

FACTSHEET 2023

ABOUT US

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration and is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society.

Since 1952, when Austria joined IOM as one of its first Member States, the IOM Country Office for Austria has worked to assist migrants and promote adequate responses to migration issues, bearing in mind the well-being of migrants and the interests of States and their societies. Today, we work on a number of different topics, including Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR); Research and Migration Law; Integration; Protection, including of trafficked persons and migrant children; Visa Support and Refugee Resettlement.



WHAT WE DO

Migrants' rights and protection from violence, exploitation and abuse

IOM Austria aims at upholding the rights of all migrants and protecting them from violence, exploitation and abuse. To support the authorities with regards to international protection, we provide targeted trainings for asylum officials, administrative judges, and other relevant actors on intercultural competences as well as on identifying and protecting trafficked persons. In the context of AVRR, IOM supports best interest determination procedures to facilitate decisions regarding the return of unaccompanied or separated migrant children, and conducts assessments for returnees in vulnerable situations, such as persons with health-related needs. IOM Austria also provides information for migrants about their rights and where to seek assistance and access to these rights in Austria. A special focus is put on the promotion of access to rights and rehabilitation for trafficked persons as well as overall awareness building on human trafficking and exploitation. Our team contributes to relevant working groups, and provides inputs for the National Action Plan on Combating Human Trafficking and briefings on IOM initiatives and international cooperation networks.

Safe and dignified return - sustainable reintegration

AVRR programmes are a core activity of IOM and provide vital assistance worldwide to thousands of migrants. Building on many years of experience and a global network of offices and partners, IOM's AVRR activities range from the preparation of the return journey to the provision of reintegration assistance in the countries of return. In Austria, IOM supports policymakers and stakeholders to ensure a high quality, uniform and protection-oriented voluntary return system offering inter alia trainings on relevant aspects of AVRR as well as reintegration projects in several countries of return, such as the Islamic Republic of Iran, Uzbekistan and more.

Social inclusion and cohesion for migrants and societies

IOM Austria promotes social cohesion and inclusion by implementing projects with a focus on empowering young migrants and migrant communities as well as on supporting institutions and actors in the area of migration and asylum through trainings (e.g. on intercultural competences), exchange platforms and awareness-raising.

IOM Austria supports Austrian stakeholders to address the mobility dimension of crisis and the most pressing needs in their humanitarian efforts and contributes to maximizing the potential of migration to achieve sustainable development outcomes for migrants and societies by providing data and information to relevant counterparts. In March 2022, Austria was the first EU country to implement a reception program under the EU Solidarity Platform to transfer Ukrainian refugees from the Republic of Moldova to Austria via airlift in close cooperation with IOM and UNHCR as part of the crisis response. IOM Austria also contributes to the work of the Austrian NGO Working Group "Migration and Development" and publishes research output on labour migration and skills mobility.

IOM supports evidence-based policymaking by providing information, data and good practices in the area of migration. IOM Austria is the National Contact Point in the European Migration Network (EMN). This is a Europe-wide network of National Contact Points providing information on migration and asylum. The EMN was set up by the European Commission on behalf of the European Council. IOM Austria was designated as the National Contact Point for Austria by the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior in 2003.



RESULTS 2022

- **1,323** migrants assisted in voluntary return from Austria
- **61** voluntary returnees assisted in reintegration in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Somalia, Tunisia & Uzbekistan
- **49** young migrants trained on intercultural competences
- **377** staff in the Austrian asylum & return system trained on migration related topics
- **8** publications and **19** newsletter issues published
- **830** persons attended our events

With these results, IOM Austria contributed to the achievement of the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



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