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## 1. Skills2Work: Project Coordination Meeting in Madrid, Spain



January 2016 saw the launch of the project 'Skills2Work - Valuing Skills of Beneficiaries of International Protection'. On April 21-22 the IOM focal points, co-beneficiary partners and associate partners met for the second project coordination meeting in Madrid, Spain. Over the course of a two-day programme including workshops, presentations from partners, guest speakers, and plenary sessions, the project partners discussed progress and benefited from the opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience.

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## 2. New CD4D programme Links Diaspora Communities with Countries of Origin



Engaging diaspora communities with their countries of origin is an important aspect of IOM's work. The recently approved programme Connecting Diaspora for Development (CD4D) enables diaspora professionals to use their knowledge and expertise of migrants for the reconstruction and development of their country of origin. The project, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is a continuation of IOM's successful TRQN (Temporary Return of Qualified Nationals) programme. [read more](#)

## 3. Turkish Judges and Public Prosecutors Observe Practices Combatting Trafficking



In May, 16 Turkish judges and public prosecutors visited the Netherlands in view of the prevention of human trafficking and the protection of victims in Turkey through a human rights-based approach. The delegation met with Eurojust, Dutch ngo Comensha, the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, the Public Prosecution Office and IOM.

The visit is part of a counter-trafficking project funded by the EU and co-funded by the Turkish Government. [read more](#)

## 4. Diaspora Conference "Building Bridges - Georgian Diaspora for Development" - in Frankfurt am Main, Germany



The Diaspora Conference & Job Fair 'Building Bridges – Georgian Diaspora for Development' which took place in Frankfurt am Main, Germany on 11 and 12 March provided the unique opportunity for sharing experiences and thoughts on diaspora engagement among the Georgian diaspora and Georgian state institutions mandated to deal with diaspora issues and elaborate on potential modes for further cooperation. IOM the Netherlands Chief of Mission Martin Wyss addressed the audience and participated in the panel discussion. [read more](#)

## 5. IOM Project Officer Mei Li: "I want to be there for them when I can"



"I have been working as Project Officer for IOM for nine years. Listening to various stories from migrants during my consultation hours, I often realize that I could have been in their position; I could have been sitting on the other side of the desk," says Mei Li.

Born in Beijing, China, Mei came to the Netherlands nineteen years ago in view of medical treatment. She remained in the Netherlands where, step by step, she rebuilt her life. [read more](#)