MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE HEADS OF THE COMPETENT STRUCTURES OF THE COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANIZATION ON COMBATING IRREGULAR MIGRATION

On February 25, 2011 the 9th Meeting of the Coordinating Council of the Heads of the Competent Structures of the Collective Security Treaty Organization dealing with the issues of combating irregular migration was conducted. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Romodanovskiy, Director of the Federal Migration Service of Russia. Mr. Borduzha, General Secretary of the CSTO, took part in the meeting.

One of the topics of the agenda was devoted to the comparative analysis of the legislation of the CSTO member states in the area of combating irregular migration and human trafficking, implemented by IOM Moscow. The main objective of the comparative analysis was to assess the legislation of the CSTO member states on its compliance to the international standards and development of recommendations on bringing the legislation in line with the respective standards.

Results of the analysis were highly appreciated by the participants. Thus, the CSTO General Secretary emphasized that the CSTO assesses this work as a practical implementation of the Protocol on Cooperation between IOM and CSTO (signed on July 26, 2006) and agreements achieved during the meeting of the Heads of the Secretariats of the CSTO and Interparliamentary Assembly with the IOM General Secretary (February 16, 2009).

Mr. Nikolay Borduzha said: "Today we are at the end of the process and I would like to say that this earnest and huge work was done in accordance to all rules of judicial science and judicial techniques. I believe that this material would become an excellent support for the members of the parliaments of our states who are dealing with the issues of development of the legislation in the area of combating irregular migration and prevention of human trafficking."

On 07 April 2011 materials were presented during the meeting of the Permanent Commission on Socio-Economic and Legal Issues of the CSTO Parliamentary Assembly.

Training Workshops within the Project aiming to enhance cooperation between stakeholders and facilitate further development between potential partners

Two training workshops were conducted under the Project egis by the project team together with invited international experts and in close cooperation with Rosgranitsa in Belgorod (February 10-11) and Saint-Petersburg (March, 10-11).

Training workshop “Enhancing cooperation on developing border checkpoints and providing joint controls at the border checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border”

In Belgorod on February 10-11, 2011 IOM Moscow project team with the support of Central Regional Office of Rosgranitsa conducted a scheduled two-day training workshop on “Enhancing cooperation on developing border checkpoints and providing joint controls at the border checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border”. The workshop was attended by the staff of Rosgranitsa Central Regional Office and its Public Council, representatives of Belgorod Administration and Regional Duma, personnel of Belgorod Customs Department and Border Guards, Director of Rosgranstroy Bryansk branch, Director of European Study Institute under MGIMO (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) of Russia and representatives of Ukrainian Border Guards.

The main tasks of the Workshop were to present best practical European experience in Integrated Border Management, mechanisms of cooperation on local, regional and international levels, as well as to learn the basic principles of conducting joint controls at the border checkpoints by the representatives of control authorities from different countries in order to facilitate crossing the state border.

IOM Moscow Project Coordinator Mr. Sergei Brestovitskiy gave an overall review of the current project “Enhancement of Management of the Russian Federation Border Checkpoints” implemented by IOM Moscow and Rosgranitsa and financed by European Union.

During the Workshop numerous presentations were made by the participants. In particular, an invited expert Mr. Frantz Prutsch, IOM Vienna Technical Cooperation Specialist for Europe and Central Asia brought to everyone’s attention modern solutions on enhancing security and facilitating control procedures while crossing the border. Mr. Maris Domins, Chief of the International Cooperation Unit, State Border Guards of the Republic of Latvia, in his presentations described practical methods used by the Latvian Border Guards in the field of optimization of crossing the border by the residents of neighboring countries. World Customs Organization Research analyst Maria Polner reported on Coordinated Border Management and gave a review of some of the WCO activities aimed at facilitating and synchronizing customs procedures.

The first day of the Workshop was closed by the report of Mr. Sergey Onoprienko, Chief of Check Points Section, Border Control Department of Ukrainian SBGS Administration, on Ukrainian Border Guards views on technical aspects of joint border control in checkpoints at Russian-Ukrainian border.

The second day of the Workshop commenced with a study tour to an International Land Border Checkpoint “Nekhoteevka”. On the spot the participants had a chance to learn about the activities, facilities and technical equipment of the border checkpoint.

The Workshop resulted in several practical recommendations by IOM experts aimed at tackling issues faced by control and other concerned authorities of Russia and Ukraine in the field of developing border checkpoints and providing joint controls at the border checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border.

The workshop was covered by regional mass media.

Training workshop “Enhancing cooperation and expertise exchange in the development of the international projects in the field of border management”

In St. Petersburg on March, 10-11 2011 a training workshop “Enhancing cooperation and expertise exchange in the development of the international projects in the field of border management” organized by IOM Moscow in close cooperation with its partner
Rosgranitsa took place. The workshop was attended by the staff of Rosgranitsa HQ and its North-West Regional Office, representative of the North-West Presidential Envoy of the Russian Federation, GMA “South-East Finland” delegate and representatives of neighboring Baltic countries.

The main tasks of the Workshop were to present best experience in the filed of projects’ development and implementation in the area of border management, application mechanisms and tools, as well as to learn the basic principles of project development with the special focus on EU practices.

Ms. Olga Romanova, Capacity Building Project Expert, in her presentation of the project activities gave a detailed explanation of the main goals and achievements as well as the tasks and issues which the Project team is presently facing.

International experts were invited to provide the participants with the most detailed reports on the raised topics. The presentations made by the speakers – delivered comprehensive overview of the best international experience and implementation tools. The presentations made by the participants led to active discussions and exchange of opinions. Particularly, the Presentations made by Mr. Psarev, Representative of GMA “South-East Finland”, Ms. Hollings and Ms. Buso representatives of IOM Brussels raised a genuine interest among the participants due to its' technical specifications and step-by-step guidance, as well as the provision of the invited expert Mr. Andris Rijkuris, Senior Specialist, Division of European Affairs and projects, Administration Department, State Border Guards of the Republic of Latvia, who brought to everyone’s attention the experience of Latvian concerned authorities in applying and implementing of the EU funded projects in the area of border management.

The second day of the Workshop was fully deducted to the training session moderated by Ms. Oksana Loginova, Project development trainee; Ms. Loginova gave an in-depth report about the basic principles of project development – its mechanisms, tools, schemes, risk analysis and potential achievements. The participants of the Workshops had a practical chance to train their skills in applying and working out project concepts and well as to report on the results and to share their views on the assigned topic.

According to Rosgranitsa representative, both training workshops will greatly contribute to working out proper solutions for the tasks that Rosgranitsa faces daily.

**PROJECT: “DEVELOPMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE MECHANISMS IN SUPPORT OF READMISSION OF MIGRANTS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION”**

Working meeting among representatives of the Federal Migration Service and the regional/city courts

On March 10, a working meeting among representatives of the Federal Migration Service, other competent authorities in the sphere of migration and human rights and the regional/city courts from Pskov, Rostov-on-Don and Moscow oblast was held in “Education method and readmission center Bolshevo”. The meeting was organized within the EU project “Development of Administrative Mechanisms in Support of Readmission of Migrants in the Russian Federation”, implemented by IOM Moscow jointly with FMS of Russia.

The initiative of such meeting has been put forward during a thematic “round table” in Rostov-on-Don, which took place in December 2010, during which further development of interagency cooperation in the field of readmission was discussed. In particular, representatives of the FMS of Russia and the leadership of the Department of the FMS of Russia in the Rostov region indicated that the main aspects of placement foreign citizens in the special facilities - readmission centers - should be elaborated on a joint meeting among representatives of the FMS of Russia and the courts of the regions where the readmission centers are functioning to develop concerted approaches and to discuss procedural and organizational issues.

This recommendation has been fully taken into account when organizing a working meeting in Readmission Centre “Bolshevo”. The following topics were discussed: legislative base for placing persons subject to readmission to the special facilities of FMS of Russia - readmission centers; specifics of placement in the centres of various categories of persons (third-country nationals and foreign nationals, subject to readmission identified in Russia, including those without documents or with forged documents; minors, etc.); procedure of extension of the period of stay in the readmission centres; improvement of legislation, proposals on amendments to the legislation; cooperation between governmental and non-governmental organizations including, ensuring the rights of migrants placed into the readmission centers, with the help of social structures - in particular, the possibility of creating observatory committees in the regions.
Representatives of the courts together with the FMS of Russia have worked on the issues of procedure and required documents to ensure the process of placing a foreign citizen subject to readmission in readmission centers.

Also, during the meeting experience in the same area of one of the countries of the European Union - Poland - was presented. The representative of the court of the town of Belaya Podleska, where the migrant detention centers is situated, told about the procedure of placement in the center; the interaction between the courts and competent authorities, as well as between governmental and non-governmental bodies; the possibility of filing appeals, and presented useful examples from judicial practice.

The participants welcomed the meeting, and noted that important practical results, contributing to the development of interagency cooperation in the field of readmission, have been achieved.

Technical meeting on personal data exchange in readmission process

On March 24, an expert technical meeting among competent Russian bodies on personal data exchange in readmission process was held in the premises of IOM Moscow.

At the meeting an analysis of the basic legal instruments of the European Union and the Russian Federation in the field of cross-border transmission of data was presented. During the discussion of the analysis the participants of the meeting concluded that it would be more appropriate to establish an information exchange of personal data via technical communication channels not between the FMS of Russia and representation of the EU Member State in Moscow (Embassy), as originally was intended, but directly between the competent authorities of the requesting and the requested country.

A report, prepared by the company working in the field of information technology, with a preliminary assessment of possible technical channels (to establish an information exchange of personal data directly between the FMS of Russian and the competent authority in the EU Member State) and the cost of some components of information exchange were presented.

At the end of the meeting it became obvious that this component is of interest from the point of view of workflow optimization. Russian competent authorities have proposed to consult with the EU on the possibility to continue work in this sphere.
CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL MIGRATION PROGRAMME

CARMP new publications

In March 2011 three new publications were published within the Central Asia Regional Migration Programme (CARMP).

- The publication "Issues of Provision of Medical Services to Foreign Nationals and Stateless Persons in the Russian Federation" is a collection of principal documents and materials of the Working Group on social, medical and legal issues of labour migrants, refugees and members of their families, coming to Russia from CIS countries.

Publication includes methodology and results of the survey on the attitude of labour migrants towards free-will medical insurance, which was done by the partner organizations of regional IOM missions in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

In the Russian Federation the survey was carried out by specialists of non-governmental organizations, working in the sphere of provision of information and consultative services to labour migrants – “Tajikistan” Foundation, Trade Union of Working Migrants, Civic Assistance Committee, Aga-Khan Foundation, Open Health Institute and others.

Publication also includes conclusions and recommendations on implementation of possible mechanisms of medical insurance for labour migrants coming to work to Russia; summarizes international, federal and regional legal documents, regulating provision of medical services to foreign nationals in the RF.

Electronic version of the publication is placed on IOM Moscow website www.iomrussia.ru , as well as on a website www.baromig.ru of a project “Migration Barometer in the RF” of “New Eurasia” Foundation.

Two publications – translations from English:

- “Compendium of Migrants’ Integration Policies and Practices”.

Publication is done by IOM in a format of a compilation of migrant integration policies and practices on a global scale, to show how different countries approach integration of migrants.

- “Opening Europe’s Doors to Unskilled and Low-Skilled Workers: a Practical Handbook”. Published by IOM Astana.

This study was commissioned from IOM by the Bureau of European Policy Advisers (BEPA) in order to provide an inventory of the admission and residence for unskilled and low-skilled third-country workers (ULSWs) entering labour markets of the 27 EU member states.

The research indicates that actions need to be taken at national and EU levels in order to create effective and flexible measures that would allow Member states to meet the existing need for third-country ULSWs.

Contest of Young Artists: “Drawings “Together We Fight against TB!”

In 2011 we mark 100 years since the first anti-TB Action in Russia “The White Flower of Life” with the symbol of white chamomile, known all over the world. The Russian Red Cross is one of the most active organizers and implementers of this Action.

This anniversary year the Russian Red Cross announced the all-Russia Contest of Children Drawings under the slogan “Together We Fight against TB!”, devoted to 24th of March - World TB Day .

This year the Bureau of IOM in Moscow joined the initiative of the contest organization, and on the 3rd of March IOM colleagues did a mini-performance for migrants’ children and their teachers in Moscow school of Russian language #1450. In course of the play children knew about the essence of the TB problem and about importance of joint fight against tuberculosis of medical workers and the society.

School pupils – are children from 6 to 10 years old with low level of Russian language. The majority are nationals of Vietnam, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Russian language teachers were requested by IOM to do a preparatory informative work with the children and study a topic “Health”, explaining new and difficult terminology in Russian.

The scenario of the performance based on the plot of the popular Russian children’s tale “Doctor Ai-Bolit”, which tells about the doctor who was curing cubs and small children and taught them what to do to stay strong and healthy. During the play IOM colleagues demonstrated colorful posters with Human Anatomy schemes and pictures showing TB prophylaxis measures.
Children have also took part in the brain storm play “Chamomile” – discussing the topic “How not to develop TB”. Children correctly named important measures for protection of own health and health of other people, and with pleasure treated themselves to fruits and biscuits.

In the end of the performance IOM colleagues announced the conditions of the contest of drawings and gave presents: materials for drawing for each child.

Teachers warmly thanked IOM staff members for the care and interest towards the kids and their health, and expressed desire for future cooperation.

On the 18th of March 2011 in the premises of the museum of the Russian Red Cross the jury of the Contest announced the winners. The winner was Daria Ideleva, a schoolgirl from Kaliningrad region. IOM Moscow has prepared ten prices for such achievements as “The Best Pencil-Work”, “For Thematic Presentation”, “For Originality”, the winners were awarded memorable gifts (plays and books). All migrants’ children received colorful certificated from IOM.

Laboratory assessment
During the fist quarter of 2011 IOM health assessments have been provided to persons at the request of migrant-receiving states before their departure. One of the main parts of examination is laboratory investigations which have been done in labs of proper medical institutions selected by IOM. The Migration Health Department of IOM Moscow is rendering the permanent support on a quality service monitoring of labs used by IOM missions for their applicants in states of post soviet area. To enhance the conveniences of health assessment in Chisinau the facility of the newly organized German Diagnostic Center (GDC), which takes up a fife-minute- walk position from the IOM office was identified as feasible for XR-examination, phlebotomy and laboratory investigations including syphilis serology screening. 19.01.11 the assessment was undertaken at the GDC clinical-diagnostic lab and specimen collections rooms by the IOM Moscow laboratory specialist. The key focuses for the evaluation were lab settings, equipment, procedures, protocols and quality assurance measures.

As a result of assessment visit the GDC laboratory (Chisinau) was evaluated as well-functioning and accurately equipped; it was confirmed to have capacity and experience to perform some investigations for IOM applicants including serology screening test for syphilis.

The observation fulfilled before has demonstrated the necessity of medical facility widening to successfully assess IOM applicants’ health in Lviv. During the annual visit to Ukraine 20-25.02.11 the IOM Moscow laboratory specialist gave attention to medical institutions that possessed laboratories which could be used for IOM applicants’ screening on infectious communicable diseases. The assessment visit was conducted to the Bacteriological Laboratory of the Lviv Regional Center of Phthisiopulmonology (further “TB lab”). The TB lab is placed on the ground floor of the main building of the Center. It occupies small-sized number of adapted rooms situated one after another along the corridor. The TB lab serves the 600 bed hospital and the clinic department of the Center, four TB dispensaries, a
psychiatric hospital and a prison. It has capacity to perform AFB microscopy, culture and drug susceptibility testing. In addition the lab carries out analyses on a clinical (nonspecific) and sanitary microbiology.

The TB laboratory of the Lviv Regional Center of Phthisiopulmonology of MoH of Ukraine can be selected as suitable to perform TB screening for IOM applicants after some performance-related improvements.

According to requests of receiving countries IOM HAPs assist in the detection of contagious infections such as HIV/AIDS and syphilis that may pose a risk to public health. In providing migrants’ health assessments in Lviv, IOM needs to choose laboratories for HIV and syphilis serology testing. The Lviv AIDS Center diagnostic laboratory (further - "the lab") was previously identified as potential facility for this task. The assessment visit was undertaken to the lab facilities by the IOM Moscow laboratory specialist for evaluation of a laboratory diagnostic capacity.

The lab was evaluated as satisfactorily functioning and accurately equipped. The trained staff informed about a sufficient experience on HIV testing. It was proved that the lab facilities could be used as suitable for HIV serology screening and confirmative investigations among IOM applicants.

World TB Day

24 March 2011 the representative of the IOM Moscow Migration Health Department took part in the press-conference devoted to the World TB Day in the News Agency “RIA NOVOSTI”. The World TB Day recognizes the global fight against TB. Across the world, communities are mobilizing, raising awareness, engaging with governments and encouraging donors to invest in TB control. This year the Organizing Committee proposed the slogan: No one should suffer from TB! This press conference was aimed to raise awareness of the general public, decision makers, governmental and nongovernmental bodies and the media about TB in Russia. L.A. Mikhailova, Deputy Director of the Department for Organization of Medical Prevention, Medical Care and Healthcare Development, the Ministry of Health and Social Development, Petr Yabloonsky, Chief Specialist in Thoracic Surgery and Phthisiatry of the Russian Ministry of Health and Social Development, Director of Saint Petersburg Research Institute of Phthisiopulmonology and Luigi Migliorini, WHO Special Representative to the Russian Federation spoke at the press conference.

The areas below were highlighted at the press conference:

- Update on TB and measures to control TB in Russia;
- Immediate issues and innovations in TB control in the Russian Federation;
- Progress and challenges of the effective TB control system in prisons;
- Antimicrobial resistance and role of international collaboration in improving TB control;
- Role of the civil society in fighting TB and supporting health authorities.

IOM took part in CDC training for US panel physicians

IOM US panel physician Eugeniya Kisliakova has participated in the training, which was organized and performed by the USA Division of Global Migration and Quarantine of the Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The training has been done for Panel Physicians who perform Medical Examination of Aliens to fulfill US Immigrant Visa Requirements all over the world. The event took place in Bangkok during March 28-31, 2011.

CDC has issued New Technical Instructions (TI) for the medical examination of aliens. During the training it was conveyed to the participants in detail. The new TIs are primarily directed at the use of new precision TB diagnostics. The aim is to reduce morbidity and mortality among immigrants and refugees and to prevent the introduction, transmission, and spread of communicable diseases into the United States. On average, more than 50,000 refugees relocate to the United States annually. They come from diverse regions of the world and bring with them health risks and diseases.
Physicians from different panel sites have discussed clinical cases, shared experience and opinions.

It was a unique possibility to meet and communicate with colleagues from all over the world and get acquainted with clinics and standards world-wide and compare with local conditions.

**MOSCOW PROGRAMME ON CULTURAL ORIENTATION**

Canadian Orientation Abroad (COA) has finalized another year of services provided to the Canada-bound refugees.

The 31st of March has marked the end of another year of services provided to the refugees by IOM Moscow Cultural Orientation team. As always, our seminars gathered a variety of people with different cultural backgrounds who reside in many countries of the former Soviet Union and who are now united by one common “Canadian” future.

In spite of the fact that most of our COA participants have relatives and friends Canada, they still do not know much about Canada as well as about conditions of the resettlement program. The COA participants were always eager to learn facts about Canadian history, geography, culture and legislation. The most actively discussed topics were education and language instruction, job opportunities and family issues (including family reunification, marriage and invitation of relatives to Canada). The COA facilitators also devoted much time to discussing the problems of adaptation and culture shock. The topics related to upbringing of children in the new country were very sought after by the participants.

**MOSCOW MIGRANTS’ PROCESSING AND MOVEMENT**

“IOM Moscow works with the Russian government, the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and various UNHCR offices and U.S. Embassies across Europe and the ex-USSR to implement a program of voluntary resettlement to the United States for migrants and refugees. Activities include receipt of applications, initial screening, supporting interviews with the U.S. Immigration Service, and assisting approved applicants with cultural orientation, placement in the USA with resettlement NGOs, arrival documentation, and departure.

The biggest beneficiary groups are (1) religious minorities from the ex-USSR joining immediate relatives already in the United States; (2) refugees referred for resettlement by the United Nations, including Afghan refugees in Central Asia, and Afghan and African refugees in Russia and Ukraine; and (3) African boat people stranded in Malta.

Comprehensive statistics for the period 01 January 2011 through 31 March 2011 are as follows:

- Applications received and processed: 1695 individuals
- Presented to DHS for status determination: 884 individuals
- Departures to the U.S.: 365 individuals

In total, IOM staff traveled to process cases, interview applicants, prepare files for interviews, assist U.S. government officials and provide Cultural Orientation in: Chisinau (Moldova), Kyiv (Ukraine), Malta, Paris (France) and Rome (Italy).”

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PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US.

IOM MOSCOW
2ND ZVENIGORODSKAYA STREET, 12
123100, MOSCOW
RUSSIAN FEDERATION

TEL.: +7 495 797-8722
FAX: +7 499 253-3522
IOMMOSCOW@IOM.INT
WWW.IOMRUSSIA.RU