

Newsletter

of the International
Organization for Migration (IOM)
in the Slovak Republic

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NUMBER

863

During the first three months of 2014 the [IOM Migration Information Centre \(MIC\)](#) provided 863 consultations to 576 clients from more than 70 countries.

80

From January to March 2014, 80 employees from state and public institutions participated in IOM trainings and workshops about migration, intercultural skills and regional cooperation. These events help the participants in their work with migrants in Slovakia.

124

From October 2012 to April 2014, IOM helped 124 Slovak citizens who were not granted asylum in Canada. IOM provides them with assistance before and during their return from Canada and reintegration assistance in Slovakia.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Migrants Will Be Advised at One-Stop Shops in Bratislava and Košice

One-Stop Shops – Consulting Days for third country nationals (non-EU citizens) will be held on 15 May 2014 from 1 pm to 5 pm on the premises of the IOM Migration Information Centre (MIC) [in Bratislava on Grösslingová 4 and in Košice on Poštová 1](#). Migrants could benefit from counselling provided by representatives of alien police department, labour offices, health insurance companies and MIC. For more information visit: www.mic.iom.sk.

PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES

114 New Refugees Found a Temporary Shelter in Slovakia



Between January and March 2014 the Slovak Republic provided a temporary shelter on its territory to 114 new refugees. The refugees come from Afghanistan and Somalia, and they will stay in Slovakia for a period of 6 months. They were forced to leave their home countries due to war and unrest. Resettlement to a third country is for them an only chance for life in dignified and safe conditions. Their stay in Slovakia will enable them to complete the preparations needed for their successful resettlement.

During their stay in Slovakia, the families and women with children will be accommodated in the Emergency Transit Centre (ETC) in Humenne, which is located in the asylum facility of the Slovak Ministry of Interior. [IOM is responsible](#) for the transportation of refugees from a refugee camp to the Slovak Republic and from the Slovak Republic to a country of resettlement. It also provides services related to medical examinations and cultural orientation which prepares the refugees for life in new country.

IOM Trained Representatives of State and Public Administration



In the first quarter of 2014, IOM Bratislava organized [two trainings and four follow-up workshops](#) for experts from state and public administration working with third-country nationals. These events are part of a capacity building project aimed at fostering intercultural communication skills, increasing knowledge in the field of migration and migrant integration, providing information on the latest legislative changes (Act on Residence of Foreign Nationals and Act on Employment Services) and supporting regional cooperation of relevant institutions.

The workshops took place in Banská Bystrica, Žilina, Košice and Prešov. Three of them included counselling days for migrants. Around 30 migrants or their representatives from more than 10 non-EU countries used the opportunity to get free information on residence, employment, citizenship or starting a business in Slovakia.

IOM Supports Migrant Communities

[Representatives of migrant communities in Slovakia](#), in cooperation with the IOM Migration Information Centre (MIC), organized several events in the first three months of 2014:

Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring. Indian, Peruvian and Russian community in Košice organized a happening to introduce various festivities welcoming the spring season – Slovak *Fašiangy*, Russian *Maslenica*, Indian *Holi Festival* or Peruvian carnival. Visitors learned about the customs and traditions associated with these celebrations, tasted traditional dishes of different cultures and danced to the rhythm of Latin American music.

Babinec. Islamic Foundation organized its traditionally popular *Babinec* dedicated to women of all continents. The rich three-day program was full of colours, workshops, education, emotions and smell of Moroccan tea. Theatrical performance *Painted With Fear* was part of Babinec, followed by a discussion with its cast.



Ecuadorian Film Festival. A small Ecuadorian community organized a first film festival held in Nitra and Bratislava. Six movies of Ecuadorian production were screened during four weeks, offering a view of the country's identity through their impressive stories.



Francophone Africa. Lovers of the French language had the unique opportunity to attend an information meeting *Francophone Africa*, held on the International Day of Francophony in March. Migrants from the four countries of Francophone Africa discussed how the French language influenced culture, history and the relationship of their country to the current migration trends.



Persian World Celebrated their New Year – Nawroz 1393. In Slovakia, members of the Afghan and Iranian communities were joined in celebration by people from the countries of Central Asia and by their Slovak and international friends. The arrival of the New Year was celebrated with singing and dancing. Haft – a traditional table with symbols of *Nawroz* and the upcoming spring was also prepared.

Migrants Seek Counselling at One-Stop Shops



The IOM Migration Information Centre (MIC) organized specialized counselling days for migrants again. The so-called *One-Stop Shops* were held on 6 February 2014 in Košice and 27 March 2014 in Bratislava. Migrants from more than 15 countries visited them and obtained counselling at one place from the representatives of the alien police department, labour office, health insurance companies and MIC consultants.

I O M C L I E N T S T O R I E S

Do You Find Working in Britain for £ 20 a Week Attractive?

Marek from eastern Slovakia found himself in financial troubles. To solve them, he was looking for a job but with no success. In summer 2013, he was approached by Laco – his acquaintance who had already been living in England for a long time and came to Slovakia just for holidays. He offered Marek an opportunity to earn some money in Bradford working as a construction worker. Marek was told that he could live at Laco's place and did not have to arrange anything apart from getting to the place. Marek liked the offer so he left Slovakia.

After the arrival, everything looked very promising. The accommodation was not ideal as there was no hot water, but Laco promised that it was just temporary. Marek did not sign any employment contract, he just handed in his documents and immediately began working as a bricklayer on a private site belonging to a man from Pakistan. However, after a few days this man got quite aggressive, he even hit Marek several times. He forced Marek to work from early morning until late night. Marek slept too little and had to work even when sick. He was paid 20 pounds a week, but he had to hand the money to Laco as an installment for the rent and modest food. Marek was trying to stand up for his rights and wanted to leave several times. Laco did not seem to object. However, he never forgot to remind Marek that without him and his money, he would be left on the street where anything could happen to him. Laco also warned Marek that if got caught by the English police, he would go straight to prison.

Marek successfully escaped in late autumn and was living in street in Bradford. While living there he was beaten up by a group of strangers so badly that he ended up in hospital with broken ankles. At the end of December, social workers from CRI Reconnections learnt about him and offered him help. Marek was still afraid to cooperate with the police and he would have

no place to live after being discharged from hospital. Therefore CRI Reconnections assisted him with obtaining his documents and buying a plane ticket. They also asked IOM Bratislava to urgently help this a client who was in a very vulnerable situation. Marek arrived in Slovakia on 31 December 2013, he spent the New Years' Eve in safe accommodation and was able to join his family after New Year.

(Names were changed for security reasons.)

Minh from Vietnam: Without IOM Support I Could Not Have Returned Home



Mr. Minh left Vietnam in 2008 and he came legally to work in Slovakia. He was employed as a factory worker. In order to get this job, he ran up debts and when the factory closed down due to the crisis, he found himself in a hopeless situation and without any money for returning home. „When my residence permit became invalid, I earned some little money working as a construction worker or as a waiter in restaurant, but I did not feel good,” he says. He could not work, travel or go shopping without the fear of being arrested. The situation was getting worse because he was separated from his family. „When I emigrated, my son was too young and every day he called me to ask when I would come back home,” he says. At that point he had to decide what to do next...

You can watch the whole Vu Viet Minh's story in the documentary film available on the [IOM's YouTube Channel](#).

For more true stories of migrants who returned home from Slovakia with the help of IOM under the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme you can visit the website www.avr.iom.sk.

W E O F F E R

Get to Know Slovakia Through the Courses of Socio-cultural Orientation

IOM Migration Information Centre (MIC) offers courses of socio-cultural orientation to migrants from non-EU countries with legal residency in Slovakia. The interactive course provides the migrants with the necessary information to help them orientate themselves in important aspects of life in Slovakia. The free of

charge course takes place once a month on the premises of the MIC in Bratislava and Košice. For more information on these courses please visit our website www.mic.iom.sk, call 0850 211 478 or send an e-mail at mic@iom.int.

Free Courses of the Slovak Language for Migrants

MIC in Bratislava and Košice offers migrants free of charge open courses of the Slovak language. The beginner courses held at Grösslingová 4 in Bratislava take place every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., while intermediate courses take place every Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. MIC Košice at Poštová 1 offers beginner courses every Tuesday from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., and intermediate courses on Mondays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.



WHERE: Grösslingová 4, Bratislava (4th floor)
WHEN: Beginners: Every Tuesday and Thursday 18:30 – 20:00
Intermediate: Every Wednesday 18:30 – 20:00
STARTING: TUESDAY, January 14th, 2014

The Open Course is:	
• For all foreigners – third country nationals (not EU) with a temporary, permanent or tolerated residence in Slovakia	✓ Personal Introduction ✓ City Orientation
• For all age categories	✓ Social life ✓ Leisure Time
• For new residents to pre-intermediate	✓ Residence ✓ Education ✓ Authorisation and SERVICES
• without registration and without entering exams	✓ Time and Date ✓ Visual Appearance
• each lesson is an individual unit	✓ Communication ✓ Holidays in Slovakia
• FOCUSING ON CONVERSATION SKILLS	
• FREE OF CHARGE	

MIGRATION INFORMATION CENTRE
Grösslingová 4, 811 09 Bratislava
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mic@iom.sk • www.mic.iom.sk

The open courses are for third-country nationals (non-EU) with permanent, temporary or tolerated stay in Slovakia. The courses are free of charge and they are open for all age groups. No registration or entry exams are needed. Interested foreigners may start the course at any time.

For more information on courses please call 0850 211 478 or send an e-mail at mic@iom.int.

Join the Atlas of Migrant Communities

The website *Atlas of Migrant Communities* brings you diverse information about migrants living in Slovakia. The website focuses on migrants' gastronomy, culture and traditions. You can find here also contacts of migrants' associations, their news and invitations to cultural happenings.

We will welcome your contributions to recipes of international cuisine, tips on cultural events, useful websites and other interesting information about life of migrant communities. You can find more information at: www.mic.iom.sk/atlas.

Counselling on Changes in the Act of Residence for Foreigners

From 1 January 2014, an amendment of the Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Foreign Nationals and Act 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services came into effect. The changes relate to the terms of residence, work permit, or employment of foreign nationals in Slovakia.

Information on the changes in residence of foreigners in Slovakia is available in MIC in Bratislava and Košice, and also on the website www.mic.iom.sk. More information about the actual changes is provided by the legal counsellors of MIC [in person, via phone or e-mail](#).

PUBLICATIONS

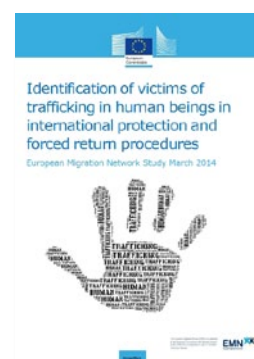
Residence of Foreigners in Slovakia



The IOM Migration Information Centre (MIC) has prepared a new edition of the booklet *Residence of Foreigners in Slovakia*. The booklet contains up-to-date information on residence of third-country nationals in Slovakia in the Slovak, English, Russian, Vietnamese, Chinese and Arabic language. You may find here practical information regarding entry on the territory of the Slovak Republic and conditions for obtaining or renewing of residence in the SR.

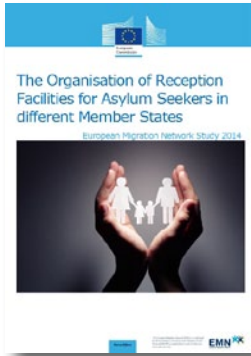
EMN publications:

EMN Synthesis Report: Identification of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings in International Protection and Forced Return Procedures



The [report](#) summarises findings from 24 national reports, including the Slovak Republic, on identification of potential victims of human trafficking among asylum seekers, rejected applicants in the procedure of forced return or those who withdrew from the procedure. Moreover, the report also describes their residence rights. The main outcomes of the Synthesis Report can be found in the [EMN Inform](#).

EMN Synthesis Report: The Organisation of Reception Facilities for Asylum Seekers



The [report](#) provides an overview of how the Member States and Norway introduced the harmonisation of conditions in reception facilities and what the similarities and differences are regarding the type and organization of the facilities. Furthermore, the report analyses the flexibility of the facilities in case of an increased number of migrants as well as factors influencing migration flows in the respective countries. The main outcomes of the Synthesis Report are summarised in the [EMN Inform](#).

6th Issue of the EMN Bulletin



The European Commission published the 6th issue of the [EMN Bulletin](#) informing about current events, policies, outputs and statistics in the field of migration, integration and asylum at the national and EU level, covering the period from October 2013 until January 2014

SUPPORT OF ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

European Migration Network (EMN) National Contact Point in the Slovak Republic:



Co-funded by
the European Union



Voluntary Return and Reintegration in Country of Origin (Individual Project). The project is co-funded by the European Union from the European Return Fund. Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows.

Migration Information Centre to Support Integration of Migrants in Slovakia (phase VI) – Individual project. The project is co-funded by the European Union from the European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals. Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows.

Enhancing Intercultural Competencies and Regional Cooperation of Professionals working with Migrants in the Slovak Republic IV (Individual project). The project is co-funded by the European Union from the European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals. Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows.



IOM Bratislava implements the Programme of Return and Reintegration for Trafficked Persons as a part of the national Programme of Support and Protection for Victims of Human Trafficking, which is financed by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic. Operation of the National Helpline for Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings 0800 800 818 is financed by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic. Technical operation of the helpline is provided by Slovak Telekom, a. s.

Activities of IOM in the project of Humanitarian Transfer of Refugees are financed by the by the US Government through its USRAP Program – United States Refugee Admissions Program, or by similar programs of other resettlement countries.

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I O M I N M E D I A

News selection about activities of the IOM Bratislava published in the Slovak media from January 2014:

Irregular migration to Slovak Republic

TA3, 4. 2. 2014

<http://www.ta3.com/clanok/1034573/slovensko-nelegalnych-pristahovalcov-nepritahuje.html>

Last year in January 200 migrants arrived to the Italian coast

RTVS, 10. 2. 2014

<http://www.rtv.slovakia.sk/radio/relacie/detail/radiozurnal-o-12-00-archiv?date=10.02.2014&station=slovensko> (report begins in 2/3 of the player)

Pay attention to working abroad! These are the risks

Noviny.sk, 16. 2. 2014

<http://udalosti.noviny.sk/z-domova/16-02-2014/pozor-na-pracu-v-zahranici-toto-su-rizika.html>