



Funded by the European Union



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

9TH ISSUE

JUNE 2021

NEWSLETTER

EU-CHINA DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION AND MOBILITY SUPPORT PROJECT - PHASE II

FOREWORD

The 9th issue of the MMSP II newsletter covers a period of one year, until June 2021 - a year of unprecedented changes, during which the COVID-19 pandemic has had a dramatic impact on migration and mobility, in China and globally.

Consequently, MMSP II activities have undergone significant reprogramming. With the pandemic being now largely under control in the EU and in China, MMSP II activities increasingly benefit from a renewed speed.

The 9th issue features project highlights, while offering insights on relevant institutional events that marked the year. The policy corner portrays the reporting period as a particularly prolific time for policy and legal developments in China and in the EU, as a confirmation of the great importance that the two sides attach to migration and mobility issues.

Inspired by the positive outcomes of the activities undertaken over the past year, and with a more optimistic outlook towards the effective and timely implementation of the 2021 workplan, IOM looks forward to working with all its partners in making up lost ground and reporting more achievements in the next newsletter.

Keep following us on WeChat for more events and news!

Giuseppe CROSETTI
Chief of Mission
IOM China



INDEX

PAGE 2: PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS 2021

- TRAINING ON THE IDENTIFICATION OF VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

PAGE 3: MMSP II EVENTS IN 2020

- SEMINAR ON CROSS-COUNTRY COOPERATION TO FIGHT TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME: EXPERIENCES OF INVESTIGATION, PROSECUTION AND CONVICTION OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS' CASES
- TECHNICAL MEETING ON IMMIGRATION SYSTEMS: POLICIES AND REGULATIONS
- FIELD VISIT FOR EU MEMBER STATES REPRESENTATIVES TO NANJING AND SUZHOU, JIANGSU PROVINCE

PAGE 5: IOM CHINA NEWS

- IOM-CHINA 70-20 CELEBRATION
- NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION
- IOM ATTENDS THE 2ND INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION NETWORK MEETING

PAGE 6: INFOBITES

- POLICY CORNER
- UPCOMING EVENTS

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS 2021

Training for EU Embassies and Consulates on the Identification of Victims of Human Trafficking

On 11 May 2021, IOM organised a training course on identification techniques for victims of human trafficking (VoT) in the visa application process. Training participants revised concepts of human trafficking in line with the international legal framework, learned how to distinguish it from smuggling of migrants, reviewed main indicators of trafficking, interviewing techniques, global trends and linkages between trafficking and visa applications. Sessions also touched on the Chinese legal framework regulating counter-trafficking, including principles and modalities for referral of potential VoT in China. Throughout the workshop, participants engaged in interactive activities and provided positive feedback to the trainers.

Consular and visa officers, as well as immigration experts, who often play a key role in protecting or assisting potential VoT, shared their expertise and practical experiences, and reached consensus on how interagency cooperation between different government services can improve the chances to detect potential VoT amongst visa applicants. Representatives from IOM, the EU Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs and the EU Delegation to China delivered remarks at the event.

Identification of victims of trafficking is a global problem. IOM estimates that less than one percent of victims get identified. When victims remain invisible, traffickers feel invincible, and their criminal business becomes an easy-to-run, easy-to-expand enterprise, with low costs and high returns. Unidentified victims do not access the needed assistance, and their situation can get worse over time. Re-trafficking and repeated exploitation of the most vulnerable becomes widespread, and human rights violations - ingrained in our societies, normalized, and accepted. Victim identification is thus one of the most crucial aspects of counter-trafficking work. The key role in it belongs to frontline practitioners who can become victims' first point of contact.



Hanna Antonova
International Expert on Trafficking in Human Beings



Trainings for EU Embassies and consulates on identification of victims of human trafficking
11 May 2021, Beijing

China is making strong and concerted efforts to combat human trafficking and improve victim identification. There has been much progress, including targeted campaigns in different provinces, the development of the DNA database and rapid search mechanisms to identify abducted individuals and the implementation of pilot operating procedures for the identification and assistance of trafficked persons and vulnerable migrants. The recently released Third National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons (2021-2030) continues to draw fundamental provisions for ensuring that all relevant agencies work together effectively on victim identification and referral, while victims are provided with the protection and services they need.



Veronica Scarozza
Project Officer
Counter Trafficking
IOM China

MMSP II EVENTS IN 2020

Seminar on Cross-Country Cooperation to Fight Transnational Organized Crime: Experiences of Investigation, Prosecution and Conviction of Trafficking in Human Beings' Cases

A "Seminar on cross-country cooperation to fight transnational organized crime: experiences of investigation, prosecution and conviction of trafficking in human beings' cases" took place on 10-11 December 2020 in Beijing, China. It was jointly organized by the International Organization of Migration (IOM) and Office to Combat Trafficking, Ministry of Public Security (MPS OCT).

Due to travel restrictions related to COVID-19, the event was held combining a mixed in-person and online format. 11 Chinese police officers of MPS OCT at central and provincial level, a senior prosecutor from the Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP) and a senior judge from the Supreme People's Court (SPC) attended this activity, which aimed to offer a platform for Chinese and European officials to discuss current issues related to investigation, prosecution and conviction of trafficking of human beings' cases involving Chinese and foreign perpetrators and victims. Representatives from Bulgarian, Dutch, French, German, Italian and British Embassy in Beijing took part in this activity to communicate with Chinese participants, strengthen working relationships with them, and explore possible law enforcement responses to trafficking of human beings between EU and China.



In his opening remarks, IOM China Chief of Mission, Giuseppe Crocetti, said that "human trafficking has come under the spotlight due to COVID-19 outbreak, which has had a disproportionate impact on vulnerable migrants at higher risk of falling prey to traffickers within domestic and transnational organized crime networks."

MPS OCT's Director LIU Jingjie mentioned that all countries are facing a similar challenge of handling cross-countries trafficking cases, and this highlights the need for strong cooperation among law enforcement agencies.

Ms Elisaveta Voynova, Policy officer of the European Commission Directorate General Migration and Home Affairs emphasized that fighting against trafficking of human being is a priority for the EU and the EU will continue to work with Chinese authorities to fight against this crime with the support of platforms against criminal threats such as EUROPOL and EMPACT.

Experts from Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and the UK connected remotely informed the Chinese side about the role of international cooperation in combating specific trafficking cases. Speakers introduced their referral mechanisms, practices to support victims of trafficking of human beings, modalities of engagement of and cooperation with foreign countries' relevant authorities, international cooperation tools and lessons learned. The Chinese side got acquainted with European national responses and techniques, as well as with challenges that persist during the investigation, prosecution and conviction of criminals. Chinese presenters from MPS OCT, SPP and SPC introduced the Chinese counter-trafficking system, trends characterizing the crime and policy and operational developments in China. They also addressed many questions to the speakers to clarify aspects exposed in the case studies.



Technical Meeting on Immigration Systems: Policies and Regulations

On 26-27 November 2020, IOM and the Chinese National Immigration Administration (NIA) jointly organised a webinar in Beijing, attended by 32 Chinese immigration officials from central and provincial levels. EU and Government officials, as well as two academia/private sector experts informed Chinese participants about licit pathways to enter and reside in their respective countries, and the policies and regulations behind those. This activity improved the familiarity with respective immigration models and laid a good basis for further cooperation between EU and China in the area of immigration law. In particular, the webinar allowed Chinese NIA's Policy and Legal Department to get acquainted with the immigration policies and laws of Germany and the Netherlands.



In the first day, the government perspective was presented, while in the second day, more in-depth information was provided by representatives of Maastricht University and Manzel-Yerlikaya law firm from these countries. This approach enriched the official information about the Dutch and German policies and laws with practical experience on their implementation.

Field Visit for EU Member States Representatives to Nanjing and Suzhou, Jiangsu Province

On 28-30 October 2020, IOM and NIA jointly organised a field visit for EU Member States representatives to Nanjing and Suzhou, Jiangsu Province. The delegation included consuls, visa officers and migration liaison officers from the Embassies of Austria, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Portugal, as well as IOM China staff. This field visit provided an opportunity for EU and Chinese officials to directly communicate about immigration inspection and foreigners' administration in Nanjing and Suzhou during COVID-19.



In addition of being a learning opportunity about Chinese procedures and systems applied at the Nanjing international airport and in Immigration Service Centers, this visit represented a unique chance for EU Member States representatives to openly discuss with Chinese counterparts about challenges related to management of foreign nationals and provision of services to foreigners, including in universities and within foreign firms located in the province in time of COVID-19. The network established between European and Chinese side lays a foundation for further exchanges and communications in the area of immigration inspection and administration of foreigners in Jiangsu province.



IOM-CHINA 70-20 CELEBRATION



1951 - 2021



2001 - 2021

7 June 2021 marked 20 years of China-IOM friendship. This year also marks IOM's 70th anniversary. On 7 June 2001, China became an observer state of IOM, signaling the beginning of a relationship which has grown closer and closer over the years. IOM began its operations in 2007 with the opening of a Liaison Office in Beijing which evolved to a full-fledged Country Office in 2016, when China became a Member State of IOM.

In the past twenty years, IOM always stood by China at difficult times such as through material assistance in the aftermath of the Sichuan earthquake or at the outset of the covid-19 outbreak.

With China becoming a prominent actor in the global migration discourse, IOM's work in the country touches on almost every aspect of migration and mobility. IOM China's main areas of work include: Immigration & Border Management, Migrant Protection & Assistance, Labour Mobility & Human Development, Migration & Development, Resettlement, Data & Research, and Partnership & Resource Mobilization.

IOM was founded in 1951 out of the chaos and displacement of Western Europe, following the Second World War. IOM joined the United Nations system in as a related organization.



Contents

- Context: a global mobility, socioeconomic and health crisis
- The wheel of human mobility related impact
- Selection of IOM tools:
 - Travel and Mobility Restrictions Matrix
 - "Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Front-line Border Officials at the Point of Entry in Response to COVID-19 Outbreak"
 - "Risk Assessment Tool for Resuming Operations at Points of Entry in the COVID-19 Context"



A selection of IOM's global tools were introduced including the "IOM's Travel and Mobility Restrictions Matrix", the "Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Front-line Border Officials at the Point of Entry in Response to COVID-19 Outbreak" and the "Risk Assessment Tool for Resuming Operations at Points of Entry (PoE) in the COVID-19 Context" were presented, and the IOM COVID-19 Analytical Snapshots were distributed. IOM also presented its recent work in Mongolia, where a number of PoEs were assessed by the Government based on IOM's Risk Assessment Tool to better understand the preparedness level of these PoEs for a potential reopening.

NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION



Follow Up Consultation on China's Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)
安全、有序和正常移民全球契约 (GCM) 国家研讨会
2021年4月 15日 北京 15 April 2021, Beijing



On 15 April 2021, IOM and the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs co-hosted a Follow Up Consultation on China's Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). Representatives from Chinese ministries, UN agencies and research institutes attended this meeting. The meeting helped participants: 1) take stock of relevant developments that have taken place in China since the GCM's adoption in 2018; 2) identify priority areas and emerging issues of relevance to the GCM implementation in China; and 3) provide a venue for an exchange of experience and good practices among all relevant stakeholders in line with China's vision of the GCM.

IOM ATTENDS THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION NETWORK MEETING

Hosted by the Netherlands' Immigration Liaison Officers in China, the second International Migration Network Meeting took place in Beijing, China from April 14-16, 2021. The three-day event aimed to consolidate the cooperation established between migration experts from Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, New Zealand, Portugal, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Netherlands. Representatives from the Chinese National Immigration Administration (NIA) and IOM were guest speakers at the meeting.

IOM China Programme Manager Laura Scorretti contributed to the session on document fraud and the impact of COVID-19, presenting IOM's response to support cross border human mobility amid and after the pandemic. By analyzing the mobility continuum before travel, cross-border and post-arrival, IOM reflected on how COVID-19 specifically affects and transforms visa regimes, infrastructure, procedures, rules and regulations, while instruments such as API-PNR, single windows. IOM also discussed how the creation of "immunity passports" can help mitigate the negative effects on human mobility that the pandemic is causing.

PRELIMINARY OVERVIEW OF RECENT POLICY AND LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS IN CHINA 2019-2021

IOM actively promotes dialogues, exchanges, and cooperation with the Chinese partners in migration and mobility issues. IOM also actively monitors the policy developments in migration and mobility in China. In the 2019-2021 triennium, many policy developments focused on continuing attracting foreign talents as well as fighting COVID-19 and managing mobility issues connected to the global pandemic. 2021 witnessed most policy and legal developments in China, with at least 10 relevant initiatives until May 2021.

Below is an example of policy initiatives from NIA in 2021.



Source: IOM elaboration based on a preliminary exhaustive desk review of policy and legal provisions announced by available media in 2019-2021

THE 2021 WORKPLAN OF THE NATIONAL IMMIGRATION ADMINISTRATION (22 Jan 2021)

- NIA will “deepen cooperation and exchanges with international organizations such as the International Organization for Migration.” IOM will continue to cooperate with Chinese counterparts in future endeavours.
- NIA will keep maintaining the order of entry and exit by strengthening the border control, and combatting irregular migration and peoples’ smuggling.
- NIA will strengthen its capacity to build a more professional and higher-level immigration management team.

<https://www.nia.gov.cn/n897453/c1375184/content.html>

CHINA ISSUES ITS THIRD ACTION PLAN TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING (28 April 2021)

The 10-year Action Plan:

- Urges carrying out a sustained national campaign targeting such crime;
- Requires investigation methods to be modernized and upgraded, calling for improving the information release system and the national DNA database for missing children;
- Helps rescued trafficked persons to adapt to a new living environment including by getting employed;
- Calls for the formulation and revision of relevant laws, regulations and policies, education through the internet and new media;
- Calls for international cooperation to combat human trafficking.

http://www.china.org.cn/china/2021-04/29/content_77451718.htm

CHINA TO EMBRACE MORE OPEN POLICIES ACCORDING TO ITS 14TH FIVE-YEAR PLAN (5 March 2021)

In its 14th Five Years Plan, published on 14 March 2021, China encouraged further policy development for talent mobility.

China will work on the introduction of an immigration policy for foreign talents, including strengthening the cultivation of innovative, application-oriented and skilled talents, [...] skills upgrading projects, and expanding the team of high-level engineers and high-skilled talents, implementing a more open talent policy and building a platform that gathers outstanding talents in China and abroad.

China will accelerate its institutional opening by supporting the construction of border ports, improving management services for entry and exit, customs, taxation, foreign exchange procedures, etc.

China will continue to implement its regional coordinated development strategy, accelerate the innovation and development of cross-border trade, [...].

China will improve the capacity of fighting against new types of cross-regional crime.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-03/05/c_139786738.htm

COMING SOON

- Second Training for EU Embassies and Consulates on the Identification of Victims of Human Trafficking (July 2021)
- Workshop on Practical Cooperation on Return and Readmission (July 2021)
- Second Field Visit in China for EU Officials (July - August 2021)
- 2 Seminars for Chinese Officials on Anti-Document Fraud (September - October 2021)