

IOM Helsinki e-Newsletter

Issue no 6, [March 2007]

Foreword by the Regional Representative

Welcome to the sixth edition of IOM Helsinki's quarterly e-Newsletter. 2007 promises to be a challenging year for IOM offices in the region, which are involved with an increasingly wide range of migration issues. I trust this brief newsletter gives you a taste of some of them.

Dr. Thomas Lothar Weiss

IOM Helsinki launches pilot project on country of origin information for the Directorate of Immigration of Finland

Donor: Finnish Directorate of Immigration (UVI)

In this project, IOM provides country of origin information to the Finnish Directorate of Immigration upon request. The service will be piloted for six months in the following countries: Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, the Somaliland region of Somalia, and the three northern governorates of Iraq. The information obtained will be used by UVI officials to assist them in decision making and operative planning in immigration and citizenship matters.

Cluster Process meeting to take place 14-15 March in Tbilisi

Donor: EU Aeneas Programme with co-funding from Finland, Germany, and the Czech Republic

The meeting is the second of three meetings planned in the framework of the IOM project "Informed Migration: An Integrated Approach to Promoting Legal Migration through National Capacity-Building and Inter-Regional Dialogue between the South Caucasus and the EU". The Cluster Process consists of informal consultative meetings gathering representatives of ministries in countries of origin, transit, and destination for migration flows from the South Caucasus to discuss common challenges and enhance international cooperation through practical actions, on for example, the issues of readmission agreements, voluntary return and reintegration of migrants, and promotion of legal migration.

Involving youth organizations in counter-trafficking activities in Lithuania and Cambodia

Donors: Irish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

This project aims not only to familiarize students with human trafficking and migration issues but also to provide youth leaders with knowledge on how to do preventive work. The partner organizations are based in Lithuania and Cambodia, which are

both countries of origin, transit, and destination for human trafficking.

During the training phase youth organizations from Lithuania and Cambodia will share their experience in the field of counter-trafficking and will receive training on project development and implementation from IOM staff. Following this they will implement small scale counter-trafficking projects in order to test their acquired skills practically. IOM staff will encourage the continued sharing of experiences between the youth organizations involved in the project.

PIELAMI project report released

Donors: EC's Argo Programme, Finnish Ministry of Labour, IOM



PIELAMI Conference in Helsinki © IOM 2006

The final report of the PIELAMI project (Cooperation on Preventing Illegal Employment of Labour Migrants with a View to Promoting Legal Employment Opportunities) was published in December, bringing together the working papers on the situation in Finland, Latvia, and North West Russia, a summary of the seminar held on 20-21 November, and other relevant information from the project. The project report can be downloaded from <http://iom.fi/content/view/159/8/>

Chisinau Rehabilitation Centre moves to new government owned premises

Donor: Sida, Danish MFA, World Childhood Foundation Läkarmissionen, Italian MFA, and contributions from the private sector

Moving the Chisinau Rehabilitation Centre (RC) to new premises came from the need to build the capacity of the government to

become more engaged in the social protection, rehabilitation, and integration of trafficked persons.



New Chisinau Rehabilitation Centre © IOM 2006

Over the past six years the IOM Chisinau Direct Assistance Programme has assisted more than 1,900 victims of trafficking. The RC is generally the first contact point for trafficked persons returning home to Moldova after a dreadful migration experience abroad. The RC provides temporary shelter in a safe and welcoming environment. During their stay at the centre, residents can benefit from a wide range of “in-house” medical, psychological, social, legal, educational, and recreational services.

Lithuania: Research on the gender aspects of migrant family separation

Donor: Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Recognizing that family separation is one of the most worrying outcomes of increased labour migration from Lithuania in recent years, IOM and partners are carrying out research using a gendered approach; looking at the ways in which women, men, and children are affected by family separation resulting from migration for labour purposes.

When this innovative research is finalized, IOM will present the findings and recommendations to relevant state institutions in Lithuania, NGOs working for migrants and gender issues, and politicians and authorities of the main destination countries. Additionally, a documentary will be shot in Lithuania and in migrant Lithuanian communities abroad by an independent film studio to look at the problems faced by separated migrant families.

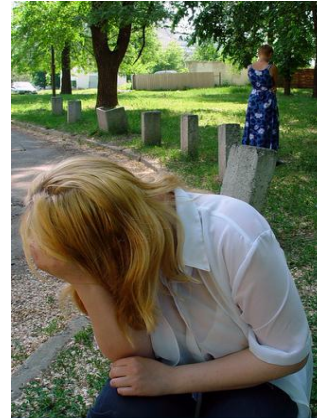
Anti-trafficking awareness raising campaign for youth launched in Latvia

Donor: UK Embassy in Riga

The purpose of this three month programme, launched by IOM Riga in December 2006, is to raise awareness among potential labour migrants in Latvia, especially youth (aged 15-19), about

the risks of human trafficking for both sexual and non-sexual forms of exploitation.

Staff from IOM Riga and IOM Helsinki travelled to London in January to collect information about the risks related to labour migration for Latvian migrants. Counterparts in the UK Police, the Home Office, the Latvian Embassy, and the anti-trafficking Poppy Project emphasized the need for migrants to be well-prepared before leaving Latvia, with a good understanding of the costs of living in the UK, good English language skills, and realistic expectations about working abroad.



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Based on the fact-finding visit to London and a public opinion poll, the information campaign will include the distribution of information materials in Latvian and Russian, three information sessions for high-risk groups, and, in cooperation with the State employment agency, two information fairs on working abroad.

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 280 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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