



International Organization for Migration

Country Office for Austria

Editorial

The European Parliament elections took place on 25 May 2014. With a voter turnout of 43%, almost half of the European Union citizens voted for the two main political groups – the centre-right European People's party, which came out on top, and the centre-left Socialists and Democrats. Anti-establishment parties primarily on the far right gained a significant momentum and were able to more than double their representation up to 25% of the new parliament with big gains in France, Britain, Austria and Germany but also Belgium, Hungary, Denmark and Greece.

The consequences of this "anti-establishment mood", as the Washington Post called it, for future migration phenomena and migration management in Europe remain to be seen; and a central question is how to address the handling of such developments in nowadays de-facto diversified societies with ever-growing trends of mobility.

Recent years have seen many steps towards promoting the integration of migrants and the opening of societies. A realistic picture away from highlighting deficits is increasingly being realized and some European states clearly declare themselves as immigration societies. At the same time, there are alarming tendencies all over Europe such as increasing violence against migrants on the streets of Greece or the Swiss national referendum against mass immigration.

Consequently, IOM observes a reappearing of stereotypes, discrimination and even xenophobia in European societies, which are opposing the value of diversity. In this context, IOM works towards the recognition of the overwhelmingly positive impact on our societies and economies by the majority of migrants, for example with the Contribution of Migrants Campaign (<http://www.migrantscontribute.com/>).

The campaign focuses on what migrants bring, not on where they are from. It intends to correct common misrepresentations and to articulate a more balanced, documented and positive view of migrants and of their role in modern-day societies with a view to making it easier for governments to reap the considerable positive potential of international migration.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Editorial.....	1
Awareness raising on inclusion and exclusion.....	1
CulTrain.....	2
GIVE.....	2
AVRR: Returnees to Pakistan.....	3
IOM spotlights young refugees.....	4
EMN Studies.....	4



www.migrantscontribute.com

IOM Vienna offers awareness-raising on inclusion and exclusion in Viennese schools

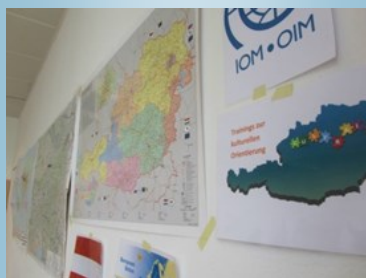
IOM Vienna conducted five workshops on inclusion and exclusion in Viennese schools within the framework of the action days from *polis* in April and May. *Polis* is the Austrian Centre for Citizenship Education in Schools and acts as education service institution.

The workshop titled "Inclusion – exclusion. Everybody is different, everybody is the same?" aimed to deconstruct mechanisms of discrimination and stereotypes against different, and often marginalized, groups in society in order to promote tolerance and solidarity in the daily life of the pupils. The workshop was conceptualized in a very interactive way. It also included a short movie on tolerance made by IOM and an online game on the deconstruction of stereotypes. We had lots of vivid discussions with pupils from different backgrounds concerning their country of origin, age and gender on various opinions. All in all, the workshop was very well received by the pupils and teachers.



For more information on *Polis* see their website:
www.politik-lernen.at

Preparations for a training:



Module I:



Module II:



Module III:



Awarding of certificates:



CulTrain - Cultural Orientation Trainings for young refugees

CulTrain had a busy project start. Six trainings with 67 participants were already conducted in Vienna, Salzburg and Styria in April and May. Furthermore, two intercultural events were held together with youngCaritas in Vienna. Hence, the interest in the trainings by the participants and project landscape even exceeds the expectations of the project staff.

In this newsletter, we will lead you through a possible training via photos taken in 2014: Each training lasts for approximately 12 hours and is divided into 3 modules. The trainers always endeavor to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere where participants feel comfortable and safe to ask many questions. Therefore, meeting each other with mutual respect and on eye-level is crucial.

The trainings start with Module I "Austria and its people", during which we are having a look at various maps and are playing games with pictures from landmarks and landscapes of Austria. Further, we are talking about the history of Austria, a topic which is very interesting to young refugees as we are having a look on how Austria developed over the last centuries.

During Module II "Living together", we talk about Austrian stereotypes, dialects, dishes and different forms of families and gender. We are also playing role games involving the young refugees on gender stereotypes and gender mainstreaming. Module III "Politics and Daily Life" is about democracy, education and working life. Here we are inter alia simulating presidential elections in order to raise awareness on democratic systems and their way of functioning. And finally, the participants are awarded certificates of attendance. At the end of every training, the participants are asked to give feedback on the contents and methods. According to the participants' feedback, the training curriculum is constantly adapted by the project staff.

In the next newsletter, we will inform you about our pilot measure, the extracurricular activity, which will take place on 14 June.

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



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GIVE – Grassroots Integration through Volunteering Experience

The project GIVE – Grassroots Integration through Volunteering Experience, was implemented in Austria, Ireland, United Kingdom and the Netherlands from December 2012 until May 2014, aiming at enhancing immigrant participation in aspects of collective life and supporting the creation of inclusive neighborhoods and bottom-up initiatives for local participation. In Austria, Caritas Graz was in charge of matching interested migrants with relevant volunteering organizations, and 148 contacts were established between potential volunteers and organizations in the frame of the project. In general, Austrian volunteering organizations expressed their high interest in integrating migrants into their volunteer teams. Therefore, the project team is optimistic about having been able to raise consciousness and thus having initiated a long-term process within the organizations. The project was formally concluded during the final conference in Dublin on 30 April 2014, which was organized by IOM Dublin and proved the widespread interest in using volunteering as integration tool.

The project is co-financed by the European Integration Fund and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs.

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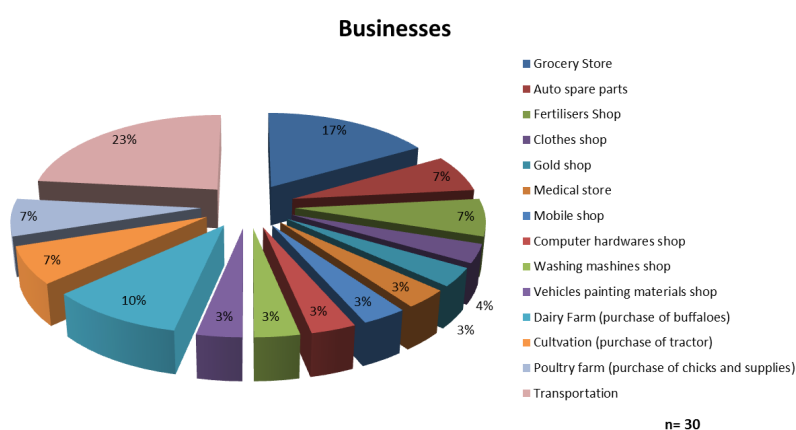
Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration for Returnees to Pakistan: Results of the first project phase

The first phase of the project “Assistance for the Voluntary Return and Reintegration of Returnees to Pakistan (AVRR Pakistan)” has recently come to an end: The project was funded by the Austrian Ministry of the Interior and implemented by IOM in Austria and in Pakistan from 01 December 2012 to 31 March 2014. It aimed at assisting Pakistani citizens who were asylum seekers, recognized refugees, subsidiary protection holders or who did not fulfill the conditions for staying in Austria in their voluntary return as well as in their sustainable reintegration in Pakistan.

The project assisted altogether 30 returnees and their family members; only one person per household was registered as direct beneficiary. All of the project participants were men aged 20 to 60 years; the majority of them returned on their own, while two returned together with their wives and children.

Measures to support the returnees’ efforts to reintegrate in their home society were determined in a participatory and consultative manner taking into account their individual needs and skills. Due to the economic conditions in Pakistan, all beneficiaries decided to invest the reintegration grant to start their own small business activity, or join an already existing business.

About half of the project beneficiaries became active in the area of retail: Some opened small grocery stores, or started to sell computer hardware, spare parts for cars, or fertilizers. The other half opted for income generating activities in the agriculture sector (e.g. cultivation of grain, dairy farming, poultry farming, etc.) or in the transportation business (e.g. as taxi driver).



Half of the beneficiaries indicated that they had already had experience in the area of the chosen profession; the others hoped to benefit from the experiences of their friends or relatives. About 70 per cent of the beneficiaries did not rely entirely on the funding through IOM (which was limited to EUR 3,000), but contributed themselves financially, albeit with smaller amounts (not exceeding EUR 500).

Three returnees and their families received additional assistance because of their special vulnerability: two families received accommodation support, while one beneficiary received medical assistance for his wife.

During the monitoring interviews conducted by IOM in Pakistan, the majority of the beneficiaries indicated they had settled well back home, although they did not feel their situation was easy: many described that the security, health and economic situation had deteriorated in comparison to the time before they had left Pakistan, as had cultural life; while the infrastructure in the eyes of most returnees had slightly improved.

Due to the high interest in the project, the second phase started already in July 2013 with co-funding from the Austrian Ministry of the Interior and the European Return Fund. The project, which will be implemented until the end of the year 2014, aims to support up to 90 beneficiaries in their socio-economic reintegration in Pakistan.



Beneficiary Mr S. used his reintegration assistance for the purchase of buffaloes and is now producing dairy products. Pakistan, 2013.



Beneficiary Mr P. used his reintegraton assistance for opening a grocery store. Pakistan, 2013.

IOM Vienna spotlights young refugees in 2014

The arrival of young refugees with and increasingly without their parents in EU Member States has emerged as a migration phenomenon of growing importance over the last decades. IOM Vienna is therefore planning several activities on this topic in 2014. This year's EMN Austria national conference is themed "Young Refugees in Austria and the EU—Circumstances, Policies and Perspectives", and will take place in Vienna in November. An update to an EMN comparative study on policies and statistics on unaccompanied minors from 2009 will be published in the second half of the year, ahead of the national conference. A comparative synthesis report will be produced by the end of the year on the basis of the Austrian and other NCPs' national reports. Furthermore, IOM Vienna is organizing a workshop on unaccompanied minors within the framework of this year's International Metropolis Conference together with the EMN NCPs of Hungary, Ireland, Italy and Sweden. More information about these activities will be available soon on the EMN Austria website: www.emn.at.

EMN Annual Policy Report 2013

IOM Vienna recently published its Annual Policy Report for 2013. The report provides an overview of migration and asylum-related debates and developments in Austria from January to December of last year. The Annual Policy Report 2013 was produced within the framework of the annual reporting activities of the EMN NCPs, which are coordinated by the European Commission. Therefore, the information contained in the report was provided to the European Commission in addition to further information that was used to create the European Commission's 5th Annual Report on Immigration and Asylum, as well as a detailed Commission Staff Working Document accompanying the report. These documents provide a comprehensive annual overview of migration trends, statistics and policy developments in Europe, and are important sources of information for decision makers in the European Parliament and Council.

EMN Study: Access to Social Security for Third-Country Nationals – Policies and Practice in Austria

IOM Vienna recently published a study on access to social security for third-country nationals in Austria. It presents migration-specific provisions, relevant bilateral agreements with third countries and available statistics on third-country nationals' access to social security in Austria. The study outlines migration-specific conditions to access social security benefits for family assistance and needs-based guaranteed minimum resources in Austria. It also examines how exporting social security benefits to other countries is possible within the framework of bilateral agreements that Austria has signed with several third countries.

The results of the study were incorporated into a comparative synthesis report that maps the policies and administrative practices that shape third-country nationals' access to social security in EU Member States as well as the national rules on which benefits are granted under which conditions. Furthermore, an EMN Inform summarizing the synthesis report was also published.

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International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Country Office for Austria
Nibelungengasse 13/4
1010 Vienna
Austria
Tel: +43.1.585 33 22
Fax: +43.1.585 33 22 30
Email: iomvienna@iom.int
Web: <http://www.iomvienna.at>

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Headquarters
17, Route des Morillons
1211 Geneva 19
Switzerland
Tel: +41.22.717 9111
Fax: +41.22.798 6150
Email: hq@iom.int
Web: <http://www.iom.int>