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# I O M Oslo

● ISSUE 6 ● MAY ● 2011

## IOM OSLO IN A GLIMPSE



- IOM Oslo Staff has 28 staff from 18 different countries and between them speak around 30 different languages.
- IOM Oslo implements 10 projects in three different migration areas.

## 2011 has brought new websites, knowledge, experiences and programs to IOM Oslo Mission

During the first four months of this year, IOM Oslo's mission has been very active in order to improve the quality of our services to migrants that require the assistance we provide through our different programs.

IOM Oslo started the year with the launch of a new website [www.voluntaryreturn.com](http://www.voluntaryreturn.com) where potential applicants can find more information about the program Voluntary Assisted Return Programme (VARP) and, most importantly, where they can register their application on-line.

IOM Oslo has also launched the new mission website, with improved content and navigation. Take a look at [www.iom.no](http://www.iom.no).

IOM Oslo has also received several visits from international staff members and national delegations, to attend different events:

seminars and training sessions, in which our mission had had a very important participation through the VARP Information and Counseling Unit and the Migrant Training and Integration Support Unit.



IOM Oslo is also pleased to share the news about the approval (endorsement) of two new projects; to continue the successful experience started by

the Polish workers projects in 2011 we will continue this methodology "Empowering the Lithuanian Constructions Workers in Norway" and to contribute in the work we develop for the vulnerable groups, from now we can offer improved services and reintegration support to unaccompanied minors and aged-out minors living in Norway.

You can read more about all these topics in the next pages of our newsletter.



IOM International Organization for Migration  
OIM Organisation internationale pour les migrations  
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

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## REASONS TO VISIT WWW.IOM.NO

At IOM Oslo we have launched our new website, here are five reasons for you to go and check it out.

### ● | REASON NO. 1

Get easy access to the latest news related to IOM Oslo and IOM International.

### ● | REASON NO. 2

Check our local and international publications up to date.

### ● | REASON NO. 3

Find information related to our programmes and their benefits for migrants.

### ● | REASON NO. 4

Have access to our calendar and the activities that IOM Oslo plans during the year.

### ● | REASON NO. 5

Learn something new about migration today.

## VARP Seminars at IOM Oslo

As part of the outreach strategies to disseminate information to migrant communities and organizations and to mark the importance of the relationship with Embassy and Consular personnel; IOM Oslo organized a couple of very successful seminars this winter.



**Outreach Seminar:  
Voluntary return and migration management  
(24. march, 2011)**

**Embassy Seminar:  
Understanding Return Migration in the context  
of the Voluntary Assisted Return Programme  
(28. march 2011)**

With the active participation from migrant organizations and stakeholders, IOM Oslo staff facilitated a seminar to raise awareness about IOM and VARP but also give the opportunity for other organizations to present their programmes.

This seminar created a forum for the presentation and discussion about migration issues related to the voluntary return and IOM staff presented in detail the VARP and reintegration programmes attached to VARP.

During the discussions and presentations the focus was established in the Outreach activities developed by IOM Oslo to spread the information in the migrant communities

For more information or if interested in receiving the report related to this seminar, take contact with Mr. Jorge Rebolledo, Outreach Assistant; [jergee@iom.int](mailto:jergee@iom.int)

Due the high number of applicants to VARP who do not have valid travel documents, IOM collaborates and maintains close working relations with Embassies and Consular services. IOM liaises with over 70 Embassies/Consulates in Norway and Europe to facilitate the process of receiving travel documents for the migrants applying for voluntary return with IOM.

The overall objective of this seminar was to provide an opportunity for exchange between IOM and Embassy staff concerning the Voluntary Assisted Return Programme (VARP), update each other on new services eventually available and/or newly introduced requirement relevant to the Program implementation and to maintain the collaborative relations with the diplomatic staff. A total of 26 countries were represented with embassy and consular staff coming from Norway, Sweden, Germany, the UK and Denmark.

For more information, please contact Ms. Sofia Aasen at [saasen@iom.int](mailto:saasen@iom.int).

# COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

In March 17th, the Norwegian Agency for Development and Cooperation - NORAD - organized a seminar to present the report: Evaluation of the International Organization for Migration and its Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking. In addition, a case study was done of IOM Norway's Countertrafficking programme. The reports are available to download at NORAD's publications' site or you can access to it from here.



In addition, on 21 – 22 March, a Counter Trafficking Seminar took place organized by ROSA and IOM Oslo, which main focus was to learn about the assistance system for victims of trafficking in Nigeria. IOM invited representatives from the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and other related matters - NAPTIP - and the Committee for the Support for Dignity in Women -COSUDOW –and IOM Nigeria, to present to Norwegian counterparts. The seminar shows how all three agencies cooperate in Nigeria in assisting victims, and how to best provide counseling and learning about the use of voodoo among traffickers to control the victims.

## Return and Reintegration assistance to unaccompanied and Aged-Out minor asylum seekers in Norway



The “Return and Reintegration Assistance to UAMs and AOMs living in Norway” project will facilitate return with reintegration support for Unaccompanied Minor Asylum seekers and Aged-out Minors (these are migrants who arrived in Norway as minors but became adults (18 years old) here) of all nationalities accepted under the Voluntary Assisted Return Programme (VARP) to their countries of origin. The UAMs and AOMs to be assisted in the framework of this project will be asylum seekers and irregular migrants. The project aims to offer comprehensive package of categorized reintegration support to facilitate a sustainable reinsertion after arrival in the home country. The reintegration support can be used to cover the following activities: 1. Accommodation, 2. Education, Vocational Training, Business start-up and Employment; 3. Medical Aid and 4. Subsistence Allowance.

For more information check [www.iom.no](http://www.iom.no)

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## FACTS ABOUT IOM OSLO

### ● VOLUNTARY RETURN

Applications: 16081;  
Departures: 7952

### ● REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS

2181 beneficiaries of the 3 reintegration programs; IRRINI, IRRANA and FSR.

### ● CULTURAL ORIENTATION

4600 quota refugees have received cultural training before their arrival to Norway.

### ● COUNTER TRAFFICKING

39 victims of human trafficking have received IOM assistance to return to their countries.

### ● EMPOWERING MIGRANTS

Through 133 resource persons around 3000 polish migrants have been assisted from 2008 until Dec. 2010

● MIGRANTS | ● GOVERNMENTS | ● COMMUNITIES

*Migration for the benefit of all*

**WWW.IOM.NO**

**CONTACT IOM OSLO HERE:**

+47 23 10 53 20 tel

+47 23 10 53 21 fax

**800 - frivillig - retur**

**800 - 37484**

[www.iom.no](http://www.iom.no)

[iomoslo@iom.int](mailto:iomoslo@iom.int)

[www.voluntaryreturn.com](http://www.voluntaryreturn.com)

**Visiting address:**

Storgata 10A, Oslo

**Postal address:**

PO Box 8927, Youngstorget

NO-0028, Oslo

Norway

## Ms. Irena Vojackova - Sollorano from IOM HQ visits IOM Oslo.

Ms. Irena Vojackova - Sollorano, Director of the Department of Migration Management at IOM's Headquarters, visited Oslo on 17 – 18 March. During this visit; she participated as panelist from IOM in the seminar organized by NORAD to present the "Evaluation of IOM efforts to combat human trafficking". She also participated in two meetings with representatives from the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs and from the Ministry of Justice and Police, in order to continue to strengthen relationships between IOM and the Norwegian Government.

### MEETING IOM STAFF

Ms. Vojackova - Sollorano concluded her visit to Oslo meeting all IOM Staff, in this meeting IOM Oslo Staff had the opportunity to get to know more about the activities and the structure of the Migration Management department at HQ and to share impressions and comments about the programs we develop at the Oslo mission.

## IOM Oslo Migrant Training and Integration Support Unit has become a model to follow.



IOM Oslo Migrant Training and Integration Support Unit have over the years been implementing a unique programme called the Norwegian Cultural Orientation Programme for Norway bound Quota Refugees. This programme is unique because it is the only IOM pre-departure CO training where the trainers normally come from the same linguistic and cultural background. Furthermore, this programme also provides information to Norwegian municipal workers about the refugees, their country and background, the reasons why they are being resettled in Norway, among other information.

The IOM Oslo's Migrant Training and Integration Supports Unit's approach and programs are considered as valuable and inspiring models by a host of different countries. In recent years IOM Oslo's Migrant Training Unit has been invited to give presentations and/or provide advice and support how to develop similar integration support programs in other European countries including Poland, Estonia, Belgium and Sweden.

In 2011 the Unit will continue the successful experience started by the Polish workers projects with the new programme: "Empowering the Lithuanian Constructions Workers in Norway".

**FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE IOM OSLO MIGRANT TRAINING AND INTEGRATION SUPPORT UNIT:**

**NORCO project:** [osloco@iom.int](mailto:osloco@iom.int)

**Labour Migrant projects:** [oslolm@iom.int](mailto:oslolm@iom.int)