



JULY 2019

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WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS 30 JULY

MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR GENERAL ANTÓNIO VITORINO

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European Union, IOM and Ministry of Trade partner to boost capacity of 800 Customs Staff in Turkey

Representatives from the European Union Delegation to Turkey, Ministry of Trade (MoT), Central Finance and Contracts Unit (CFCU), Ministry of Interior and IOM, gathered for the launch of a new EU-funded project that aims to develop the capacity of customs officials over the next 30 months, aligning integrated border management practices in Turkey with EU standards.

The “Improvement of Customs Enforcement Capacity Project” kicked off with the participation of project partners, government officials and members of the international community. Mr. Abdullah Soylu, Director General of Customs Enforcement for the Ministry of Trade said, “We will improve our existing capacity in the field of customs controls by taking advantage of the opportunities provided by technological developments and working in full harmony with the stakeholders” in his remarks.

The project is made possible with the generous contribution of 2.5 million euros by the EU. Over the next 30 months, around 70 activities will be implemented covering topics related to passenger and cargo control, risk analysis, customs-related crime detection and prevention, aircraft search, and detector dog handling.

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IOM Turkey Visits Legatum Institute and the UK Parliament in London

IOM Turkey visited Legatum Institute and the UK Parliament to inform key

Held by IOM Labour Migration and Human Development and Livelihood units, the Pre-Employment training enabled jobs to 30 participants from host and migrant communities.

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Humanitarian Principles and Field Skills Training for Practitioners was held in Gaziantep with participation of 24 employees from different NGOs.

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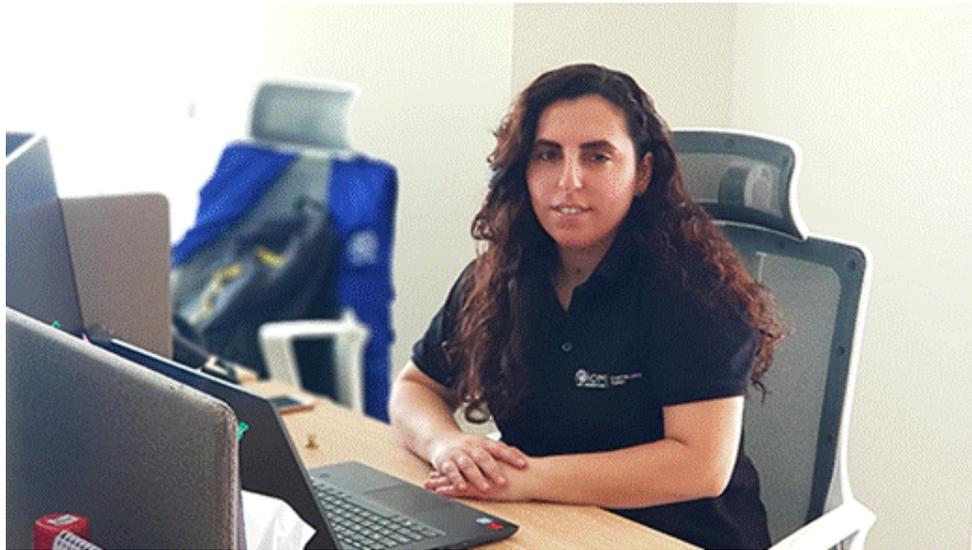
© IOM 2019 (Photo: Nadine Al Lahham)

IOM and Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality organized a camping activity for Turkish and Syrian children to foster their emotional, social and psychological development.

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stakeholders, migration experts and parliamentarians about realities and challenges faced by the Syrians that are supported by IOM and other international organizations.

The visit is organized by members of IOM delegation from Gaziantep and London following Baroness Philippa Stroud's, the CEO of the Legatum Institute, visit to IOM-supported Ensar Community Centre last month.



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Employee Spotlight: Tülin Gülbol

"I was born in Antakya in 1993. After graduating Antakya Vocational High School, I completed my studies in Social Services department of Ankara University. During my bachelor studies I focused on gender related issues thus I also worked in Ret International's projects carried out in Mardin, from August 2015 to June 2018. When I was back to my family house in Hatay, I applied for Social Worker position in IOM. I am working with IOM Psychosocial Team since November 2018".

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Photo of the Month*



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In Ensar Community Centre, Syrian and Turkish children enjoyed the sunny days spending time in nature while learning planting.

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Our Stories



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MAZLUM:

"I want to build a bigger atelier and grow my business. Then I want to train people and help them get jobs because I understand how hard it is to be unemployed and I want people to avoid this experience".

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Publications



In Nizip, Gaziantep, Syrian mothers and children became an art model for each other. IOM Mobile Psychosocial Support team organizes many activities for mothers and children to increase their communication and strengthen their bonds. © IOM 2019 (Photo: Mehmet Sadıkoğlu)

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**Selected by the IOM Turkey staff on an online voting basis.*



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- [IOM Response to the Syria Crisis JAN – MAR 2019](#)

IOM Turkey in the News

- [DHA published](#) a piece about Ömer Sarıkaya, the director of the movie titled Death Sea (Aylan Bebek), which tells the life of 3-year-old toddler Aylan Kürdi whose body was washed ashore in Bodrum, Muğla on 2 September 2015, reacted to the criticism. Sarıkaya said, "The film is not a political but a humanitarian film. Without caring about any threat or pressure that targeting us, we will continue to protect the rights of the world's children by this film". Sarıkaya stated, "IOM, The International Organization for Migration, has even declared that 32,000 immigrants worldwide have died or disappeared between 2014 and 2018, making it clear that the problem is not a matter of person, race, religion, language or state, but a world issue". Ömer Sarıkaya was targeted and exposed to 'hate speech' in social media for filming the story of Aylan Kurdi.
- [T24 and Deutsche Welle](#) aired a piece about voluntary returns to Syria: 'In the first months of the year more than 35 thousand 500 Syrians returned to their countries with their own resources'. IOM was included in the piece as "The International Organization for Migration (IOM), on the other hand, does not support voluntary returns on the grounds that the current conditions in Syria are unsafe. On the other hand, financial aid is provided to the Syrian refugees who want to return to their countries in Germany".
- National news portal [Haberler](#) and local [YeniAsir](#) reported on the apprehension of 127 irregular migrants in a day in Izmir's Çeşme province mentioning IOM as: "Urgent needs of migrants such as food and drinks were met by representatives of the International Organization for Migration".
- Turkish version of 'Voice of America' aka [Amerika'nın Sesi](#) reported on the unofficial meeting mentioning DG Antonio Vitorino: "At the informal meeting with EU ministers, the "Immigrant solidarity plan" prepared by Germany and France was discussed. Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Antonio de Carvalho Ferreira Vitorino, President of the International Organization for Migration (OIM), attended the meeting, which was held at the initiative of Germany and France. Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini did not attend the meeting and sent a representative".

Deutsche Welle (TR) covered boat tragedy in the Mediterranean on 26th July citing IOM: as: *"The International Organization for Migration (IOM) described the sinking of an asylum-seeker boat off the coast of Libya yesterday as the heaviest asylum-seeker disaster this year in the Mediterranean"*.

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