

International Organization for Migration

The UN Migration Agency in Austria



Austria's incoming Presidency of the Council of the EU

On 1 July 2018, Austria will take over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the third time after 1998 and 2006. The motto of the Presidency is "A Europe that protects".

IOM, the UN Migration Agency, will release recommendations on migration to the Austrian government in June 2018. In this light, IOM Regional Director for the EU, Norway and Switzerland, Eugenio Ambrosi, visited Vienna at the end of April 2018 to meet with representatives from Austrian authorities to discuss migration-related issues. Meetings included the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior and the Federal Chancellery, to name just a few.

During the Austrian EU Presidency, the international community will come together to adopt a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and a Global Compact on Refugees in September 2018, with the aim of addressing the challenges associated with today's migration, and strengthening the contribution of migrants and migration to sustainable development. Austria will lead the Council of the EU at a pivotal time, as the need for intensified cooperation between countries, better protection of migrants, and more safe and regular migration pathways have captured global attention.

IOM's recommendations will be published on the IOM website in late June 2018.



RD Eugenio Ambrosi meets H.E. Dr. Schneebauer
(Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs).
© Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Meeting with Dr. Sandrisser (Austrian Ministry of the Interior).
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IOM's Global Migration Film Festival 2018: Call for films!

The second edition of the Global Migration Film Festival in December 2017 with over 340 screenings in some 100 countries was a huge success. IOM Austria participated with a screening of the movie *Lost in Lebanon* in Vienna's Top Kino in cooperation with the international human rights film festival *this human world*. Now is the time to start planning for this year's Global Migration Film Festival. To do so, we are calling all filmmakers to submit their films here: <https://bit.ly/2ldp8xD>. Be part of the Global Migration Film Festival!

The deadline for submission is 21 July 2018. We are looking forward to receiving your contributions!



Protecting children

A project comes to an end, but the duty to uphold children's rights is more present than ever!

The main objective of IOM's regional child protection project *"Protecting children in the context of the refugee and migrant crisis in Europe"* was to build the capacity of first responders and child protection professionals to provide protection to children on the move in the most effective manner.

During the project period (October 2016 to April 2018), a total of 125 training sessions were conducted within the 7 participating countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Italy and Slovenia).

A total of 10 trainings were conducted by IOM in cooperation with ECPAT Austria, reaching 188 practitioners throughout Austria. Seven trainings were provided to first responders such as military personnel and social workers active in emergency operations, employees of reception centers for migrants and refugees, social workers of children-relevant institutions (streetwork, emergency night shelters for homeless youth, social and return counselling center) and law enforcement officers. Three additional trainings were held for child protection professionals of the Child and Youth Welfare of Tyrol, Vorarlberg and Styria.



During the implementation the project team gained deep insight into problematic aspects of child protection relating to (un)accompanied and separated children. Migrant and refugee children who have exceeded the compulsory schooling age (over 16) and who are left without the opportunity to gain a secondary school qualification are extremely vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation. A lack of educational/vocational trainings and/or work opportunities for migrant and refugee children represents a push factor for children to look for income-generating alternatives that are harmful to their health and personal development, such as by working in prostitution. Furthermore, the dearth of support for children leaving care regarding work and housing possibilities is another push factor for children to become active in harmful or even criminal activities.

A further gap was identified in the protection of accompanied children who are only temporarily in Austria. Training participants reported cases of EU migrant children accompanied by adults who may not necessarily be genuinely related to the children, and who are often suspected of exploiting them through forced begging or criminal offences, such as selling drugs or pickpocketing.

Another case of child endangerment was identified within the asylum procedure, specifically within Dublin-transfers. In practice, participants reported that asylum legislation is often given primacy over child protection legislation and that transfers do not always give consideration to the best interest of the child. Furthermore, cross-border cooperation between the respective child-protection institutions prior to the actual transfers are not in place.



In the present context, which is characterized by decreasing numbers of asylum applications and the closing down of reception centers, one may think that the issue of child protection is no longer pressing. However, the various practitioners of this project shed light on issues that are still extremely problematic for children on the move. Resources and expertise have been built up during the past years: now would be the right moment to best use them to fulfil our duties toward the realisation of the rights of all children as foreseen under the Convention for Child Rights.



The project is funded by the European Union.

RESTART II - A story of return to Iran

Beneficiaries of the project “RESTART II - Reintegration Assistance for Voluntary Returnees to Afghanistan and Iran”, co-financed by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) of the European Union and the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior, receive a EUR 500 cash grant and in-kind assistance of up to EUR 2,800 for income generating activities after their return. Beneficiaries with health needs can receive additional medical assistance.

Arash D., who arrived in Tehran in March 2017, is one of the 96 RESTART II project beneficiaries who have already returned to Iran (status quo: 30 March 2018). During his stay in Austria he acquired new skills: While working as a gardener he learned growing flowers and vegetables and he also started to learn German - without knowing that his German skills would prove very useful after his return.

After his return, A. discussed his business ideas with IOM Tehran and filed a business plan. He decided to invest his in-kind reintegration assistance into a business partnership for interior design items such as laminate and parquet floors as well as wallpapers. The small shop is located in the centre of Tehran, in a famous street which is considered a hot-spot for persons searching for interior items.

Additionally, A. works part-time in a company that has economic ties to Germany – this is where his German skills come in handy: Mr. A. stated that not many Iranians know German, his language skills placed him in a better position to get the job and improve his career perspectives in the company.

The main challenge for A. is the currently prevailing difficult economic situation and a high inflation rate in Iran. Nevertheless, the income he gains from his interior design shop and the part-time job is enough to cover his own living expenses and to support his family.



Arash D. in his shop for interior design in Tehran.

The project RESTART II is being implemented from 1 January 2017 until 31 December 2019; it is foreseen that 490 voluntary returnees to Afghanistan and Iran will be assisted.

For further information please contact the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Unit: avrr.vienna@iom.int.

This project is co-financed by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) of the European Union and the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior.



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IOM at the Long Night of Research 2018

Staff from the IOM Country Office for Austria and the IOM Regional Office for South Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, both located in Vienna, joined international scientists in the Vienna International Center (VIC) and presented the work of the European Migration Network (EMN) at the Long Night of Research 2018.



At this unique event on 13 April with almost 230,000 participants at more than 260 locations throughout Austria, researchers brought science to life for one night. Visitors at the VIC gained an insight in the research of UN-organizations based in Austria. At the EMN presentation booth, visitors had the chance to fact-check their knowledge on migration and to discuss EMN research results with migration experts.

Happy 10 year anniversary, European Migration Network!

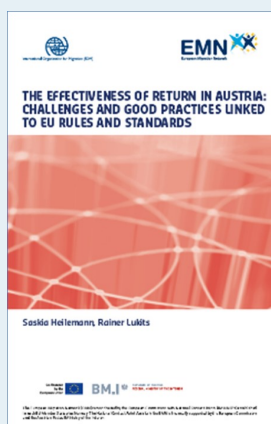
Over the past 10 years, the EMN has provided up-to-date, comparable and objective information on migration and asylum in the EU, contributing to policymaking and public debate. To mark this occasion, the EMN published an Anniversary Report which is available [here](#).

You can also have a look at the [EMN anniversary video](#) to find out what the EMN is all about.

EMN Study: The Effectiveness of Return in Austria

In March 2018 the National Contact Point Austria in the EMN published the study [“The Effectiveness of Return in Austria – Challenges and Good Practices Linked to EU Rules and Standards”](#). This study explores how the legal situation and the practices of authorities in Austria are influenced by EU rules and standards. Attention is given to the challenges in carrying out return measures effectively, as well as to good practices to ensure the enforcement of return obligations, in compliance with returnees’ fundamental rights and with the principle of non-refoulement.

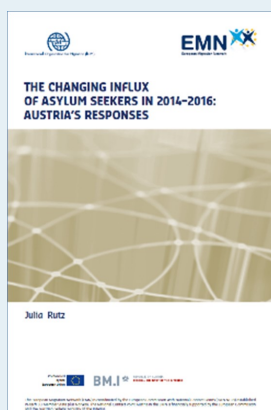
You can order a free hard-copy of the study [here](#).



EMN Study: The Changing Influx of Asylum Seekers in 2014-2016

In April 2018 the National Contact Point Austria in the EMN published the study [“The Changing Influx of Asylum Seekers in 2014-2016: Austria’s Responses”](#). This study provides an overview of Austria’s responses to the changing influx of migrants in the period from 2014 to 2016, the significant numbers of asylum seekers arriving and the challenges involved. At the outset, a brief description of main policy and legislative changes is given. The study focuses on state measures taken in Austria due to the situation of the changed influx.

You can order a free hard-copy of the study [here](#).



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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