices at the “bazaar of ideas”.



The EU Synthesis Report, the Austrian Report, as well as a policy brief on the main findings of the Study can be downloaded at <http://www.emn.at>.



All Annual Policy Reports are available at <http://www.emn.at>.



The 2nd edition of the EMN Bulletin, containing EU, national and related developments in migration policy published in the period June to September 2012, can be downloaded at <http://www.emn.at/>

## Synthesis Report on “Misuse of the Right to Family Reunification”

The European Migration Network (EMN) has published a comparative report on the topic of “Misuse of the Right to Family Reunification”. This “Synthesis Report” was prepared on the basis of contributions from 24 National Contact Points in the EMN and according to a common template to ensure comparability. The main aim of the study was to identify the scale and scope of two instances of misuse, namely marriages of convenience and false declarations of parenthood and to provide evidence of these types of misuse and how best to address them.

The Report highlights Member States’ current (best) practices in the detection and prevention of misuse. Furthermore, it concludes that the perception amongst policymakers and the media in particular indicates that misuse in this field may be a widespread phenomenon. However, due to a lack of statistical data, it is not yet possible to fully quantify this across all Member States in a comparable manner. Where misuse has been detected, this seems to be primarily for marriages of convenience rather than false declarations of parenthood.

The EU Synthesis Report, the Austrian Report, as well as a policy brief on the main findings of the Study can be downloaded at <http://www.emn.at>.

## The EMN’s Annual Policy Reports

Since 2004, the National Contact Points in the EMN provide a report every year describing the migration and asylum situation in their respective Member State. As of 2008, the Annual Policy Reports followed the specific commitments as set out in the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum and the Stockholm Programme. From this year on, to better reflect current EU policy priorities for immigration and asylum, the report will be guided by recent policy documents, such as the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility, the EU Action on Migratory Pressures – A Strategic Response, the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings, and the European Agenda for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals.

Annual Policy Reports provide an overview of significant political and legislative developments, as well as public debates. Among the topics covered by the report are: Legal Migration and Mobility, Irregular Migration and Return, International Protection, Unaccompanied Minors and Other Vulnerable Groups, Actions against Trafficking in Human Beings, and Migration and Development Policy. Based on the information entailed in National Reports, theme-based “EMN Informs” are compiled, providing a short comparative description on the various topics of the Report.

## 2nd EMN Glossary

The 2nd edition of the EMN Glossary of terms relating to Asylum and Migration can be downloaded, in different language versions, at <http://www.emn.at/glossar>



*The European Migration Network (EMN) is co-ordinated by the European Commission with National Contact Points (EMN NCPs) established in each EU Member State plus Norway. The National Contact Point Austria in the EMN is financially supported by the European Commission and the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior.*



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