

Newsletter

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

Issue 03/2013 – July 2013

UPCOMING EVENTS

Film and Discussion on Labour Exploitation of Migrants



The European Migration Network (EMN) National Contact Point in the Slovak Republic has the pleasure to invite you to a documentary film screening entitled the [Tree Workers Case](#). The “Tree Workers Case” is the biggest case of labour exploitation to have been exposed in Europe in the last twenty years. It happened in the Czech Republic and citizens of the Slovak Republic were among the victims. The presentation of the film directed by Daniela Agostini will take place on 21 August 2013 at 6.30 pm at [KC Dunaj](#) in Bratislava. The film screening will be followed by discussion with internationally recognised anti-trafficking experts.

This free admission event is organised within the EMN educational seminar on [Labour Migration Opportunities and Challenges](#).

More information is available at www.emn.sk and www.emn.europa.eu.

PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES

IOM Workshops and Consulting Days



In April and May 2013 IOM Bratislava organised four workshops in Nitra, Trnava, Žilina and Prešov. 39 employees of Alien Police Departments, Labour Offices, District Offices, City Councils, Self-Governing Regions, Labour Inspectorates and Legal Advice Centres took part in them. The workshops focused on presenting the main changes to the Act on Residence of Foreigners, within its latest amendment (valid from 1 May 2013); solving real life case studies of migrants in Slovakia and finding ways to improve the activities and cooperation of these institutions in the area of migrant integration. Representatives of migrant communities from Afghanistan, Vietnam and Russia - the cultural mediators cooperating with IOM Migration Information Centre (MIC) - shared their experience of living in Slovakia.

The *Consulting days* for migrants from third countries took place during the second day of the workshops. A free counselling was offered at one place by the participants of IOM trainings and workshops from the following institutions: Alien Police Departments, Labour Offices, District Offices (Citizenship and Registry Departments), along with the employees of the MIC.

Both the state officials and the migrants welcomed the consulting days as they were organised in the above-mentioned cities for the first time. Altogether 37 migrants from 14 non-EU countries came to get advice. Employers of migrants and Slovak citizens representing migrants were also interested in these events. Most queries concerned the residence, employment and entrepreneurship in Slovakia as well as the ways of obtaining the Slovak citizenship.

This one-stop shop approach enables migrants an easier access to information, a better contact and communication with the represented state institutions. The consulting days also help to improve the cooperation among the participating institutions, as their employees can together consult the actual issues of migrants.

I N B R I E F

EMN Presentation Meetings



IOM Bratislava as the coordinator of the European Migration Network (EMN) activities in the Slovak Republic organised in April and May 2013 several [meetings](#) introducing [European system of EMN ad-hoc queries](#) in the field of migration and asylum as well as presenting its use for employees of ministries and other relevant offices.

EMN Meeting on Asylum Issues

In June 2013, IOM Bratislava as the EMN coordinator in Slovakia held an [expert meeting of selected stakeholders operating in the field of asylum and international protection](#). The aim of the meeting was to deepen cooperation among state institutions, non-governmental sector and public administration. During the meeting the EMN presented its upcoming studies dealing with identification of human trafficking victims in the process of international protection and forced returns as well as organisation of reception centres in Slovakia.

Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policies in the Slovak Republic 2012



IOM Bratislava as the coordinator of the EMN in Slovakia published *Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policies in the Slovak Republic 2012*. The annual report provides overview of asylum and migration policy developments in Slovakia, legal migration and mobility, irregular migration and returns, international protection including asylum, unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups. Furthermore, the report

describes actions against trafficking in human beings, migration and development policy as well as implementation of EU legislation. The annual report is available for download in [Slovak](#) as well as in [English](#).

Return and Reintegration Assistance to Migrants

In the first half of 2013 IOM Bratislava assisted 26 individuals with return to their country of origin. The assistance was provided within the framework of the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) Programme. Most of the clients returned to Vietnam, China, Armenia, Russia, Afghanistan, India and Moldova.

From January to June 2013, the total volume of reintegration assistance was 28,742.80 EUR. The assistance was provided to 20 individuals or entire families who returned to their country of origin through the AVRR Programme and applied for a reintegration grant. Reintegration assistance was delivered in Vietnam, Armenia, China, Moldova, Russia, India and Serbia (Kosovo), and included support of education, business, material assistance, temporary accommodation and health care for returnees.

For more information about AVRR Programme please visit: www.avr.iom.sk.

Migrants Learned about Bratislava and Košice

In April 2013, IOM Migration Information Centre (MIC) organised guided tours for migrants in Bratislava and Košice. Participants got to know the most important historical monuments and events as well as important places that will help them in

their daily lives. City tours were part of the Course of Sociocultural Orientation organised by MIC for third-country nationals. Each month a new topic is prepared for the participants, containing information to help them to learn and simplify their life in Slovakia.



More information about MIC can be found on www.mic.iom.sk.

Multicolour Evening and Other Meetings



Representatives of migrant communities from Afghanistan, Africa, Latin America, Vietnam and Ukraine, in cooperation with MIC, organised *Multicolour Evening* in Bratislava on 20 April 2013 to present their lives and cultures to the public. The event contributed to a better understanding and relations between the majority population and migrants. In addition to traditional self-prepared meals, representatives of communities prepared programme that introduced their traditional dances and music. They also informed visitors about their countries of origin.

The *Night of Opportunities* was another event of communities which was aimed at communication within migrant communities.

MIC has established cooperation with a large international migrant community Foreigners Bratislava. In May 2013, *Summer Traffic Lights Event* was jointly organised to present MIC services.



How to Live Together, Not Just Next to Each Other



In November 2012, more than 400 meetings of local and migrant families in 7 European countries took place. Selected family meetings and inquiries on the public attitudes towards migrants and migration was filmed in each country. The documentary film [Next Door Family](#) was made of this footage to

demonstrate coexistence of locals and migrants in Belgium, Czech Republic, Hungary, Malta, Italy, Spain and Slovakia. The family meetings were carried out within the project [Next Door Family EU – Inclusive Neighbourhoods](#). The project in Slovakia was implemented by IOM Bratislava.

Gastrofestival of Migrant Communities 2013



On Sunday 9 June 2013 in Bratislava, people could see, taste and experience the diversity of cultures of migrants from different countries living in Slovakia at one place. Grassalkovich

Garden hosted third successful Gastrofestival where the representatives of migrant communities from Africa, Afghanistan, Iran, Cuba, Latin America, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation and Turkey introduced their traditional meals. Visitors could taste authentic Turkish coffee, Afghan pies, Colombian oat drink, African fufu, Arabic hummus, Cuban rice, Kazakh belyashi and other specialties prepared and presented by representatives of migrant communities - cultural mediators who cooperate with MIC. Culinary support was also provided by the guests from the USA, Tibet and representatives of Bretons in Slovakia. Visitors could enjoy interesting recipe ideas, musical performances, various communication games or dance workshops. Gastrofestival aims to promote understanding between the majority population and migrants.

IOM Trainings on Human Trafficking

From April to June 2013, IOM delivered six trainings focused on identifying victims of human trafficking and its prevention. 131 various professionals, who could encounter and identify potential victims of human trafficking at work, were trained. They included employees of local governments, spare time centres, Social Development Fund, field social workers, town policemen and consular officers of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic.

IOM CLIENT STORIES

Men Who Became Victims of Forced Begging

After a car accident Rado is able to move only in a wheelchair. He does not have a close family and is wholly dependent on assistance provided in social care centre. Approximately one year ago, a man called Karol started visiting him in the centre. He introduced himself as his distant relative. Karol seemed trustworthy to Rado and so he agreed to move to Karol's house. There were already two other disabled men - Marek and Ivan - living at his place. They both had their legs amputated. Marek had been homeless before and Ivan had recently come to Karol's place from similar centre as Rado. Soon after Rado moved to Karol's place, Karol invited all three men to go on a car trip.

The journey took more than one day and ended in Belgium. Karol forced men to beg and he took all the money they earned. They were sleeping in the car; Karol gave them only few cigarettes, some coffee and food. He mentally abused them; sometimes he beat them too. They were not able to resist. None of them spoke any foreign language; they did not even know for sure, where they were. They often travelled and changed the places.

After few weeks two strangers approached Rado. They were polite to him, one of them spoke Slovak. Rado told them everything about Karol and two other disabled men who were also forced to beg. On the same day, when Karol came to collect money, those two strangers returned back, identified themselves as policemen and detained Karol. They found out that Karol had exploited more than 10 men for the purposes of forced begging and Belgian police had been interested in his activities.

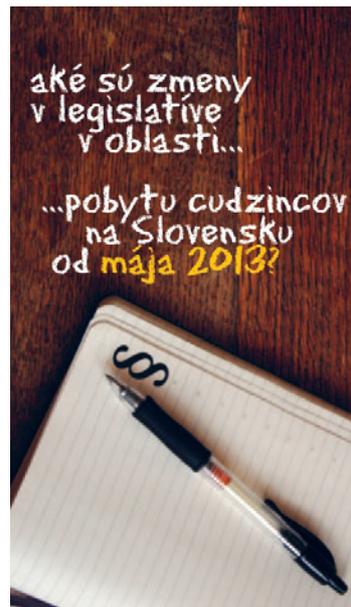
Rado, Marek and Ivan were accommodated in a shelter of Pag-Asa organisation where they received the necessary care. Due to their testimony Karol was convicted of human trafficking in Belgium. Marek built new social relationships in Belgium and decided to stay there. Rado and Ivan returned to Slovakia under the IOM Brussels project for victims of human trafficking in cooperation with IOM Bratislava. They both started to live again in social care centre receiving reintegration assistance from IOM.

(Names of the persons have been altered for protection reasons.)

More information about the Return and Reintegration Programme for Trafficked Persons is available on the website www.iom.sk.

WE OFFER

Counselling for Changes to the Act on Residence of Foreigners for 2013



IOM Migration Information Centre (MIC) has published a new leaflet *What are the changes in the legislation on residence of foreigners in Slovakia since May 2013*. The leaflet contains the most important changes to the Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Foreigners with effect from 1 May 2013. The leaflet is available at the MIC premises or on the website www.mic.iom.sk. More information about specific changes to the law is provided by the MIC legal counsellors. Your questions can be consulted [in person](#), [via phone](#) or [e-mail](#).

Slovak Language Courses for Migrants in Bratislava and Košice



WHERE: Grösslingová 4, Bratislava (4th floor)
WHEN: EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY 18:30 – 20:00
STARTING: TUESDAY, September 10th, 2013

- The Open Course is:
- for all foreigners – third country nationals (non EU) with a temporary, permanent or tolerated residence in Slovakia
 - for all age categories
 - for very beginners to pre-intermediate
 - without registration and without entering exams
 - each lesson is an individual unit
 - FOCUSING ON CONVERSATION SKILLS
 - FREE OF CHARGE

✓ Personal Introduction	✓ City Orientation
✓ Shopping	✓ Education
✓ Restaurants	✓ Authorities and Services
✓ Social life	✓ Leisure Time
✓ Time and Date	✓ Visual Appearance
✓ Communication	✓ Holidays in Slovakia

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IOM Migration Information Centre (MIC) in Bratislava and Košice offers migrants free Open Courses of Slovak Language. A new cycle of courses starts in September 2013. [The course in Bratislava](#) starts on 10 September and takes place every Tuesday and Thursday from 6.30 to 8.00 pm at the following address: Grösslingová 4.

The courses are available for third-country nationals with permanent, temporary or tolerated residence in Slovakia. The courses are free, open to very beginners and pre-intermediate students, and to all age groups. There is no need to register for the course or to pass any entrance examination. It is possible to start the lessons at any time.

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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 April 2013:

IOM: Many migrants face violence

The Slovak Spectator, 8. 4. 2013

<http://www.slovakspectator.sk/articles/view/49629/2/iom-many-migrants-face-violence.html>

Gastrofestival visitors could taste traditional dishes of foreign cultures

Aktualne.sk, 9. 6. 2013

<http://aktualne.atlas.sk/navstevnici-gastrofestivalu-mohli-ochutnat-tradicne-jedla-zahranicnych-kultur/dnes/regiony/>

Slovakia will continue to provide temporary shelter for refugees

SME, 19. 6. 2013

<http://s.sme.sk/r-rss/6841292/www.sme.sk/slovensko-bude-nadalej-poskytovat-utecencom-docasne-utocisko.html>

SUPPORT OF ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

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



Co-funded by the European Union



Projects Return and Reintegration Assistance to Unsuccessful Asylum Seekers and Irregular Migrants from Slovakia to Countries of Origin III and Voluntary Return and Reintegration in Country of Origin are co-funded by the European Union from the European Return Fund. Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows.

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

The project Enhancing Intercultural Competencies and Regional Cooperation of Professionals Working with Migrants in Slovakia III is co-funded from the European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals. Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows.



Return and Reintegration Programme for Trafficked Persons is carried out by IOM Bratislava as the integral part of the National Programme of Support and Protection for Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, which is financed by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.



The project Next Door Family EU – Inclusive Neighbourhoods was co-financed by the European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals (EIF) and by the U.S. Embassy in Bratislava, Slovakia.

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