

# IOM Helsinki e-Newsletter

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## Foreword by the Regional Representative

Welcome to the seventh edition of IOM Helsinki's quarterly e-Newsletter. IOM offices in the region have had a busy first half of the year as you can see from the articles in this newsletter. On behalf of my office I wish you all an enjoyable summer.

*Dr. Thomas Lothar Weiss*

## Training session for Estonian law enforcement officials on investigation and prosecution of human trafficking

*Donor: US State Department and the British Embassy in Riga*

The training session took place in Tallinn on 23-24 May with the participation of the Estonian Police, Border Guards, Ministry of Justice, Citizenship and Migration Boards, Tax and Custom Board, Prosecutor's Office, and Atoll NGO.



Training session for law enforcement officials in Estonia © IOM 2007

The main objective of the seminar was to share expertise between different countries on investigating and prosecuting human trafficking cases. Estonian law enforcement officials shared their experiences and listened to best practices from Ukraine, Italy, Malta, and Lithuania.

## Latvia: Conference on anti-discrimination legislation

*Donor: European Commission, Nordic Council of Ministers, and Finnish Ministry of Justice*

A conference on anti-discrimination legislation took place in Riga, Latvia, on 27 June. During the conference, which was part of the project "Judges Online – Capacity building for the judiciary through e-learning", some 35 participants and three key speakers

from nine European countries discussed the various challenges related to anti-discrimination legislation and its application.

The EC-funded "Judges Online"-project is coordinated by IOM Helsinki in cooperation with partners from Estonia, Finland, and Latvia and offers members of the judiciary opportunities to update their knowledge on anti-discrimination legislation through e-learning, thereby advancing a coherent and efficient application of the relevant laws, and, in turn, helping the integration of members of minority groups.

## Training on essentials of migration management in Ukraine

*Donors: European Union*

On 4-8 June IOM Kyiv, IOM's International Migration Law and Legal Affairs Department (IML), and IOM Headquarters in Geneva organized a training session on the Essentials of Migration Management (EMM) for government officials in Ukraine.

During the four-day training, Ukrainian officials were given the opportunity to discuss international migration law, development of migration legislation, passports and visa systems, management of operational data, as well as issues related to return migration and determination of migrant status and appeals systems. A one-day "training of trainers" session followed for future instructors in migration management.



Training on essentials of migration management © IOM 2007

The EMM is a learning tool written in non-technical language, which provides an overview of key elements of international migration management. It is intended to provide an accurate, interactive framework of references and instructions on

contemporary migration dynamics, policies, and trends. Intended for independent study, the training package aims to facilitate the work of government policy makers, academics, and relevant actors.

## Training on safe migration and trafficking risks for Lithuanian and Cambodian youth leaders

*Donor: Irish Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

One of the issues Lithuanian and Cambodian youth have in common is the risk of human trafficking. Around 1000 women are trafficked from Lithuania every year; some 500 children are sent back from Thailand to Cambodia every month after being caught as beggars and illegal workers in markets and factories. Governments, international organizations, and local NGOs are trying to limit the phenomenon and provide assistance to the victims.



Youth leaders from Lithuania and Cambodia © IOM 2007

IOM Vilnius' experiences in running youth campaigns against trafficking demonstrates that youth can play a positive role in preventing trafficking. Two local youth organizations (*Self-fish* from Lithuania and *Youth Star Cambodia* from the Kingdom of Cambodia) were selected to participate in a project developed by IOM in Lithuania. A three-day training seminar in Phnom Penh familiarized youth leaders from both countries with migration and human trafficking issues and developed their project development and implementation skills. The training enabled students to develop three small IOM-funded counter-trafficking projects to be implemented in Lithuania and two provinces in Cambodia. These projects will inform local communities about the risks of irregular migration and provide information about safe migration opportunities as well as organizations helping victims of trafficking.

## Moldova – Abandoned people throughout the country

*Donors: European Commission under the AENEAS project and Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

Thousands of people throughout Moldova are being invited to watch the screen version of the play "Abandoned People", written by the well-known dramatist, Dumitru Crudu. The initiative

is part of a nation-wide information campaign aimed at countering irregular migration.

Based on real stories about the massive emigration of Moldovan citizens, the screen version of "Abandoned People" is being shown in over 140 small towns and villages throughout Moldova followed by facilitated discussions with the audience. In the framework of this campaign, over 70 representatives of Youth Local Councils and IOM Moldova volunteers were trained to organize video screenings and facilitate discussions.

This initiative has been developed in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Youth of Moldova, as well as with the Ministry of Economy and Trade, through the network of the National Employment Agency. In addition to the video presentations and debates, brochures will be distributed and photos from the play will be exhibited.

## Mobile phone operators join the counter-trafficking battle in Ukraine

*Donor: Astelit, KyivStar GSM, and UMC*

On 25 April IOM Kyiv and three leading mobile phone operators in Ukraine signed an agreement that paves the way for a partnership against human trafficking.

As a first step, the three companies, Astelit, KyivStar GSM, and UMC, have initiated a toll-free phone number - 527 - which routes all calls to a free IOM service providing information on the current realities and dangers facing migrants abroad including human trafficking and the consequences of irregular entry and stay in foreign countries. Migrants will also get information on legal methods of migration.

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 320 field locations and 120 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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