

## IOM Helsinki e-Newsletter

Issue no 2, November 2005

### Foreword by the Regional Representative

Welcome to the second edition of IOM Helsinki's quarterly e-Newsletter. In this issue we would like to draw your attention to IOM's work in the area of technical cooperation, from organizing study visits and training border guards to the CIS Workshop on Migration and Biometrics held in Minsk in August. Happy reading!

*Dr. Thomas Lothar Weiss*

### CIS Workshop on Migration and Biometrics held in Minsk, Belarus

*Donor: IOM*



From 30 to 31 August 2005, a workshop was held on the use of biometrics to address key migration challenges in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in Minsk, Belarus. The workshop was co-organized by IOM and the Belarus Ministry of Internal Affairs and initiated upon a request by the CIS Council of Ministers of Internal Affairs.

Biometric indicators, the measurable biological characteristics that make up a person's unique biological identity, such as facial images, fingerprints, and iris scans, are increasingly used to make traveller inspections more efficient and effective and promote orderly cross-border movements versus irregular crossings.

Irregular migration is a defining characteristic of migration in the CIS. According to estimates, up to 10 million irregular migrants could be spread throughout the region. An IOM report this year estimated there are 1.7 million people on the move in the Russian Federation from Central Asia alone.

### Denmark and IOM sign agreement on quota refugee resettlement

*Donor: Danish Immigration Service*

Additionally to transportation services, pre-departure health assessments will be provided by IOM for approximately 200 quota refugees from Jordan and Uganda to be resettled in

Denmark late this year as part of a new framework agreement signed between the Danish Immigration Service and IOM's regional office in Helsinki in September.

### Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs sponsors counter-trafficking project in the Kaliningrad Oblast

*Donor: Department for Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs*

The Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs has announced funding for an 18-month counter-trafficking project in the Kaliningrad Oblast of the Russian Federation. The project will involve an assessment of trafficking in the region and capacity building for law enforcement officials, NGOs, and social workers. The project will be implemented by the IOM Vilnius and IOM Moscow offices.

### Roma interviews document survivors' stories from Nazi and Stalinist repression in Latvia

*Donors: International Forced Labourers Documentation Project, German Foundation*



A member of the Roma community who was interviewed in the project © IOM 2005

Mrs. Ilze Daula\* was born in 1928 in Latvia. During the German occupation of Latvia from 1941 to 1945, Mrs. Daula was forced to work for the occupiers. Her work varied from road repair to airport work. Towards the end of the occupation there were rumours that all Roma in her neighbourhood would be killed. Fortunately, as German influence in the area decreased all Roma families in the neighbourhood survived.

Mr. Leonids Muktupavels\* was born in 1927 and moved from place to place with his family until 1941 when the Germans occupied Latvia. He remembers that a Latvian policeman who worked for the Germans came to their home and told them one person from each family had to come with him to work or they would all be killed. His mother was old and his father was blind.

Only aged 14, Mr. Muktupavels volunteered to go. Until 1945 he was forced to work in various locations in Latvia and Estonia on railway construction, trench digging, and wood cutting. In 1945 he was released. At a loss as to what to do, Mr. Muktupavels and some other prisoners went to the Russian army to get answers. He was instead branded a traitor because he had worked for the Germans and was sent to a Russian work camp for three years. Mr. Muktupavels has bitter memories of this time, in which he endured forced labour. On his return to Latvia his own mother didn't recognize him and he had forgotten his language.

These are two harrowing example of stories collected by staff at IOM offices in Latvia, but also Moldova, Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro, for a series of audio and video recorded interviews with former forced and slave labourers, including Roma survivors, to preserve their tragic personal experiences of persecution.

*\*Names have been changed.*

## **AGIS: Counter-trafficking training for Finnish border guards and police**

*Donor: EC AGIS programme*

In September participants from Finland attended a training course in Dublin on the identification and treatment of victims of trafficking in human beings. The training was organized by IOM Brussels as part of a project funded by the EC's AGIS 2004 Programme. The Finnish participants came from the National Bureau of Investigation, the Border Guard Headquarters, the Frontier Guard School, and the Police School. The training event was the first of three consecutive training events on victim identification and protection. Other participants came from throughout Europe and its neighbourhood, facilitating international cooperation in the fight against trafficking.

## **Moldovan study visit to North Karelia, Finland**

*Donor: EC TACIS Programme*

IOM Chisinau and IOM Helsinki organized a border guard study visit to Finland from 28 August to 1 September within the framework of the 'Enhancing Border Management in Moldova' project.



Moldovan participants and Finnish Border Guards in North Karelia, Finland © IOM 2005

Seven officials from the Moldovan Border Guard Service and two officials from the Moldovan National Migration Bureau,

accompanied by the IOM Chisinau Programme Coordinator, met with officials from the Finnish Ministry of Interior as well as the National Bureau of Investigation and the Aliens Police. The delegation also visited the North Karelia Border Guard District to learn about the Finnish Border Guard's activities on the EU's north-eastern external border between Finland and Russia. Participants learnt about Finnish legislation regulating migration and border management issues in accordance with EU principles.

## **Twelfth cycle on Border Management finishes in Baku**

*Donors: Switzerland, Japan, USA, and the Netherlands*

On 18 July 2005, a specialized training course on border management ended in Azerbaijan. IOM-employed trainers and relevant State Border Service (SBS) specialists conducted a one month intensive training course for 19 SBS officers responsible for traveller-processing at border checkpoints in Azerbaijan.

The training was part of the 'Capacity Building in Migration Management programme' and laid the groundwork for further development of national expertise in Azerbaijan in monitoring and reporting on illegal migration, examining fraudulent documents, training other staff in these functions, and sharing information with ministries at a national and international level. Since the course began in 2000, 283 trainees (32 of them women) were able to upgrade their professional skills.

## **IOM Helsinki launches its new website**

The IOM Regional Office in Helsinki launched its new website in November 2005. The website contains comprehensive information about IOM's activities in the region and much more. Check out the website at: [www.iom.fi](http://www.iom.fi).

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As the intergovernmental lead agency on migration management, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to:

- » Assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration;
- » Advance understanding of migration issues;
- » Encourage social and economic development through migration;
- » Uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

With some 250 field locations in over 100 countries and 112 Member States, IOM's activities correspond to the four main areas for managing migration: migration and development, facilitating migration, regulating migration, and forced migration. A number of cross-cutting activities relevant to each of these areas include technical cooperation and capacity building, protection of migrant rights, promotion of international migration law, research, policy debate and guidance, regional and international cooperation, public information and education, migration health, integration and reintegration.

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