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IOM in Central and South-Eastern Europe

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Hungary Takes on Presidency of the European Union, January – June 2011	1-2
“Promoting Migrant Integration through Media and Intercultural Dialogue” EU Presidency Conference to be Held in May 2011	2-3
Integrated Border Management in the Western Balkans Produces Assessment and Monitoring Mission Report	3
IOM Kosovo Awarded EC Funding to Implement “Beautiful Kosovo”	4
Video Documentary Launched Featuring Mongolian Migrants in the Czech Republic	4-6

Hungary Takes on Presidency of the European Union, January – June 2011



Preparations for the first Hungarian Presidency of the EU

On January 1 2011, Hungary will take over the Presidency of the European Union for the following six-month period. The Hungarian Presidency will be the last member of the Spanish-Belgian-Hungarian trio. Therefore, its programme fits into the trio programme, and the priorities are built on the results delivered by the Spanish and Belgian Presidencies. The top priority of the Hungarian Presidency will be consolidation of the EU economy or “how to exit the crisis”, according to Péter Györkös, Hungary’s ambassador to the EU. Other priorities, also closely linked with the objective of dealing with the debt crisis, will be the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy, deepening of EU policies and future EU enlargement.

Migration issues will also feature prominently on the agenda of the Hungarian EU Presidency. It will focus its efforts on the effective implementation of the **Stockholm Programme**, which provides a framework for EU activities in the field of asylum, migration, visa policy, police, border and customs cooperation, and justice issues for the period 2010–2015.

In 2011, the Stockholm Programme’s Action Plan foresees a Commission

Communication evaluating and providing recommendations for the future of the **Global Approach to Migration**. This document, which was adopted in 2005, is based on partnerships with third countries and addresses all migration and asylum issues in a comprehensive and balanced manner. In the context of the development of this Approach, the Hungarian Presidency is planning to host the second ministerial conference of the Building Migration Partnerships project in late March and the Second Eastern Partnership Summit on 26 May.

Several other activities and Communications are foreseen in the framework of the Stockholm Programme during the Hungarian EU Presidency. A Commission Communication is expected with reference to **environmentally induced migration** and displacement implications of climate change and it will provide recommendations to address this issue.

As announced at the Zaragoza conference of April 2010, an EC Communication on the New Agenda for Integration is planned for the first half of 2011, which will mark launching of a second phase towards a more harmonized **EU integration policy** framework which will enable the

set-up of a joint coordination mechanism to increase the exchange of best practices on integration policies among the EU Member States. A Presidency **conference “Promoting Migrant Integration through Media and Intercultural Dialogue” will be held in partnership with IOM in May 2011**, which will also look at how media can contribute to the better integration of migrants (see page two for more information on the conference).

The Stockholm Programme also stresses the need for proper monitoring and evaluation of **EU readmission agreements** by 2010 and of the **common policy on return** in 2011 as key elements of the EU’s approach to migration management. The Commission’s planned evaluation and proposal for monitoring of EU readmission agreements is now expected for early 2011, to be followed by a Council strategy on readmission.

The Stockholm Programme emphasizes the importance of resettlement in the external **asylum policies** of the EU. The Hungarian Presidency has the opportunity to maintain visibility of resettlement and to support efforts at the EU level to create a common EU resettlement pro-

gramme as well as to support the creation of a Common Asylum System. This includes the forthcoming European Asylum Support Office (EASO), which will facilitate information exchange between Member States and support their decision-making on asylum, and the development of the European Asylum Curriculum, which would ensure that all officials involved in asylum determination have the same core training. Hungary, during its EU Presidency, will continue to work on implementation of these plans.

The Hungarian Presidency of the European Union will support the principle of **burden-sharing with regard to illegal migration**, which will promote solidarity with EU Member States, which receive disproportionate numbers of unauthorized migrants and asylum seekers, namely Italy, Greece, Malta, and Cyprus, meaning that other Mem-

ber States will need to share responsibility for such flows.

Furthermore, the Hungarian Presidency has set the implementation of the **Europe 2020 Strategy**, the EU's growth strategy for the coming decade, with the main objectives to boost employment, enhance competitiveness and social inclusion at one of its top priorities. The 2020 Agenda also has significant migration aspects; its objectives provide a platform to continue and reinforce the discussions on the importance to create new and innovative channels for **legal migration** to the EU and in that way to **prevent irregular migration** and **trafficking** in human beings. In addition, the EU 2020 Agenda emphasizes the **social inclusion** aspect, which is an essential ingredient in creating the conditions for the integration of migrant workers. ■

For IOM Recommendations to the Hungarian Presidency, please visit www.iom.hu

“Promoting Migrant Integration through Media and Intercultural Dialogue” EU Presidency Conference to be Held in May 2011

Within the framework of Hungarian Presidency of the EU, IOM Budapest is planning to hold the “Promoting Migrant Integration through Media and Intercultural Dialogue” Conference from 16-18 May 2011 with participation of media professionals, media associations, NGOs involved in migration issues, migrant organizations, policymakers and relevant stakeholders at the EU level. The aim of the conference will be to discuss and analyze current practices in media reporting on migration in Europe and to put forward recommendations on how media can better portray diversity in the EU and make its own contribution to better integration.

The conference is a part of a project “Migrants in the Spotlight”, which is being implemented by the IOM Regional office in Budapest. The project aims to sensitize both professional representatives of the media and students of journalism on migration issues and increase their capacity to provide quality coverage relating to third country nationals and migrants in Hungary, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovakia.

The project's partners and associates are the Hungarian Ministry of Interior, the Centre for Independent Journalism (Hungary), the New School (Czech Republic), the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at the University of Latvia, the Institute of Journalism at the University of Vilnius, Soros Foundation Romania, and the Milan Simecka Foundation (Slovakia).

In addition to the conference, the project will organize training seminars targeting media professionals, both from domestic media dealing with migration as well as members of the immigrants' media channels, and journalism students. Moreover, an international competition for students of media and social sciences from the EU Member States for the best article and a documentary on a migration-related issue was recently launched. Winners in each of two categories, articles or documentaries, will receive a cash prize of 1,000 Euros with the winners' work being showcased at the Presidency conference.

Finally, in each country IOM and project partners each will host a three-month internships/work experience for two entry level professionals or students of journalism/social studies/political science, etc. who are immigrants or come from a family of immigrants. This practical experience will encourage interactions between immigrants and the host population, empowering young immigrants and promoting career opportunities and experiences.

More information on the project can be found on the website of the project www.mits-eu.org. ■



Student Media and Migration Competition!

IOM, with the support of the European Commission and in partnership with six organizations from Hungary, Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovakia, is hosting a **competition for university students to submit articles and documentaries on migration and integration-related issues**. Articles and documentaries must address migrant integration issues in Hungary, Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania or Slovakia. Selected winners will receive a cash prize and winners' work will be showcased at the international conference "Promoting Migrant Integration through Media and Intercultural Dialogue" in Budapest in May 2011. For further details, please visit Migrants in the Spotlight project website: www.mits-eu.org.

Call for Internship Applicants

Within the framework of the project "Migrants in the Spotlight: Training and Capacity Building for Media Representatives and Students", financed by the European Commission, IOM and its partners in Hungary, Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovakia are recruiting 24 interns **for a three months traineeship** each. Applicants should be entry-level professionals or students of journalism/social studies/political science or a related field, who are immigrants (i.e. third country nationals legally residing in any EU Member State) or come from a family of immigrants. Interested applicants should check the project website www.mits-eu.org for further details.

Integrated Border Management in the Western Balkans Project Produces Assessment and Monitoring Mission Report

As part of a regional project "Strengthening Integrated Border Management in the Western Balkans and Turkey", an Assessment and Monitoring Mission (AMT) was undertaken in late 2009 to review and analyse the implementation of the national IBM Strategies and Action Plans in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo under UNSCR 1244.

The team, consisting of an expert from each of the project locations and supplemented by experts from the project consortium partners, made an assessment of the content and implementation of the national IBM Strategies and Action Plans. The AMT made its evaluation based on presentations by the National Border Management Agencies, by reviewing all relevant border management documentation, and by observing border management in practice at numerous border crossing points (BCPs). The AMT report is now available, following extensive consultations with all relevant stakeholders, including the beneficiary countries themselves.

The AMT findings provide a review and analysis of the

existing IBM Strategies, Action Plans, as well as the three pillars of IBM: intra-service, inter-agency and international cooperation frameworks, structures, policies and practices, as they relate to the work of the main border management agencies: border police, customs and phytosanitary, and veterinary inspectorates.

Observations are made for each of the project locations, within all three pillars and are followed by overall conclusions and recommendations. Good practices are identified and indicated in the text, and should serve as an inspiration for other countries to implement similar practices and policies.

AMT report is intended as a useful tool for all the project locations to further develop and improve their respective integrated border management capacities, in line with the EU Guidelines for IBM in the Western Balkans and Turkey, with the ultimate goal of more open, but well-controlled and secure borders.

The full report is available upon request from mrbudapest@iom.int. ■

A new website for the project "Strengthening Integrated Border Management in the Western Balkans and Turkey" has been launched, including information about the project, IBM strategies and Action Plans, IBM related resources such as manuals, guidelines, and links to relevant agencies. Please visit www.ipaibm.net



Experts of the Assessment and Monitoring Mission meet with Albanian border authorities.

IOM Kosovo Awarded EC Funding to Implement “Beautiful Kosovo”

On 25 October 2010, IOM's office in Kosovo under UNSCR 1244 was awarded a five million EUR grant to implement the “Beautiful Kosovo” project financed by the European Commission Liaison Office. The project aims to contribute to poverty reduction in selected municipalities through the enhancement of economic opportunities for Kosovo's population, especially marginalized groups, and to support short- and medium-term job opportunities for selected beneficiaries within identified Local Public Companies (LPCs) and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The project will also enhance skills of unemployed and marginalized groups through vocational education and trainings in the selected municipalities, and to improve urban infrastructure through the implementation of public works projects.

According to statistics, Kosovo had an estimated GDP per capita of €1,855 in 2008, and the projections for 2009-2012 suggest that the GDP will grow at an average rate of 4.6%. However, despite the substantial assistance from the European Union and other donors in efforts to support economic recovery, the unemployment rate in Kosovo remains the highest in the Balkans and in Europe at around 43% (2009). With a very young population, Kosovo's labour market is strained each year by the entrance of thousands of young people on the market. Unemployment is primarily present among women, disabled people, youth and minority groups.

The project activities will be implemented in the following ten municipalities in Kosovo: Pristinë/Pristina, Graçnica/Graçnica (Centre), Prizren, Dragash/Dragas (South), Kline/a, Peja/Pec (West), Mitrovica, Zubin Potok (North), Gjiilan/Gjilane, Shterpce/Strpce (East).

The proposed project will build upon the previous efforts and actions undertaken by the local authorities and the international community in alleviating the social and economic problems that are omnipresent in Kosovo's society. The activities aim to contribute to the overall improvement of the economic and social situation in Kosovo, generating employment opportunities and creating conditions that foster economic, social and cultural development.



Beautiful Kosovo will aim to reduce poverty in the selected municipalities in Kosovo.

It is expected that the project, through its activities, will regenerate the socio-economic life in the country and will improve the lives of all social groups, with particular focus on women, persons with disabilities, youth, and minority groups. ■

Video Documentary Launched Featuring Mongolian Migrants in the Czech Republic

As part of an informational campaign aimed at potential Mongolian migrants to the Czech Republic, IOM's office in Prague has commissioned a documentary focusing on the Mongolian labour migration to the country, called “A Wonderful Opportunity”, directed by Vit Janecek, a recognized Czech director of documentary films.

The documentary shows stories of five Mongolian migrants and their families living in the Czech Republic.

The film features a skilled glassmaker Chinbat, who came to then Czechoslovakia more than 20 years ago to study at a vocational school and to become a glassmaker. Today he lives in a small town close to Prague with his wife and two sons, and works in a small glass factory. In the film, Chinbat represents those Mongolians who have lived in the Czech

Republic for a long time and successfully integrated into the Czech society.

The story of Altmaa and her family and the story of Bayrmaa and her brother Bayrmagnai describe the potential perils of living in the Czech Republic as a labour migrant – the danger of being abused and victimized by an employer or a labour agency. While Bayrmaa tells her story of maltreatment by her former employer in the past, Altmaa's experience of exploitation is a lot more recent and still affecting her life in the Czech Republic.

Documentary participants Sarantuya and Namkhai found themselves in a difficult situation when their daughter Oyun was born prematurely. Without medical insurance, her parents accumulated considerable debt. Fortunately,



Chinbat in his glassmaking workshop.

local NGOs and municipality clerks provided assistance to the family, and they were able to pay their debt to the hospital in monthly instalments.

The final story in the documentary focuses on the life of Borolzoibaatar, his wife, and their daughter Buyaka, who

arrived to the Czech Republic relatively recently and quickly integrated. The film, however, also highlights the challenges the family faces in order to achieve their dream of living comfortably in the Czech Republic. Borolzoibaatar and his wife work long hours to be able to pay for rent of their apartment and music school for Buyaka. Buyaka



Mongolian workers in the steering wheels factory.



Little Oyun

works hard to learn the Czech language in order to remain in the same grade at school as she was before her departure from Mongolia.

In recent years, the numbers of Mongolian labour migrants coming to work in the Czech Republic sharply increased, reaching 14,000 workers registered at the Czech Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs at their peak in 2008. According to IOM Prague, the majority of Mongolian labour migrants coming to Czech Republic have limited knowledge about the situation of the Czech labour market, jobs opportunities, salaries and working conditions in the country. In preparation for their journey to the Czech Republic, many Mongolians sell their most valuable possessions such as apartments, houses or animal herds, hoping that they will earn significantly more money in the Czech Republic.

This lack of information, coupled with the fact that Mongolian labour migrants in the Czech Republic have been employed almost exclusively by private recruitment agencies, has led to situation where Mongolian labour migrants fall victims of fraud or unfair treatment. Mongolian migrants often end up losing their work visas and thus are forced either to return to Mongolia, or they choose to travel illegally to other EU countries.

The film was well received both in Mongolia and in the Czech Republic. In Mongolia, the film premiered on 26 October 2010 on the TV channel UBS. By the end of October 2010, three more TV stations broadcasted the film in Mongolia. In the Czech Republic, the film premiered on 25 October in the Prague Municipal Library and its broadcasting is currently under negotiation with the Czech National TV. Viewers in Mongolia report that the film is a good source of information about life in the Czech Republic, while Mongolians living in the Czech Republic appreciated the fact that the film shows both positive and negative aspects of life in the Czech Republic.

The DVD will include a 12-minute instruction video with information to potential Mongolian labour migrants to Czech Republic about possible risks related to using the labour agencies working in Mongolia and in Czech Republic. The DVD will be produced in Mongolia and distributed by the Czech Embassy in Ulaanbaatar, as well as among Czech NGOs and state institutions working with migrants in the Czech Republic.■



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IOM Regional Office for Central and South-Eastern Europe provides support to IOM missions and offices in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Montenegro, Poland, Romania, the Republic of Serbia, Kosovo under UNSCR no 1244, Slovakia and Slovenia.

For more information about IOM activities in the region or to subscribe to this newsletter go to www.iom.hu.

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