

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



International Migrants Day

On International Migrants Day (18 December 2023), we reflect on and celebrate the contributions of millions of migrants worldwide.

People on the move are powerful drivers for development in both their origin and destination countries, as workers, students, entrepreneurs, family members, artists, and much more. Migrants often maintain strong connections to their home countries while embracing their new communities, where they bring a wealth of knowledge, experience and skill.

If managed well, mobility can be a cornerstone of sustainable development, prosperity and progress. Unlocking migration's potential is key to accelerating efforts to meet the significant challenges of the 2030 Agenda articulated during the Sustainable Development Goal summit in New York in September 2023, for the benefit of all.

There is an urgent need for the international community to provide people-centred and evidence-based solutions for people to remain in their communities, and for those who want to or must move.

The recently completed COP28 summit in Dubai provided the opportunity for IOM to advocate again for the impact of climate change on migrants to be a central part of this discussion. Promoting equal and inclusive partnerships with migrants, women, persons with disabilities and communities, while emphasizing the role of youth, is now more critical than ever.

On this International Migrants Day, IOM aims to position migration as one of the solutions to global challenges, such as adapting to the impacts of climate change or providing better economic opportunities for communities.

Every person can make a difference. Every person can be an agent of change. Together, our collective actions today, will prepare us for a better tomorrow.

Please visit [IOM's International Migrants Day website](https://www.iom.int/migrants-day) for more information.

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FROM HERE
by Christina Antonakos-Wallace (2020, 89 min, English OV)

Monday, 18 December 2023 | 6:30 p.m.
Top Kino, Rahlgasse 1, 1060 Vienna

Admission free | No bookings taken | Admission is first come, first served | Please come early
Accessible for persons with a mobility disability

To mark International Migrants Day and the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and as part of IOM's Global Migration Film Festival, the United Nations Information Service (UNIS) Vienna in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), invites you to the Cine-ONU Vienna screening of the film 'From Here', followed by a panel discussion.

More information about 'Cine-ONU Vienna': <https://unis.vienna.org/unis/en/events/CINE-ONU.html>



Day of Return and Reintegration 2023

In November 2023, IOM Austria organized the 'Day of Return and Reintegration'. For the first time, the conference was held as a two-day-event at Parkhotel Schönbrunn. Together with its partners - the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior (Mol) and the Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services (BBU) – IOM Austria was proud to welcome more than 200 participants to this informative conference on developments within the return and reintegration field. The primary aim to create room for dialogue and exchange between relevant stakeholders was highly appreciated by the attendees. Participants from the BBU - beside return counsellors also staff members of the basic care and legal advice units - as well as representatives from IOM, the Mol, Frontex, UNHCR and Caritas were actively involved in the discussions around the topic.

The first day of the conference was dedicated to return-related matters. Presentations about recent trends in the area were provided by partners such as the BBU, Mol and Frontex. The latter has become an additional active player within voluntary return and reintegration over the last years by providing support to EU member states. The presentations were followed by interactive workshops in the afternoon, in which participants discussed different return counselling settings.

The second day focused on reintegration. Partners from various countries of origin, such as India, Pakistan and Uzbekistan, presented their working modalities as well as country-specific (pre-)conditions and procedures. Attendees actively participated in subsequent Q&A sessions, and expanded their cross regional knowledge. The final panel discussion on the future of reintegration opened the floor for innovative and creative reintegration approaches. On this occasion, the panellists highlighted once again the importance of a diversity of actors and their continued cooperation among each other within the return and reintegration processes.

This year's conference again showed the great importance of return counsellors and their work to ensure high quality within return and reintegration settings. IOM Austria is already looking forward to next year's event, which will represent the fifth anniversary of the day of return and reintegration.

Further information on IOM Austria's AVRR activities can be found on our [website](#) and in the upcoming [AVRR newsletter](#).



Group picture with return counsellors from the BBU on the first day. ©BMI/Gerd Pachauer 2023



COUNTER TRAFFICKING (CT)

Child trafficking: New training course for Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum



Children who experience exploitation and abuse while on the move ...

Children who lodge an asylum claim and subsequently disappear from their accommodation centers...

Children who are knowingly exploited by their relatives or even by their parents...

Children who use irregular migration channels – particularly unaccompanied children – encounter numerous risks that can lead to exploitation and child trafficking. In Austria, the high number of unaccompanied minors in the asylum procedure highlights the need for officials of the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum (BFA) to be aware of risks of child trafficking and how to protect children and refer potential cases of exploitation to specialized care.

In December 2023, IOM held an online training session on child trafficking for BFA employees together with the Criminal Intelligence Service, the LEFÖ Intervention Center for Trafficked Women, ECPAT Austria and the Drehscheibe crisis center of the City of Vienna. The session, which is an addition to the standard training on human trafficking that IOM provides to the BFA, covered known forms of child trafficking in Austria, risks of trafficking, how to identify victims and the role of the BFA in protecting children.

Participants appreciated the many practical case studies and the interactive modality of the training and confirmed that the session will aid them in their daily work.

The training will be held again in 2024. More information on IOM Austria's Counter-Trafficking activities is available on our [website](#).

INTEGRATION / LABOUR MOBILITY & SOCIAL INCLUSION

Podcast series with a focus on integration

The LMI (Labour Mobility and Social Inclusion) Unit at IOM Austria contributes to enhancing understanding of migration and integration topics. Recently, the Provincial Government of Burgenland invited IOM Austria's Head of the LMI Unit Ondine Delavelle to contribute to a podcast episode of their integration podcast on "The European Human Rights Convention (EHRC) and Integration". The first two episodes introduced the topic of integration in general and set the scene with a historic review of integration in Burgenland. In the third episode, Ondine explores the links between the EHRC and integration: Why is protection from discrimination crucial for integration? What role does the right to private and family life play in the context of integration? What does it all have to do with freedom of expression?

You can listen to the third episode [here](#).



Ondine Delavelle & Sanya Neinawaie, Head of Department Integration and Older Generation at the Provincial Government of Burgenland. © IOM 2023

New workshops series

IOM Austria's project WIR IV - with core activities being workshop series for young people with a migration background – offered a workshop series in cooperation with the *Berufsförderungsinstitut (bfi)* Vienna.

From October to December 2023, a total of ten workshop sessions with 36 participants were held in two gender-segregated groups. The participants were young apprentices with a migration background. The young people exchanged ideas in discussion rounds and interactive exercises on topics such as identity, discrimination, terms of honor and fake news. In the last workshop session, they creatively implemented the topics and created a clip using the so-called Stop Motion technique, which brings previously set up collages to life.

You can find out more about the WIR project on our [website](#) and on [Instagram](#).



Workshop participants at bfi creating a Stop Motion Clip. © IOM 2023

WIR Closing Event: Yallah, let's talk!

This year's closing event marked the festive end of the workshop series that took place between April and July 2023 under the title "Yallah, let's talk!". During the closing event, the short film "10 Cent", which young people produced in media workshops, was presented to the public. "10 Cent" tells the story of a comedy of mistaken identity in the context of everyday racism.

At the event, which took place on October 13 at the Skydome Wiener Hilfswerk, five of the participants talked on stage about their experiences during the workshops and answered questions from the audience. This was a special and new task for them, which they took on with confidence.

All WIR IV films (2 from Graz and 2 from Vienna) will be published on the [WIR project's YouTube channel](#) soon.

You can find out more about the WIR project on our [website](#) and on [Instagram](#).



Young participants present their short films at the closing event. © IOM 2023



Skills Mobility Partnerships in Austria

In October 2023, IOM Austria published a study assessing the feasibility of Skills Mobility Partnerships (SMPs) in Austria. SMPs are an innovative tool to share the benefits of migration and mobility between sending and receiving countries and to achieve shared benefits for migrants, employers, and the society as a whole. In practice, SMPs represent cooperation platforms through which sending and receiving countries invest in partnership to train workers for both labor markets.

Based on theoretical and empirical analyses, the study found that relevant stakeholders in Austria and in potential partner countries have great interest in SMPs, but that there are also major obstacles to the practical implementation. Building up on the conclusions, the study outlines concrete steps for the establishment of SMPs with Austria as well as two practical SMP examples with India and Indonesia.

To further discuss the results of the feasibility study, IOM Austria organized a dialogue forum on 27 November 2023 in cooperation with the Federation of Austrian Industries and the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber. More than 30 representatives from public institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector and research institutions reflected the recommendations for concrete next steps, focusing on potential barriers and possible solutions as well as best practices.

The project was implemented with the kind support of the ERSTE Foundation, the Federation of Austrian Industries and the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber.



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VEREINIGUNG**



WIRTSCHAFTSKAMMER ÖSTERREICH



EU Migration Talks: Trend Barometer Migration and Asylum 2023

Displaced persons from Ukraine in Austria

On 14 November 2023, EMN Austria organized an online event in which six experts from academia, international organizations, NGOs and national authorities reflected how the (integration) situation of displaced Ukrainians in Austria has developed. Building on the findings of last year's EU Migration Talks event, at which targeted integration measures for displaced persons from Ukraine in Austria were discussed, over 80 participants learned to what extent the Austrian measures have met expectations. Among the challenges identified by the speakers were – for example – the extension of the displaced person status, the transfer to a subsequent residence permit, access to the labour market and the housing situation. As the war in Ukraine will continue to have an impact on the Austrian society, Ukrainians need continuous support, and it is necessary to make political decision-makers aware of the existing challenges. Find a short summary (in German) of the presentations here.



Funded by the
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**Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria**
Interior

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