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In March 2011 a new project “Support to Implementation of the EU Readmission Agreements with the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine: Facilitation of Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration” (SIREADA) was launched as a part of the EC Thematic programme on cooperation with third countries in the areas of migration and asylum. The project is implemented by IOM missions in the Russian Federation, Moldova and Ukraine in cooperation with relevant governmental counterparts. Activities planned for the project, a continuation of work on the areas identified in the course of previous thematic projects - “Assistance to the Government of the Russian Federation in Establishing Legal and Administrative Framework for the Implementation and Development of Readmission Agreements” and “Development of Administrative Mechanisms in Support of Readmission of Migrants in the Russian Federation”. The duration of the project is: 1 March 2011 – 28 February 2013.

The project aims at further development of the implementation of readmission agreements of the Russian Federation, Moldova and Ukraine with EU as well as promoting sustainable reintegration of voluntary returnees and serving the economic and political interests of countries of origin, transit and destination.

On March 17 a new project was launched on the conference in Kiev. On June 16 first national Steering Committee meeting took place. General goals and tasks of the project, timeframes, order of its implementation and ways of cooperation were discussed and agreed.

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

Technical visit to France

On April 4-8 a technical visit to France of representatives of the Russian authorities competent in the area of migration and readmission took place. The trip was organized within EU project “Development of Administrative Mechanisms in Support of Readmission of Migrants in the Russian Federation”, implemented jointly by IOM Moscow and FMS of Russia.

The Russian delegation, which consisted of representatives from FMS of Russia, State Duma, MFA of Russia, Office of Ombudsman as well as IOM Moscow, was welcomed by the representatives of Ministry of Interior of France, which is competent in the sphere of migration and readmission.

The parties discussed the current cooperation in the sphere of readmission and identified ways to improve practical mechanisms for cooperation between the competent authorities of the Russian Federation and France. Also, the participants exchanged information.
about the structure of the departments of both countries, presented statistics on migration and in particular, readmission, and discussed the practical aspects and working mechanisms in the field of return of migrants - both involuntary (readmission, expulsion, etc.) and voluntary.

During the stay a visit to closed migrant detention center in Vincennes, which is one of the biggest in France, was arranged. The participants had the opportunity to study in detail the experience of French colleagues on the organization of work with migrants contained in the center, as well as on the administration of such centers.

Russian participants also visited the office of the International Organization for Migration in Paris, where they discussed in detail issues relating to the activities of voluntary return from France and the interaction of governmental, international and non-governmental organizations in the field of return of migrant.

**Final conference of the project**

On April 27 a final conference of the EU project “Development of Administrative Mechanisms in Support of Readmission of Migrants in the Russian Federation” took place in Moscow. The project duration was from September 2009 till April 2011.

The Head of the Citizenship Department of FMS of Russia greeted the participants with welcoming remarks. He noted the success of joint work on readmission direction and mentioned the contribution of the project to the development of readmission mechanisms in the Russian Federation, particularly in respect of the readmission of third country nationals and stateless persons. In particular, practical trainings and thematic meetings, methodological and informational materials developed within the project, carried out analytical work and proposed recommendations on further development of legal frameworks in the field of readmission, as well as work on strengthening the dialogue at the technical level between representatives of the competent authorities of the European Union MSs and the Russian Federation have been found useful.

Chief of Mission of IOM Moscow expressed his gratitude to the Federal Migration Service of Russia for their support and fruitful cooperation on the project.

In addition, the experience gained during the implementation of readmission agreements between the European Union and the Russian Federation, and the current situation on readmission dialogue with other countries was discussed at the conference. Present representatives of the competent authorities of some countries, in particular, Armenia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Sweden, spoke about the current situation in readmission sphere and identified some issues that require further work and coordination. Representatives of the Russian state structures also discussed possible ways of further development of legal framework and practical working arrangements, including in readmission of third country nationals and stateless persons.

At the conference the results achieved during the project implementation were presented. In particular, three publications were presented: English language course manual, Handbook on migration terminology and Comprehensive training programme for readmission centers personnel. The English language manual is aimed at study the migration thematic in an interactive mode as well as the development of general communication skills in English. The Manual has been successfully tested during the English language courses for the personnel of the Federal Migration Service of Russia in 2010.
“Migration and globalization” Day in summer educational camp for young migrants from Tajikistan in Tver Region

On the 2nd of August 2011 specialists of CARMP Information-Resource Center were invited to “Igumenka” youth summer camp to take part in “Aga Khan” Foundation pilot summer camp project on trainings for young people – migrants. Organization of such summer camps is aimed at helping young migrants to adapt and naturalize in different ethnic and confessional environment and at the same time to keep their national, religious and cultural identity – thus providing opportunities for young migrants for self-development.

For the period of two weeks from August 2-14, 2011 twenty five young people from Tajikistan, at the age of 18-25 years old, came from all Russian regions (from Saint-Petersburg to Novokuznetsk cities).

All young participants study in universities or work in Russia and are fond of sport, dancing, music and drawing, participate in different contests and win prizes. All participants speak Tajik and Russian language. Some of them, trying to keep their ethno-linguistic features, do not forget their native languages and dialects: Pamirsky, Vakhanskiy, Shungaiskiy and others. They also showed a enormous interest in learning English, Spanish – languages of international communication.

The agenda for youth migrants was developed by the organizers very thoroughly. All days in summer camp: from morning till night were entirely laid out. Physical exercises in the morning, educational trainings, sport, lessons of art – not much spare time were left. Facilitators were busy with the participants all days. For conducting trainings and practical exercises coordinators of the project have invited external experts from international organizations, Russian NGOs and universities.

This year specialists from the Bureau of International organization for migration in Moscow shared their professional experience and made two presentations on topics “Globalization of contemporary world: 

Practical exercises took place outside
reasons, tendencies and challenges” and “Correlation between international migration and globalization”. Presentations were made in interactive way with involving young students in hot discussions; the speech was accompanied by interesting videos on contemporary process of migration and globalization as vivid examples.

Practical exercises were inherent part of the agenda. The participants not only had studied materials presented by experts, but also obtained skills in defending their points of view, listening to others attentively and working in a team. All participants successfully showed creative approaches for solving tasks given by IOM experts. After their successful practical exercises all participants thanked and invited IOM representatives to visit them one more time.

**Protection of rights of labour migrants from the Republic of Tajikistan: a working meeting of CARMP colleagues with the leaders of the Migration Service of the RT in the RF**

On the 30th of August 2011 a working meeting between IOM Central Asia Regional Migration Programme colleagues and leaders of the office of the Migration Service of the Republic of Tajikistan in the Russian Federation took place in the premises of the Migration Service (MS). Reasons for the meeting were a recent appointment of Mr. Asror Odinaev the Head of the Migration Service of the RT in the RF and necessity of coordination of further joint activities of Information-Resource Center of IOM and Representative Office of the Migration Service. Mr. Odinaev emphasized the interest in cooperation with IOM and CARMP, and expressed his wish for further development of constructive working relations.

Several directions of the joint work, brought up by the representatives of the Migration Service, were prioritized. In particular the participants of the meeting discussed joint prevention and information work for labour migrants (joint information dissemination at construction sites in Moscow) - MS is used to practice such outreach visits to construction sites and markets with high quantity of migrants; possibilities of organization of TB and HIV medical checks for migrants; inclusion of topic of prophylaxis of industrial injuries into the information materials and information campaign work; necessity of organization of explanatory work among youth regarding the activities of organized crime groups on the territory of Moscow and Moscow region. Such groups deceitfully involve young migrants into robberies and other criminal activities – attacks on warehouses (passing it off as unloading works). According to the recent statistics of the Ministry of Interior of the RF – there is a growth in the number of this particular type of crimes among migrants.

Participants have also discussed the issue of deportation of Tajik citizens: terms, data transmission, actions and mutual referral of unpaid salaries cases of labour migrants.

It is necessary to mention that in spite of the lack of staff – only 15 specialists are working in the MS RT, 7 of them are attached to the regional offices – Moscow office is actively working in the sphere of protection of migrants rights and interests on the territory of the RF. In the nearest future the Migration Service is planning to launch an official website of the Representative Office to publish latest news and results of current work.

**Chisinau, Moldova**

A total of four 1-day classes with a total of 80 Lautenberg participants were held in Chisinau, Moldova this quarter. The training site was set-up at the local conference venue “Institute Muncii” where the CO participants could also enjoy their lunches and coffee breaks provided for them in the same building, which was very convenient.

Most refugees arrived from different places outside of Chisinau, but were on time for the US Cultural Orientation session. At the beginning of the seminar the trainer, with the help of the group, compiled a list of questions the participants wanted to discuss most of all. At the end of the day the facilitator returned to the list to revise it together with the beneficiaries to make sure that all the topics were covered.

**Specific concerns and questions raised by students:**

- Many students expressed anxiety about their income and expenses. There were many questions about the cost of renting an apartment in the US
- What is the amount of the financial assistance by the government?
- How much does it cost to purchase a house (car, appliances, school textbooks)?
- Can one have some money in the bank and still receive financial help from the government?
• Will a 16y.o. boy who has just finished 10th grade and who doesn’t speak English be able to attend school with children of the same age?
• Medical insurance: If one does not have medical insurance and in need of urgent care can he buy medical insurance three or four days prior to the treatment?

Moscow, Russia

One three-day session for Afghan and Iranian refugees was conducted in the Moscow office. As a rule, most refugees residing in Moscow have access to TV and the Internet and are aware of many aspects of life in the US. Typical questions raised by this group concerned education in the US at all levels, including the procedure for enrolling children in public schools. A frequent question asked during the CO session is about how to expedite the procedure of becoming a US citizen and whether marrying a US citizen might speed up the process. Many participants were afraid of possible racial and religious discrimination in the US and wanted to know what to do in such situations. They learned about such facts from the Russian mass media and the Internet.

On the last day of the CO session, PRM Program Officer Alden Greene came to see the class and the refugees had an opportunity to ask him questions about various aspects of their resettlement.

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 May 2011 through 31 August 2011 are as follows:

- Applications received and processed: 1358 individuals
- Presented to DHS for status determination: 1061 individuals
- Departures to the U.S.: 539 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: Ashgabat (Turkmenistan), Baku (Azerbaijan), Bishkek/Osh (Kyrgyzstan), Chisinau (Moldova), Dushanbe (Tajikistan), Frankfurt (Germany), Humenne (Slovakia), Kyiv (Ukraine), Malta, Timisoara (Romania).”