



The Link

IOM in Central and South-Eastern Europe

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Migrant Integration, Media and Intercultural Dialogue discussed at conference in Budapest, Hungary



MITS International Conference Participants in Discussion [Photo by BALÁZS Attila]

An international conference on **"Promoting Migrant Integration through Media and Intercultural Dialogue"** ran from 16 to 18 May 2011 at the Radisson Blue Hotel in Budapest, Hungary. The conference, organized under the auspices of the Hungarian 2011 EU Presidency, was hosted by the IOM and the Hungarian Ministry of Interior. The conference was part of the "Migrants in the Spotlight: Training and Capacity Building for Media Representatives and Students" project (MITS), with funding by the European Union.

The MITS project aims to contribute to improved understanding, awareness and reporting on migration issues in the EU, with a focus on Hungary, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovakia, including the provision of higher quality migration-related information to the public by the media.

The conference brought together over one hundred participants from across

Europe, including representatives of the media, international organizations, NGOs, research centres, EC staff, governmental authorities, migrants, youth and many others. The participants were able to choose amongst a variety of topics related to integration of migrants to discuss in four different workshops in three sessions. In one workshop, Czech sociologist Ivan Gabal told participants that public opinion in Europe is being shaped by fear of a wave of migration from North African countries, and stressed that both politicians and journalist should play a role in accurately addressing and reporting on migration issues.

Milica Pesic, executive director of the U.K.-based Media Diversity Institute warned that "there is a harsh, competitive environment that is leading editors and journalists to violate codes of ethics. If anti-immigration writing allows the media to stay in business, the media will go for it." The role of the so-called "new" media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, blogs, YouTube,

cartoons etc.) in promoting integration and giving voice to individuals, and especially youth, and communities was examined. Finally, the intersection between media and interculturalism as expressed in daily life encounters was discussed.

Additionally, the conference showcased the six winners of an EU-wide competition for university students on articles and documentaries on migration and integration-related issues. The six students were given an opportunity to present their winning submissions and address the conference audience during the award ceremony on the second day of the conference. The winning articles and documentaries can be accessed on the project website or directly at <http://www.mits-eu.org/index.php/en/competition/winning-submissions>.

The MITS project continues as IOM is now compiling a conference report which will be shared and made available on the project's website (<http://>

www.mits-eu.org) after the MITS Coordination meeting in Prague, scheduled for 17 June 2011. In addition, twelve MITS training seminars will be carried out in the second part of 2011. The aim of these seminars is to train media

professionals, including members of the immigrants' media channels, and journalism students on how to accurately and effectively portray migration issues.



Workshop Presentation [Photo by BALÁZS Attila]



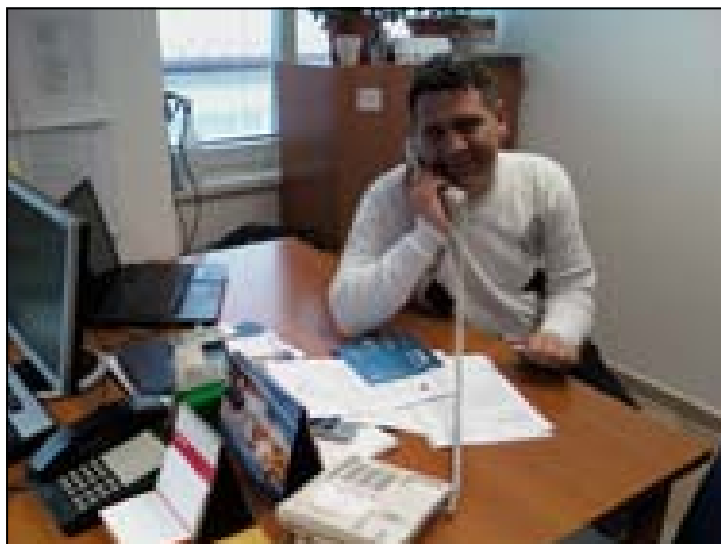
MITS Media Competition Award Winners [Photo by BALÁZS Attila]

For further information, please visit the Migrants in the Spotlight project website at: <http://www.mits-eu.org>

Launch of the Migration for Development in the Western Balkans (MIDWEB) project

The Western Balkan region is faced with significant challenges and opportunities regarding labour migration and socio-economic development. Although conflicts have been the primary "push" factor for migration from the region throughout the 1990s, much of the outflows from the region in the recent years have been economic in nature. A substantial percentage of the populations in the Western Balkans now live abroad.

Much of the labour migration from the region is directed towards more developed countries, but considerable intraregional movements also occur. The migration potential in the region remains relatively high, even though it has decreased in recent years. Despite the importance of labour migration for the societies and economies in the region, relatively little attention has been paid to its effects and possible benefits to development.



Counselling services at the Migrant Service Centre in Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The **Migration for Development in the Western Balkans (MIDWEB)** project aims to address this situation and ensure efficient dissemination of information about legal channels for migration among potential labour migrants and to provide opportunities for return of skills and human capital and their contribution to the development of the Western Balkans to

the mutual benefit of migrants and countries of origin. Its first goal is to be achieved mainly by supporting the Migrant Service Centres (MSCs) in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo under UNSCR 1244, established by IOM in 2008, in cooperation with National Employment Services, which provide information, advice and referral to potential migrants, returnees and immigrants, on legal channels of migration within and outside the region.

In addition to supporting the Migrant Service Centres, the project also offers temporary placement opportunities for 60 qualified professionals who come from the Western Balkans and who live permanently in Austria, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the UK. The selected participants can go back to their countries of origin, for a short period of time to share their skills and expertise and contribute to the

development of their country of origin.

On March 24th, 2011, the first project Steering Committee Meeting took place in Budapest, with the participation of the project partners and associate partners. In his welcome and opening remarks, Mr. Trpe Stojanovski, the Director of

Migration, Refugee, Asylum Regional Initiative (MARRI), the main project partner, thanked all the participants for their presence and emphasized the importance of the meeting not only in providing strategic guidance and management support for the adequate execution of the MIDWEB project activities, but also in planning the future stages of project implementation.

The project is managed by IOM Budapest in partnership with the Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI), the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, Germany and the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw) and is funded by the European Commission IPA 2009 Multi-beneficiary Programme 2.

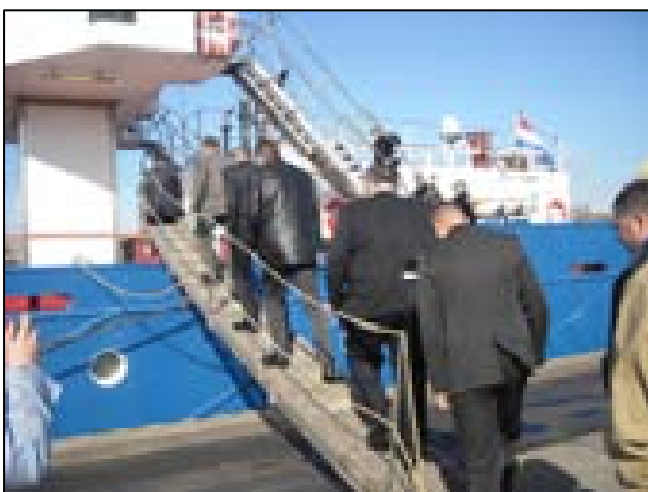


Participants at the Steering Committee meeting

For further information, please visit the MIDWEB project website at:
<http://www.migrantservicecentres.org>

Study Tour for Border Services to Poland

From 4 to 8 April 2011, the Polish Border Guard in partnership with IOM hosted a study tour for a delegation of border services representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Kosovo under UNSCR 1244. Through a series of organised visits, the delegates familiarised themselves with the structure and tasks of the Polish Border Guard. The study tour consisted of visits to the Nadodrzański Regional Border Guard Unit in Krosno Odrzańskie, the Border Guard Unit at the harbour in Szczecin, the Border Guard Station at the airport in Poznań, as well as the Border Guard Station and the Polish-German Cooperation Centre for Border Police and Customs in Swiecko.



Visit to the Border Guard Unit at the harbour in Szczecin, Poland. (IOM, 2011)

The delegates attended presentations at each of the Border Guard Stations, learning about their various tasks, cases and experiences in the recent years. The visits to the internal EU border and the Polish-German Cooperation

Centre for Border Police and Customs in Swiecko presented the delegates with the opportunity to learn about the changes that have occurred after Poland joined the EU in 2004 and the Schengen area in 2007, and how EU enlargement and the Schengen area extension have affected the Polish Border Guard Units' work. This information is highly relevant and important, considering the EU aspirations of the Western Balkan countries.

The delegates returned from Poland with new knowledge that they will be able to utilise in their own national border guard services and units. The study visit was organised as part of the **“Strengthening Integrated Border Management in the Western Balkans and Turkey”** project financed by the European Commission's IPA Regional Programme 2007 and the Minister for Development Cooperation of the Netherlands.

Training of Trainers on Risk in the Context of Integrated Border Management in the Western Balkans

As part of the **“Strengthening Integrated Border Management in the Western Balkans and Turkey”** project, a series of Training of Trainer courses were carried out from January to April 2011 in: Montenegro (19-21 January), Kosovo under UNSCR 1244 (25-27 January), Serbia (1-3 February), Albania (21-25 February), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2-4 March), Turkey (22-24 March), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (29-31 March) and Croatia (18-22 April).

The objective of this carefully planned training course was to train a select group of Customs and Border Police Officers to be local and cascade trainers regarding Risk within the context of Integrated Border Management (IBM). As risk analysis, risk assessment and risk management techniques are vital to the twin aims of IBM – free and efficient flow of traffic and secure borders – understanding the concepts and being able to apply them in practice are vital for the successful implementation of any IBM strategy. The training course focused on areas such as: basic theory

of risk management/assessment, the application of risk-based controls, the concept of risk profiling, as well as the creation of risk profiles and a Risk Analysis unit. The trainers were drawn from the Customs services of Italy, the UK and the Border Police service of Poland. All of the trainers were experienced operational officers in the areas of risk and IBM and had significant experience working in the Balkans and with administrations in transition.

A major part of the training focused on developing trainer skills such as: the use of training materials/modules, presentational techniques and visual aids. In addition, the participants at the training had the opportunity to design and deliver certain aspects of risk training in 2-person training teams. This practice, carried out in a safe and supportive training environment, allowed the participants to gain feedback on their performance.



IBM Risk Analysis Training of Trainers (ToT) Belgrade, Serbia. (IOM, 2011)

For further information, please visit the IPA IBM project website at: <http://www.ipaibm.net/>

NATO-Perspektiva Programme 2010-2012 in Bosnia and Herzegovina

With the primary financial support of Norway, the Netherlands and Slovenia, alongside additional financial contributions from Sweden, Luxembourg, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the United Kingdom, the United States and Turkey, the new cycle of NATO Trust Fund is beginning. The aim of the programme is to reintegrate into the labour market approximately 3,000 personnel of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AF BiH) who, pursuant to legislative provisions, were made redundant.

The assistance to discharged personnel of the AF BiH will take the form of professional one-on-one counselling; training; re-qualification; additional education; and assistance in procuring requisite equipment for employment or self-employment.

The **NATO-PERSPEKTIVA Programme**, implemented by IOM, is based on pre-existing models implemented both within countries in the region and further afield. Through this model, the aim is to facilitate as efficient and complete a reintegration into civilian life as possible for discharged staff of the AF BiH. Personalised assistance will ensure that the optimum support necessary is provided. In the long run, these actions will benefit both the families of discharged soldiers as well as the local community in which they live and work.

The NATO-PERSPEKTIVA Programme will not only ensure the sustainable reintegration of released personnel, but also strengthen the capacities of the Ministry of Defense (MoD). The aim is to strengthen internal structures and expertise that will allow the MoD to cope with exceptional events such as defence reform as well as the reintegration into civilian life of discharged servicemen.

Stories from the Field

Elvedin Hodo (36) from Goražde is a locksmith by vocation, but does not have working experience in this field. Whilst employed in the AF BiH, Mr. Hodo worked in the communications/liaison battalion in Pale. After being discharged in March 2010, he went back to living in his own

house with his spouse, two children, and his mother who is a pensioner. The need to find the means to sustain his family motivated him to consider possible sources of income and to contact the NATO-PERSPEKTIVA Programme.



Elvedin Hodo, Goražde

Using his own savings, supplemented by a small amount of funds made available by close relatives, Mr. Hodo bought three greenhouses, covering a total surface area of 400 m², and started vegetable production immediately after leaving the Army. However, in order to reach a level of sustainability which would allow for a secure income for his family, he needed to further develop his business and requested assistance from the Programme.

Through the counselling sessions and the field visits an individual analysis of the business was conducted and options for its further development were assessed. Upon consideration of the existing situation and the funds available, he decided to use the NATO-PERSPEKTIVA assistance to purchase an additional greenhouse to increase his levels of production. Mr. Hodo has already made all necessary arrangements for the setting up of the greenhouse and will install it as soon as weather conditions

permit.

Mr. Almir Ibrakovic (36), a traffic technician by vocation, had been engaged as a driver within the AF BiH, as well as performing work related to the Liaison Centre of the Infantry Battalion in Zenica.

Mr. Ibrakovic initially expressed an interest in receiving assistance in passing additional driving categories, with the aim of achieving certification for the transport of hazardous materials. However, upon interview at the Regional Transition Center (RTC), he changed his interest towards undertaking studies at the CISCO academy, which provides certification in network technologies. Upon completion of his studies, Mr Ibrakovic became a Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA). Since knowledge of English is a prerequisite for working with network technologies, Mr. Ibrakovic has expressed an interest in taking English language courses, which should improve his employment prospects further.



Mr. Sreto Blagojević, RTC Rajlovac; Mr. Almir Ibraković

For further information, please visit the NATO-Perspektiva website at: <http://www.perspektiva-program.ba/>

The Launching of the 'Sisters' movie Prevention of 'Modern Slavery' in Serbia – from Real Life Stories to TV Docudrama

'Sisters' – a film exposing the experiences of Serbian women trafficked into the sex trade, produced with technical assistance from IOM, premiered in Belgrade on 10 April, 2011 in the presence of the Prime Minister of Serbia, the Minister of Interior, the Speaker of Parliament

as well as members of the diplomatic corps and the film industry. 'Sisters' retraces the story of two sisters who on their way to supposed jobs in Italy, are trafficked during a pit stop in Belgrade and forced to dance and provide sexual services in a run down bar/brothel.



'Sisters' Movie Promotional Poster

The story is based on true facts and reflects the pattern and experience of human trafficking in Serbia where more than 90% of victims are young female Serbs who are exploited sexually. As Bojana Maljevic, of the Monte Royal Production Company, stated: "The film does not have explicit scenes of sex and violence, but shows its consequences. Film is full of emotions, and while we filmed it, we intentionally did not make it exactly as the true stories to protect the victims." Prime Minister Cvetkovic stated that "Serbia has firmly decided to fight all sorts of crime, including human trafficking. In this respect, laws have become stricter and special anti-crime units have been formed within different structures, as human trafficking is one of the most serious crimes; it deprives people of their



'Sisters' Movie Premiere in Belgrade, 10 April 2011

basic human rights such as the right to freedom and life.” Minister Dacic emphasized that as of 2009, police had arrested some 200 persons involved in human trafficking and that “Serbia is committed in fighting this sort of crime and is currently also reviewing its Anti-Human Trafficking (AHT) policy and National Referral Mechanisms (NRM), with the assistance of the Joint Programme of UNHCR, UNODC and IOM to Combat Human Trafficking, developed under the UN.GIFT”.

The movie was shown in Belgrade from 11-15 April, and will go on tour around different Serbian cities (Smederevo,

Bor, Subotica, Cacak, Krusevac, Leskovac, Novi Pazar, Zrenjanin, Uzice, Sremska Mitrovica, Prokuplje). Each movie presentation will be followed by a discussion with the participation of professionals in the AHT field, actors from the movie, representatives of youth offices and the local community. The movie will also be presented at national and international film festivals. IOM provided technical assistance throughout the movie production to ensure that the story is realistic, and received special recognition from the Minister of Interior as initial funding provided by 1035 facility helped trigger the release of additional resources from the EU and the Serbian Ministry for Culture.

IOM publishes the “Handbook of Czech transformation experience in migration management and reintegration mechanisms”

The Handbook was produced by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) office in Prague in the Czech Republic. IOM Prague cooperated on the production of this publication with experts from the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic, the Headquarters of the Foreigners Police, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, labour offices, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the agency Czech Invest.

The Handbook was published in Czech and in Russian, including CDs, and has been distributed to institutions of the Czech state administration and partners from the state administrations in the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

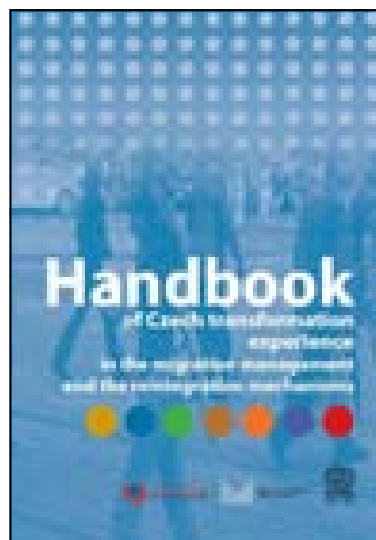
Projects of the Czech Development Cooperation financed by the Czech Ministry of Interior, Department of Asylum and Migration Policies

Since 2001, IOM Prague has implemented projects in partnership and with funding from the Ministry of Interior, Department of Asylum and Migration Policies. The projects implemented by IOM Prague and partner IOM

missions are two-fold in character:

On the one hand, the projects are characterized by their support for community and economic development, support for the socially weak population endangered by unemployment or vulnerable migration, support for returnees and support for their reintegration into the labour market of their countries of origin. On the other hand, the projects support and strengthen migration management structures in the countries receiving development aid. In this sense, the activities are implemented in the field of: migration organizational structures, protection of the state borders, inspection of the travel documents, combating of irregular migration, migration data collection and analysis, the return policy of third country nationals and border guard training.

The ultimate objective of these activities has been to support modern migration management in the target countries of the projects, thereby enabling legal migration opportunities, supporting sustainable returns and at the same time enhancing the development aspects of migration to the benefit of the target countries.



Handbook of Czech transformation experience

For further information, please visit IOM Prague's website at: <http://www.iom.cz>

Migrant Empowerment and Legal Changes in Poland

The project ‘**Cooperation – the path to integration**’, co-financed by the European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals, has been implemented in Poland since January 2010. The project aims to empower migrants and enhance a mutual process of adaptation on the part of migrants and local communities. To this end the National Platform of Cooperation, which represents an arena for the exchange of information and consultation among migrants (along with migrant organisations) and various Polish institutions, was established. The Platform - by providing an opportunity for discussing “best practices” implemented in Poland and abroad as well as possible solutions for acknowledged challenges related to migration - constitutes a sole consultative body at the central level that facilitates

development, monitoring and assessment of policies and measures contributing to integration in Poland.

Until now, a series of seminars have been organised in order to discuss factors that influence the integration process in various spheres of social life, such as migrants' admission and residence, labour market, education, health care, discrimination, etc. However, in the context of the recent developments of the Polish migration policy, the last two seminars that were held in April 2011 deserve special attention.

The first seminar concerned the draft proposal of a new Act on Aliens that was also presented for social consultations.

The predominant motives for proposing a new law were to transpose provisions of the EU directives into Polish law - including the one regulating the return of irregular migrants and the employment of highly skilled foreign workers - as well as, to ensure a transparent structure of the Act divided into chapters on specific solutions related to entry, residence and departure from Poland. The proposed changes specify that growth in the labour market is crucial for the development of Poland. Consequently, although keeping the employment of migrant workers complementary to the native work force, this law introduces preferential treatment regarding granting right to residence and employment in Poland to the representatives of selected groups of migrants. The main objections raised by the participants of the Platform regarded the fact that the legislation sustained – often criticized – the subjection of a foreigner's residence status to decisions and actions of his or her employer, as well as the introduction of the obligation of passing a Polish language test in order to receive a permanent residence permit.

During the second seminar participants discussed the draft 'Migration Policy of Poland – current status and requested actions' which was presented for social consultations in April 2011. The aim of this document is to define policy objectives and, in effect, to support the development of legal instruments. The fundamental principles, corresponding to the draft of the Act on Aliens, underline the necessity of opening up Poland and the Polish labour market for selected groups of migrants and enhancing the mutual adaptation of migrants and the local communities. The main doubts expressed during the Platform meeting



'Cooperation – the path to integration' Seminar Speakers

concerned the insufficiently developed chapter on integration policies as well as the need to create an integrated database and systematic monitoring of migratory movements.

During both meetings the representatives of Polish public institutions were invited and they presented drafted legislation. This allowed all participants – including migrants – to ask question, present arguments and dispute directly with the authors of the legislation. Furthermore, IOM prepared detailed reports from both meetings that referred to most of the arguments presented by the participants that were, in turn, delivered to all involved actors, including the policy-makers.



'Cooperation – the path to integration' Seminar Participants



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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.

As of July 1st 2011 the IOM Budapest office will no longer have regional functions due to global restructuring. Therefore this is the final edition of the LINK newsletter. For more information about IOM activities in the region please visit <http://www.iom.hu>. To provide comments to this edition, please contact: mrfbudapest@iom.int.