

We hope that this finds you and your colleagues, families and loved ones in good health. This newsletter will provide you an insight into the work of IOM in Austria and the world. We wish you an interesting read!

Open Air Human Rights Fair in Vienna

To mark the 30th anniversary of the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights, a high-level symposium entitled “Vienna World Conference 30 Years On: Our Rights – Our Future” took place in Vienna on 6 June 2023. As a side event for the general public, an Open Air Human Rights Fair was organized at Vienna’s MuseumsQuartier (MQ).

To promote human rights among the general public, the Austrian Ministry for European and International Affairs in partnership with the United Nations in Vienna, as well as other national and international organizations, hosted an Open Air Human Rights Fair on 5 and 6 June at the MuseumsQuartier in Vienna.

The objective of the fair was to create a space for people to learn, reflect and engage with various experts in the field of human rights as well as to promote a greater understanding and knowledge about human rights.

The IOM booth attracted many visitors who were eager to do a quiz on migration and to learn about IOM’s work in Austria and the world. Many students visiting the fair engaged in discussions about the importance of migrants’ rights, and tourists and locals alike appreciated the opportunity to have informal exchanges with migration experts. We touched upon the question of who is a migrant, which rights do migrants have, and how important non-discrimination is for migrants.

In case you missed this event, feel free to learn more about IOM’s work via our [website](#) or by following our [Twitter account](#).

We would like to thank all visitors of the IOM booth for their interest in our work and for acknowledging the fact that migrants’ rights are human rights.



More information on this event and the symposium „Vienna World Conference 30 Years On: Our Rights - Our Future“ is available on this website: www.vienna30.at

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Human Rights Fair in Vienna
- ◆ Stories of Return & Reintegration
- ◆ Integration Project Updates
- ◆ Counter-Trafficking Project Info
- ◆ SDG Summit 2023
- ◆ Skills Mobility Partnerships (SMPs)
- ◆ European Migration Network (EMN)



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An IOM colleague with our quiz on migration.
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ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN & REINTEGRATION (AVRR)

A Booklet on Stories of Return and Reintegration: New Publication on Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration from Austria

Within the framework of the project [RESTART III*](#), IOM Austria compiled a booklet on [Stories of Return and Reintegration](#) in cooperation with stakeholders from the return and reintegration field. This includes key players within Austria such as the Ministry of the Interior (Mol) or Caritas Austria, as well as the respective reintegration partners in the countries of return. The Ministry of the Interior recently presented the booklet in the framework of a press conference by highlighting that a return can offer new perspectives but can also be challenging and concerning.

The booklet provides an insight into the life of eleven migrants who voluntarily returned from Austria to their countries of origin in different regions of the world with the support of the Austrian return and reintegration system. Through their return stories, migrants share their personal experiences. They reflect the diversity of people of various ages and backgrounds, with various reasons for returning as well as the realities in different regions and countries.

One example is the story of a 29-year-old migrant who returned to Tunisia last year. With the help of IOM and the reintegration assistance, he was able to open a shop where he rents decoration items for ceremonies, especially marriages. In the beginning, he felt disappointed and angry about his return. However, once he arrived in Tunisia, he was welcomed very warmly by his family, who keeps on supporting him. Even though he generates a small salary with his business, he is content with it and would like to expand the services and buy more items which he can offer for rent to clients.



Mr. W. in his shop in Tunisia, where he rents out decoration items for ceremonies. © IOM Austria 2023

**The project [RESTART III - Support for the Austrian return system and the reintegration of voluntary returnees](#) is co-financed by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) of the European Union and the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior.*



 **Federal Ministry
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Project WIR IV - Workshops on Integration and Encounters

What moves our participants this year?

Following the kick-off event in April, where interested young people could get to know our [WIR project](#) better, the thematic workshops took place from May until the beginning of June. This year we work with a group of girls and a group of boys, and each group spends four days separately, exploring different topics. Unlike in previous years, when the focus was on young people with a Chechen background, the 2023 workshops are aimed at migrant youth with diverse backgrounds. A central topic was the reflection of expectations that young people must deal with in their families and communities, at school and in society or the media. In the workshops, the young people were able to share their personal experiences in a safe space and to become aware of their own role in different contexts. They also asked themselves how to deal with discrimination, high family expectations and misrepresentation in the media and how to make their own perspectives more visible.

After these workshops, both groups took a joint excursion to the „Documentation Center Islamophobia and Anti-Muslim Racism“ (in German: [Dokustelle Islamfeindlichkeit und antimuslimischer Rassismus](#)). During the workshops at the end of June, both groups learned about media production and worked together on a joint media product.

We will inform you about the creative ways the young people chose to share their stories, opinions and ideas in our next newsletter.



Workshop participants designing a poster during a workshop on media competence in June 2023.
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Motivated multipliers offered workshops in schools

This year also saw a one-day workshop on “Designing and Moderating”, followed by extensive brainstorming- and mentoring-sessions, which supported young people with a migrant background on their way to holding their own workshops. Through engaging the pupils in conversations about identity and belonging, as well as on how to prevent discrimination and mobbing in schools, they enhanced their presentation skills and inspired their peers. In total, five school workshops were offered in middle and high schools in Vienna and Schwechat and were well received by pupils and teachers alike.

The next multipliers' training for young people with a migrant background (aged 16-19) will take place in September 2023. Training and registration dates will soon be announced on the WIR IV project [Instagram channel](#).

„I was impressed by the self-confident appearance of the two young women and by their good methodology!“
(School teacher, Vienna)



Multiplier Nora (17) discusses questions about identity and belonging with pupils in a Viennese school.
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COUNTER TRAFFICKING & SOCIAL INCLUSION:

Project “Asyl-Train II” comes to a successful close

After more than three years, the project [Asyl-Train II: Trainings for identifying trafficked persons and acquiring intercultural competences in the Austrian asylum procedure](#), which began implementation on 1 January 2020, came to an end on 30 April 2023.

The project aimed to contribute to the overall management of migration and asylum in Austria by improving:

- the identification, referral and protection of trafficked migrants and asylum seekers and
- intercultural competences and understanding among Austrian asylum and migration actors.

The project focused on providing targeted training sessions to actors in the Austrian migration and asylum system, including the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum (BFA) and the Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services (BBU GmbH) as well as other actors. Beyond trainings, the project also contributed to the policy dialogue on the protection of trafficked persons in the context of transfers according to the Dublin III Regulation (No 604/2013).

Overall, the project reached 741 participants through 46 training sessions, which significantly surpassed the target numbers foreseen at the beginning of the project. Building on the initial training series on human trafficking and on intercultural competences, new training sessions were developed on communication skills, on sensitization to radicalization and on sociocultural insights in various regions. Starting in spring 2022, the project also offered brief informational sessions on the emerging risks of human trafficking stemming from the war in Ukraine.

In addition, based on the constructive dialogue initiated through the project, the BFA adapted its internal guidance document on Dublin transfer decision to include a new chapter on protections for trafficked persons.

The training will continue to have a positive impact on the migration and asylum system in Austria even after the end of the project. On the one hand, victim protection agencies and the police, who act as co-trainers in the training sessions on human trafficking, stated throughout the project that the sessions had led to increased referrals of cases of suspected trafficking. On the other hand, participants themselves stated in a long-term evaluation that they continue to use the knowledge and skills gained long after the trainings have ended. For example, participants in the trainings on intercultural competences attested a better understanding of their counterparts and an increased ability to successfully deal with conflict situations.

The project team would like to thank all co-trainers, participating stakeholders and individual participants for their contributions to the project!



The trainings employed interactive methods to ensure relevance for day-to-day work. Left: Participants in a training on intercultural competences using different forms of greeting. Right: The results of what participants associate with human trafficking. © IOM Austria 2023



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG) SUMMIT 2023

On 18 and 19 September 2023, during the United Nations General Assembly high-level week, Heads of State and Government will gather at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Marking the mid-point of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and three years into the Decade of Action, this [SDG Summit](#) comes at a time of unprecedented challenges. According to the UN Secretary General, only 12 percent of the SDGs targets are on track; close to 50 percent, though showing progress, are moderately or severely off track and some 30 percent have either seen no movement or have regressed below the 2015 baseline.

For IOM, the SDG Summit 2023 is of high priority. Human mobility in all its dimensions is essential to the delivery of the 2030 Agenda: Managed well, migration can be a cornerstone of sustainable development, prosperity, and progress. People on the move – one in eight people in the world – are part of the solution.

The Summit will mark the beginning of a new phase of accelerated progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals with high-level political guidance on transformative and accelerated actions leading up to 2030. IOM proposes six Acceleration Actions that directly address foundational drivers to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. One such Acceleration Action is skills development and the facilitation of mutual recognition of formal and informal skills, qualifications and competences of people on the move to meet the demands and needs of a changing global labour market and divergent demographic trends; another is integrating human mobility into national adaptation plans, investing in preparedness and means to address loss and damages, reducing conflict and climate induced displacement and building resilient and peaceful societies capable of adapting to the impacts of climate change and violence.

IOM is already providing support to Governments and other stakeholders across the six Acceleration Actions through its different programmes and projects that span the thematic work across the humanitarian, development and peace dimensions.

Migration is an accelerator of inclusive growth and sustainable development, enriching societies through human, socio-economic and cultural capacities, and in the response and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. However, this is only possible when migration is well managed, and governments ensure migration policies and practices are rights-based, and coherent with existing legal frameworks including international human rights law and international labour standards and looking towards healthy and prosperous societies. To realize the 2030 Agenda, the human rights of migrants must be protected, respected and fulfilled at all times, regardless of migration status and across all stages of the migration cycle. More info: [Migration, Sustainable Development & the 2030 Agenda](#)



New Project:

Paving the Way for the Creation of Skills Mobility Partnerships in Austria

In May 2023, the Research and Migration Law Unit has started the project [Paving the Way for the Creation of Skills Mobility Partnerships in Austria](#). Skills Mobility Partnerships (SMPs) describe cooperation agreements or arrangements between states that promote skills development and skills-based mobility for the benefit of migrants, states, employers, training and education institutions and communities. The project aims to contribute to the development of sustainable skills mobility schemes in Austria, ensuring mutual benefits to all parties involved. The main output of the project will be the publication of a study in September 2023, which assesses the feasibility of SMPs in Austria.

More information on our work in the area of Research and Migration Law is available on our [website](#).

New European Migration Network (EMN) Publication:

Access to the Labour Market & Labour Market Integration of Asylum-Seekers in Austria

The study deals with access to the labour market and labour market integration of asylum-seekers in Austria. First, it addresses the timing and requirements for access to employment and self-employment. Second, it looks into laws, policies and measures to ensure that access to the labour market, if granted, can actually take place. Based on statistics, expert interviews, and analyses, key challenges and possible solutions are highlighted.

Country Report Austria ([German/English](#)) | Order a printed copy free of charge ([German/English](#))



European Migration Network (EMN): EU Migration Talks

Prospects for Displaced Persons in Non-EU First Reception & Transit Countries

On the occasion of the publication of the EMN Inform [Prospects for Displaced Persons in Non-EU First Reception and Transit Countries](#), EMN Austria, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of the Interior, organized a panel discussion on 8 May 2023. The discussion aimed at illuminating national strategies, present new findings, and address future challenges in the complex relationship between migration, displacement, and development. One of the key topics explored was how donor countries like Austria can effectively connect support measures to enhance the living conditions of displaced persons and the local communities hosting them. To learn more about the panelists, please refer to the following [link](#).



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