

# International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The UN Migration Agency in Austria



## IOM's new Director General & the Global Compact

On 29 June 2018, the member states of IOM, the United Nations Migration Agency, elected Portugal's António Manuel de Carvalho Ferreira Vitorino as IOM's next Director General. Mr. Vitorino, 61, succeeds the United States' William Lacy Swing, who is leaving IOM after serving two five-year terms as Director General. Mr. Vitorino's directorship begins on 1 October 2018.

The latest IOM Director General is a former European Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs (1999-2004) and former Minister of the Presidency and National Defence (1995-1997). He has also enjoyed a distinguished career in Portugal as a lawyer as well as in electoral politics. Since exiting politics in 2005, Mr. Vitorino has returned to law, serving as a partner with the firm of Cuatrecasas, Gonçalves Pereira & Associados. Mr. Vitorino has been President of the think tank Notre Europe since June 2011 and for many years enjoyed an ongoing role as commentator for the leading Portuguese television channel RTP 1.



Another important event took place on July 13, when IOM heralded the completion of the [Global Compact for Migration \(GCM\)](#) as an important milestone that will improve international cooperation on migration.

"This is not the end of the undertaking but the beginning of a new historic effort to shape the global agenda on migration for decades to come," IOM's outgoing Director General William Lacy Swing said. "States approached negotiations in an admirably positive spirit of collaboration with a view to how they would like to see migration policy, practice and cooperation evolve over the years, rather than as a reaction to one crisis after another as it often seems."

The GCM sets out a range of principles, commitments and understandings among Member States, affecting nearly 260 million international migrants and the communities that host them, including considerations relating to human rights, humanitarian, economic, social, development, climate change and security issues.

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## Long Day of Flight 2018

On the occasion of the Long Day of Flight on 28 September 2018, UNHCR Austria will organize a plethora of activities in cooperation with numerous actors. Since awareness-raising on migration-related topics is an integral area of activity for IOM, the IOM Country Office for Austria will participate by offering various workshops for example on "Myths of Migration", providing young students a better insight into the topics of migration and asylum. The workshop aims at discussing prejudices, deconstructing myths and stereotypes and also promotes a sensitive way of dealing with related issues.

A detailed programme is available on the [Long Day of Flight Website](#).



## IOM and youngCaritas: Summer School on Migration and Integration

The IOM Country Office for Austria was invited to participate in the [Summer School on Migration and Integration](#) with a half-day workshop on migration. The Summer School is [hosted by youngCaritas Vienna](#) and is aimed at young participants between 14 and 25 years of age.

Using interactive methods and open discussions, participants from various regions of the world got familiar with migration topics such as the consequences of population shrinkage and the undeniable need of migration, the impact of labour migration on both countries of origin through remittances and countries of destination through contribution to the states' households.

We also discussed topics such as the vulnerability of migrants toward exploitation and the challenging effects of climate change on migration. IOM strongly engages in educational initiatives and strives to provide a balanced perspective on migration by highlighting not only the positive contributions of migrants but also addressing the challenging issues and focusing on finding solutions for the benefit of all.



## A new integration project WIR: Workshops for integration & prevention of radicalization

War and subsequent flight have many negative consequences on young individuals: they have to interrupt or abandon their education, suffer under (familial) traumata and often have no role models. A perceived lack of prospects and negative media coverage, which serve to fortify sentiments of alienation, make adolescents and young adults more susceptible to radicalization and hamper efforts towards their successful integration.

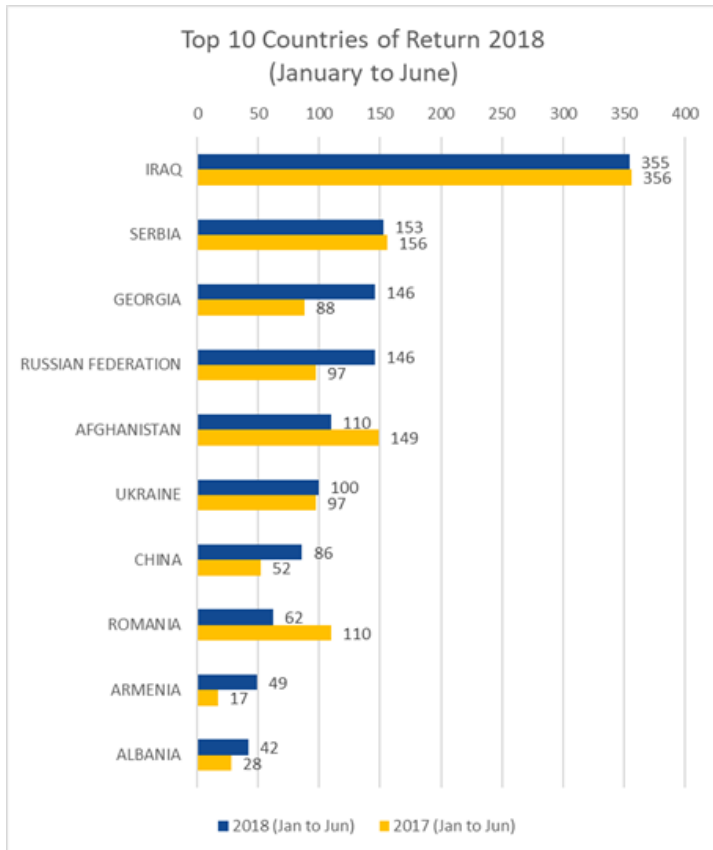


With the present [pilot project WIR](#), IOM aims to support and guide adolescents with Chechen roots to reflect on their identity in their multicultural setting within Austrian society. Together with specially trained peers from the Chechen community and a youth expert from the association [Großes Schiff](#), IOM will conduct workshops and outdoor events which will increase beneficiaries' media literacy and social skills in intercultural communication and conflict management. This entire process will be visually illustrated through individual and personalized media products (videos, a blog entry, pictures mosaic, etc.) that beneficiaries will share with the public to depict their Austro-Chechen microcosm.

In the frame of two kick-off meetings organized in Linz (May 2018) and Vienna (June 2018), knowledge, experiences and lessons learnt were discussed with representatives from the Chechen community and experienced youth workers. These useful resources will contribute to the development of the workshops' contents and methods, which will be starting in September.

The project team will keep you updated on developments and experiences during the workshops and upcoming events.

## Voluntary Return from Austria: IOM assisted 1,732 migrants in the first six months of 2018



In the first six months of 2018, IOM Austria assisted a total of 1,732 migrants in their voluntary return from Austria to their countries of origin. In comparison to 1,716 returnees in the same period of time in 2017, the number has slightly increased. The country with the highest number of assisted voluntary returnees from Austria remains Iraq (355), followed by Serbia (153), Georgia and the Russian Federation, with 146 returnees each.

The number of returnees to Georgia, which now ranks number 3 in the top countries of voluntary return from Austria, increased by 66 percent compared to the same period of time in 2017 when it ranked only place 7. Furthermore, a high increase of returnees to Armenia (188 percent) can be observed, taking into account that the total number of assisted returnees to this country remains low (49 persons). The number of returnees to Afghanistan decreased from 149 in the first six months of 2017 to 110 in the same period of 2018.

In line with the years before, the overwhelming part of all assisted voluntary returnees in the first six months of 2018 were male (73.4 percent). Within the 1,732 migrants assisted, 5 were unaccompanied or separated minors. The travel costs for the majority of returnees were covered in the framework of the “General Humanitarian Return Programme” by the Austrian Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum.

## Reintegration assistance in Afghanistan & Iran: Midterm results of the *RESTART II* project

In addition to return assistance, IOM Austria offers reintegration support for voluntary returnees in the framework of the project “*RESTART II - Reintegration Assistance for Voluntary Returnees to Afghanistan and Iran*”, co-funded by the Austrian Ministry of the Interior and the European Commission. The project is being implemented from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2019.

During the first half of the project duration (1 January 2017 until 30 June 2018), a total of 271 beneficiaries (164 to Afghanistan and 107 to Iran) were assisted. The overwhelming part of the beneficiaries (253) already received EUR 500 cash assistance after arrival and 161 out of them benefited of a part of the in-kind reintegration assistance for starting or joining a business.

For a detailed overview on the midterm results of *RESTART II* please consult the [Special Edition of IOM Austria's AVRR Newsletter](#).



Khalodi A. returned to Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan, in 2018 and invested his reintegration assistance in a business partnership with a grocery store. © IOM 2018

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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## EMN Study: Unaccompanied Minors Following Status Determination in Austria

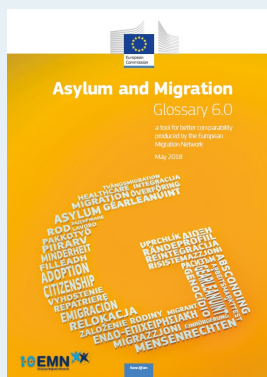
In March 2018, the IOM Country Office for Austria published the study “[Unaccompanied Minors Following Status Determination in Austria](#)” as national contribution to the EMN. The study focuses on Austria’s policies and practices regarding unaccompanied minors following the determination of their residence status. It explores support and integration measures for unaccompanied minors once their residence status is established as well as policies and procedures regarding their return after an application has been rejected. Furthermore, the study covers the issues of unaccompanied minors during transition to the age of majority and addresses the absconding of unaccompanied minors from care facilities.

You can order a free hardcopy of the study in English or German [here](#).

## Asylum and Migration Glossaries 5.0 and 6.0

In light of the 10-year anniversary of the EMN, updated English and German language versions of the Asylum and Migration Glossary were published. The Glossary is a well-proven tool for better comparability that was now extensively expanded and includes 468 terms and definitions. The purpose of the Glossary of terms relating to asylum and migration is to contribute to a better use and a common understanding of the listed terms and definitions. The Glossary draws on a variety of sources, primarily those given in the EU asylum and immigration acquis, and makes these available in the majority of Member State languages.

You can download an electronic version or order a hard copy of the EMN Glossaries in English (6.0) or German (5.0) [here](#).



## EMN Annual Conference Announcement

In the context of the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the National Contact Point Austria in the EMN will be hosting the EMN Annual Conference 2018 on 4 and 5 October 2018 in Vienna. Under the title “Managing Migration – From Reacting to Shaping”, high-level participants will reflect on the external dimension of the European migration policy with the aim of contributing to a sustainable migration system.

Kindly note that the event is upon invitation only. For more information on the event, please visit [the EMN website](#).

## EMN Information Event for Austrian Federal Administrative Court Employees

In June 2018, judges and officials in charge of the Austrian Federal Administrative Court participated in a presentation of the work of the [European Migration Network \(EMN\)](#). Publications are of high value for the employees of the Federal Administrative Court as according to its [website](#), three-quarters of all new administrative appeals in 2017 heard by the court, or 30.600 new procedures, are in the field of asylum and migration. To that effect, more than 130 copies of EMN publications were taken home by participants.



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