

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The UN Migration Agency in Austria



Happy 40th anniversary, VIC!

The United Nations Headquarters in Vienna is celebrating its [40th anniversary](#) this year, marking four decades of diplomacy in the heart of Europe. The Vienna International Centre (VIC), locally known as UNO City, was inaugurated on 23 August 1979. 40 years later, about 5,000 employees from more than 125 countries are working at the VIC to improve the lives of people around the world through the United Nations family of organizations and agencies in Vienna.

On 8 September 2019, the VIC opened its doors to the public for a special anniversary event. This Open House Day attracted a great number of visitors and provided an insight into the world of the United Nations family in Vienna. IOM Austria together with IOM Headquarters and IOM Regional Office Vienna joined the Open House Day event with the IOM exhibition *Holding On*, a virtual reality exhibition on internally displaced persons.

As part of the VIC40 roadshow, IOM Austria was invited to give a presentation in a high school in Vienna (GRG 11, Gottschalkgasse, 1110 Vienna) on 26 September 2019. With the help of a quiz on IOM's history, its definition of migrants and some data as well as with a video produced in the framework of the project [WIR.I](#), students of GRG 11 were informed about IOM's work and the topic of migration.



IOM Austria at the VIC Open House Day. ©IOM 2019

The Austrian Ministry of Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs will also host an Open House Event on the occasion of the Austrian National Day on 26 October 2019. We hope to see you there!



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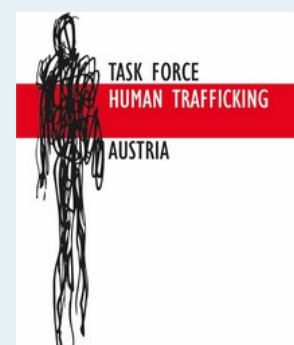


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EU Anti-Trafficking Day

The conference [Technology and Combating Human Trafficking – Chance or Challenge?](#) organized by the Task Force on Combating Human Trafficking took place on the occasion of the EU Anti-Trafficking day on 16 October 2019.

IOM Austria discussed the topic of *Trafficking and the Role of Social Media* together with experts from LEFÖ-IBF and MEN VIA. In the evening, participants had the opportunity to watch the movie [Joy](#) and discuss it with director Sudabeh Mortezaei.



Project WIR: Workshops for integration and prevention of radicalization (WIR II)

Within the [project WIR II](#), the first Train-the-Trainer session for young Chechen community leaders was conducted on 1 September 2019. Former project participants of [WIR I](#) as well as other committed youngsters from the Chechen community living in Vienna and Linz came together to enhance their leadership skills by acquiring practical knowledge and skills regarding conceptualization and implementation of workshops in schools.

In teams of two, the trained young community leaders will conduct a total of four mini-workshops in schools in Vienna and Linz on topics of their choice between October and November 2019. Discrimination and social responsibility have already been identified as topics of great interest and relevance. The IOM project team is looking forward to further support youngsters in their function as role models as well as with their practical civic engagement within the Chechen community.

Next to the training for young community leaders, the WIR II workshop series for Chechen youngsters have also started in September 2019. A total of 26 Chechen girls in Vienna and Linz have shown interest in discussing topics such as identity, religion, gender-based violence, discrimination and diversity and in building up their media competences as participants of WIR II.

In parallel to the workshops, several topical meetings have been organized in Vienna and Linz and youngsters had the chance to meet representatives of local institutions such as the Children and Youth Advocacy Organization in Linz or the association Rugby Opens Borders in Vienna. These initiatives empower the participants in getting acquainted with leisure offers available within their cities and contributes to their inclusion.

 Federal Ministry
Europe, Integration
and Foreign Affairs

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Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs*



Closure of the project FAB: Fostering Across Borders

The project [FAB \(Fostering across borders\)](#) was initiated in the aftermath of the surge in refugees' arrivals to Europe at the end of 2015, when numerous child protection issues were raised and exacerbated, including thousands of unaccompanied and separated children going missing. The project aimed at improving and expanding the quality of family-based care, which is regarded as one of the best-suited care arrangements in which fewer children go missing. In addition to needs assessments, exchange meetings, Train-the-Trainer sessions, specialized courses, an awareness raising campaign on fostering and a detailed and comprehensive training manual for foster carers titled *Caring for unaccompanied migrants* were developed in close cooperation with experts and by involving the foster parents every step of the way. The manual will be soon available on the [project webpage](#).

It was then time to celebrate the project's achievements. One public closing event was organized in Vienna on 6 September 2019, offering persons interested in fostering an opportunity to meet involved professionals as well as foster carers and (former) unaccompanied migrant children who live(d) in foster families. The [FAB short film](#) was screened, certificates were awarded to the youngsters who contributed to the video production and the guests had the opportunity to exchange and chat around a nice buffet.

The closing conference in Brussels on 10 September 2019 was attended by 44 European stakeholders. The [final report's](#) recommendations were also presented: engage existing foster carers in training activities; foster carers' recruitment activities as stand-alone projects; develop e-learning course or thematic half-day trainings to enhance sustainable knowledge acquisition; promote buddies or mentoring programs offering connection with families and enhance mental health support and access to it.



At the FAB closing event in Austria. © IOM



*This project is funded by the European Union's
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Returning home with a medical escort

In 2018, IOM Austria supported the voluntary return of 3,469 migrants, while in the first six months of 2019, 1,511 returnees have been assisted. Among them, 115 persons (2.3 per cent) were in need of specific medical travel arrangements in order to return safely. Most of the persons with medical needs returned to Georgia (40), followed by the Russian Federation (19) and Afghanistan (13).

Depending on the individual health needs of a returnee, IOM provides various, tailor-made medical support measures before and during the journey as well as upon arrival to ensure a safe and dignified return. Such measures can for example include the provision of information about the availability of treatment and medication in the country of return or the organization of a wheelchair service.

Due to their state of health, some returnees are unable to travel alone and need a medical professional to escort and assist them. From 01 January 2018 to 30 June 2019, IOM Austria has organized medical escorts for eight migrants with health needs returning to Afghanistan (1), Armenia (2) China (1) and Georgia (4).

IOM has a worldwide pool of internal and external medical professionals such as doctors, nurses and paramedics. According to the health needs of the returnee, IOM assigns a medical professional with the respective expertise and, if possible, also with the required language skills. IOM expects a medical professional who escorts a returnee to carry out his/her duties in accordance with strictest moral and ethical standards and with due respect for gender and socio-cultural needs of the beneficiaries.

It is of paramount importance in organizing an escorted return to provide the medical professional with comprehensive and detailed information about the health needs of the respective migrant. The escort compiles a medical kit with medication and medical equipment related to the specific needs of the travelling person which allows him/her to set interventions if needed. Additionally, IOM clarifies before departure if the continuation of medical treatment will be possible, and if care-taking structures (in most cases family members), if needed, are available.



Dr. Muhammad Mumtaz, a Dari speaking psychiatrist, escorted a returnee with a severe medical illness during his return to Afghanistan. This picture portrays Dr. Mumtaz with staff of IOM Austria during a briefing prior to departure.
©IOM 2018

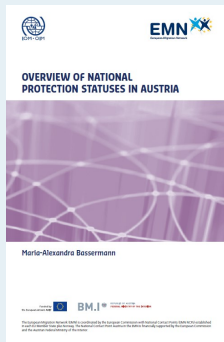


Dina El Sandidy (left) from IOM Austria with Dr. Jafar Nasseri (right) from IOM Iran, who escorted a returnee with health needs prior to departure at Vienna International Airport . ©IOM 2019

In order to enable the returnee and the medical professional to get to know each other, IOM Austria organizes the meeting of both parties prior to departure. If required, the medical professional hands over the migrant to his or her relatives at the airport in the country of origin.

A return with a medical escort requires an increased organizational effort for all involved partners. The greater the sense of achievement when the wish of a migrant to return voluntarily can be met in such difficult circumstances.

For more information, please contact the AVRR Unit at IOM Austria: avrr.vienna@iom.int



EMN Study: Overview of National Protection Statutes in Austria

The study deals with national protection statuses that have not been harmonized through EU-legislation but are based on provisions of national law. At first, discretionary grounds and humanitarian considerations, on the basis of which a national protection status can be granted, are examined with regard to practices and the legal situation in Austria. Moreover, possible statuses in the context of admission programmes are specifically dealt with.

[Country Report Austria \(DE\)](#) | [Country Report Austria \(EN\)](#)

EMN Synthesis Report: Attracting and Retaining International Students in the EU

The Synthesis Report explores the national policies and practices in place in Member States to attract international students from third countries. It also examines whether Member States have adopted any policies or special incentives to retain international students following their graduation. A key focus is the underlying policy rationale for attracting and retaining international students and whether this is a policy priority in Member States.

[EMN Synthesis Report \(EN\)](#)

These and other EMN publications are available online and can be ordered as hardcopies free of charge [here](#).

National EMN Conference 2019

IOM Austria as the Austrian National Contact Point in the EMN is organizing the National EMN Conference. This year's conference titled *Migration and Communication – Information Campaigns in Countries of Origin and Transit* will take place on 3 December 2019 in Vienna. More information on the event is available [here](#).



Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Interior

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DialogForum 2019

The IOM Country Office for Austria contributed to the [DialogForum](#) Migration und Integration at the Danube University Krems (Department Migration und Globalization) which took place from 26-29 August 2019. The Research and Migration Law Unit organized a panel focusing on the migration of start-ups and innovative entrepreneurs to Austria, Estonia and Germany. More information on the upcoming study *Migratory Pathways for Start-up Founders and Innovative Entrepreneurs to Austria* can be found at www.emn.at/en.

In addition, our AVRR Unit wrote an article on returns to Afghanistan which will be published as part of a Dialogforum anthology in December 2019, and our Head of Office Marian Benbow Pfisterer represented IOM and our expertise on return and reintegration during a panel discussion on 28 August 2019.



EMN at the Dialogforum. ©IOM 2019

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