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## PROJECT: "ENHANCEMENT OF THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CHECKPOINTS ON THE BORDER OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION"

### *Workshop on international experience in border management*

Within the framework of the project "Enhancement of management of the Russian Federation border checkpoints" a Workshop on international experience in border management, organized by IOM Moscow in close cooperation with its partner Rosgranitsa was conducted. The workshop was included into the agenda of Rosgranitsa Board Meeting in Rostov-on-Don on 12 March 2010. It was attended by about 50 participants, including Mr. Vladimir I. Goncharov, State Secretary - Deputy Head of Rosgranitsa Dr. Hans van Vliet, First Counsellor - Head of Section, Economic Cooperation EU-Russia, Cooperation Programme and Mr. Franz Prutsch, Border management expert, IOM Nairobi.

The representatives of the Headquarters and eight Regional Departments of Rosgranitsa participated in the dialogue aimed at improvement of international cooperation in facilitation of the border management. In its welcome speech both Rosgranitsa and EC Delegation recognized the significance of sharing of the international and particularly EU expertise in development and maintenance of the effective systems of state border management and efficient border control procedures.

The Workshop involved International experts to familiarize the participants with the most detailed reports on topic. The presentation made by Mr. Prutsch on the Integrated Border Management – European Union Approaches delivered comprehensive overview of the best international and national practices on intra-inter agency cooperation, data sharing and implemented systems at the border checkpoints within EU.

On behalf of Mr. Raymond Wong, Adjunct-Professor of Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the presentation "International experience in biometrics technologies implementation" was made by Mr. Brestovitskiy, Project Coordinator of IOM Moscow. Ms. Ekaterina

Raymkhen, Deputy Head of Department of State policy in border management Rosgranitsa reported on the interagency cooperation in the light of international activities of Rosgranitsa.



*At the Seminar*

At the final stage of the Workshop the role play “Comparative analysis of approaches in definition and location of designated control areas with border crossing” was held. The border management specialists demonstrated vivid interest in the topic of the role play, participated in joint discussions and debate, expressed their opinions. The whole workshop was held in a lively, professional atmosphere.

The Workshop participants reached the conclusion that the international experience in border management provided is one of the most important and valuable impact.

The representatives of the Federal Agency for Development of the State Border Facilities of the Russian Federation (Rosgranitsa), expressed satisfaction with the results of the Workshop. It was decided that similar meeting should be conducted in the future (to do a follow-up on the process). Rosgranitsa confirmed its commitment to actively participate in the project implementation and strategy planning.

Gratitude to Mr. Franz Prutsch for his valuable expertise, to IOM Technical Cooperation Division for providing the expert support and to the personnel of the project for organization of the Workshop was expressed in the Appreciation letters prepared by Rosgranitsa.

***Report on The study visit to Belgium and France for representatives of concerned agencies for familiarization with best examples of solutions in border management***

On March 22-26, 2010 the Direction of Border Police of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of French Republic (Ministere de l'Interior) hosted the participants of the Study visit conducted in the framework of the Project “Enhancement of the Management of the Checkpoints on the Border of the Russian Federation”. The objective of the study visit to Belgium and France was to familiarize the representatives of

concerned agencies of the Russian Federation with the best examples of solutions in border management.

Among the participants of the Russian delegation there were five representatives of the Federal Agency for the Development of the State Border of the Russian Federation (Rosgranitsa), one delegate from the Government of the Russian Federation, a representative of Border Guard Service of RF and one representative of Custom Service. Project staff was presented by Mr. Sergey O. Brestovitskiy, Project Coordinator IOM Moscow and Ms. Olga A. Romanova, Capacity Building Expert. Ms. Elena N. Kitova, Head of Department of State policy in border management, Rosgranitsa, acted as the head of the delegation.

Noting the main goal of this Study visit - to enhance the knowledge of the Russian authorities and to familiarize the representatives of the concerned agencies with the best examples of solutions in border management – the project team, in close cooperation with its stakeholders Rosgranitsa, the Embassy of French Republic in Russian Federation, Ministry of Internal Affairs of French Republic, IOM Belgium and IOM Paris, provided all-round assistance in organizing the visit of the RF delegation to Belgium and France.



*Participants to the Study Tour*

The meetings conducted in the framework the Study Visit were a good opportunity for all the parties to identify and discuss essential topics of border management and border checkpoints administration and further steps to be taken to establish even better contacts between neighboring countries and partners.

The program included a series of bilateral and trilateral discussion meetings on legal, organizational and technical issues of development and implementation of effective border management systems and control procedures with the representatives of the Belgian and French governmental services involved in the border management, such as the Centre of Police and Custom Cooperation (CCPD) between France and Belgium, the European Commission in Brussels General Direction “Freedom, Security and Justice”, the Central Direction of border police of French Republic (DCPAF), , Sagem Securite Corp., SCOPOL Platform International Cooperation Division; and site visits to the border checkpoints in Roissy Charles

de Gaulle airport, Seaport in Pas-de-Calais, Railway station in Pas-de-Calais for familiarization with their procedures and structure.



*Checkpoint in Pas-de-Calais*

The Russian participants were particularly interested in those discussions and aspects that could be subsequently transferred to and implemented in the Russian Federation.

The officials of the concerned agencies both French and Belgian demonstrated to their Russian colleagues advanced technologies in border management (Automated Border Check system, smuggling, human and drug trafficking prevention systems, etc.); checkpoints' operational techniques (CO2 and heartbeat detections systems, x-ray inspection complex, etc.); and data storage and sharing system – Schengen Information System II. Structures and procedures were also extensively presented. The Russian officials paid much attention to a detailed explanation of the procedures provided by their colleagues from EU.



*At the border checkpoint*

The majority of delegates considered the study visit a very positive and constructive event supporting the main goals in the line of sustainable and well organized checkpoints system in the Russian Federation.

### *Second meeting of the Steering Committee*



On April 01, 2010 within the framework of the Project "Enhancement of the Management of the Checkpoints on the Border of the Russian Federation" the Meeting of the Steering Committee, involving representatives of project Partner - The Federal Agency for the Development of the State Border of the Russian Federation (Rosgranitsa), representatives of Project manager - European Union Delegation of the European Commission to Russia and IOM Project Team was organized by IOM Moscow. The meeting took place in the EU Delegation to Russia.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the progress achieved during the reporting period, recent results – study visit to France and Belgium, workshop in Rostov-on-Don, modular interactive manual, etc.; current activities and plan of operations for the next period – Kick-off Meeting to be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April and provision working schedule.

IOM representatives provided an overview Report of the accomplishments achieved at the present stage of the project. The participants decided that the Progress Report which reflects the results and project activities in their current status will be provided to the Partners in the nearest future. The members of the Steering Committee and participants of the meeting evaluated the meeting as a useful event supporting the approach the Project goals.

### *Kick-off Meeting for the project "Enhancement of management of the Russian Federation checkpoints"*

On 6 April 2010, the Delegation of the European Union to Russia hosted a kick off meeting for the EU-funded project "Enhancement of management of the Russian Federation checkpoints". The project is being implemented jointly by the Federal Agency for Development of the State Border of the Russian Federation (Rosgranitsa) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The meeting was attended by Mr. Fernando M. Valenzuela, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Russia, Mr. Dmitriy A. Bezdelov, Head of the Federal Agency for Development of the State Border of the Russian Federation, Mr. Enrico Ponziani, Chief of IOM Mission in Moscow, and representatives of EU embassies in the Russian Federation.



*At the kick-off meeting*

The speakers expressed confidence that the new project will contribute to strengthening the implementation of effective systems of state border management and efficient border control procedures with the final purpose of bringing closer together European and Russian practices and approaches towards management of common borders, especially in providing methodological, technical and institutional support to the Russian Federation stakeholders within three main strands: supporting relevant state agencies in the implementation of state policy in the area of border management; capacity building of Russian state agencies in the area of border and migration management; and strengthening international cooperation. The meeting was followed by a press-briefing. The information picked up during press-briefing was widely spread among mass-media.

**PROJECT "DEVELOPMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE MECHANISMS IN SUPPORT OF READMISSION OF MIGRANTS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION"**

*Visit to Pskov*

On 17, 18 and 19 February within the EC project "Development of Administrative Mechanisms in Support of Readmission of Migrants in the Russian Federation", implemented jointly by FMS of Russia and IOM Moscow, a visit of representatives of Russian competent authorities in the field of readmission to Pskov took place. In the delegation were representatives from the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, FMS of Russia (Citizenship Department, special detention facilities in Bolshevo and Rostov-on-Don), MoI of Russia, Office of Ombudsman of the Russian Federation, as well as representatives from EU Delegation to Russia and IOM Moscow.

The delegation was headed by Major General Mikhail Utyatskiy, head of Citizenship Department. One of the purposes of the visit was to assist the central competent body of the Russian Federation (FMS of Russia) in launching special detention facilities for persons subject to readmission taking into consideration international standards and experience, as well as to assist in developing and strengthening the interagency cooperation in the field of readmission.

During a three-day visit the delegation from Moscow met with the leadership and officials of:

- Pskov Center for detention of persons subject to readmission;

- Department of the Internal Affairs of the Pskov region;
- Ombudsman of Pskov region;
- Pskov Regional Assembly;
- Department on Pskov oblast of the Border Guard Service of FSB of Russia;
- Pskov Region Court;
- Pskov Regional Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation;
- Principal State Department of Justice of Pskov Region.

The main issues that were discussed are the ones concerning entering into force on 1 June 2010 the third country nationals and stateless persons' clause of the EC-RF Readmission Agreement and readiness of the readmission centers of the FMS of Russia to receive third country nationals and stateless persons. Also further steps for enhancement of readmission centres functioning, establishment and development of interagency cooperation, as well as training of personnel were outlined. The discussion covered as well the issues of the federal legislative basis and law-enforcement practice optimization for the more effective implementing of the international obligations of the Russian Federation in the field of readmission.

The representatives of other readmission centres highlighted the importance of raised topics and usefulness from the point of view of shearing experiences between the centres and preparedness to receive and accommodate third country nationals and stateless persons in readmission centres.

The participants of the visit and representatives of regional governmental authorities mentioned an open and constructive way of the discussions, and noticed that the discussed issues covered a wide range of practical questions that may emerge while implementing readmission agreements. In its turn it could allow to identify key directions of further refining in this sphere, as well as promoted deeper understanding of problems by the regional authorities and influenced in a positive way their readiness to participate in solving these problems and development of interagency cooperation.



*Delegation of Russian competent authorities and representatives of IOM Moscow and EU Delegation in Pskov*

## ROUND TABLE

On 31 March 2010 a "round-table" presenting the results of the needs assessment with the purpose of further optimization of readmission procedures in the Russian Federation took place in Moscow. The "round-table" was organized within one of the components of the EC project "Development of Administrative Mechanisms in Support of Readmission of Migrants in the Russian Federation", implemented jointly by FMS of Russia and IOM Moscow.



*Round Table participants*

The analysis of the legislative base and practice of implementing readmission agreements with recommendations for further improvement was carried out by IOM Moscow legal expert Mr. Shevchenko K. and expert from Directorate General of Immigration Office of Belgium Mr. Vanhoecke K. during the period from November 2009 till February 2010 and was presented in English and Russian language in the form of an analytical report.

The "round-table" gathered representatives from governmental bodies - Administration of the President of the Russian Federation, State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, Moscow Oblast Court, Office of Ombudsman of the Russian Federation and Office of Ombudsman on children issues of the Russian Federation, Border Service of the FSB of Russia, Federal Migration Service of Russia, Federal Agency for the Development of the State Border. Also representatives from international organizations - Collective Security Treaty Organization, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - and European countries - Embassies of Belgium, Norway, Sweden as well as expert from Directorate General of Immigration Office of Belgium participated in the "round-table".



*At the Round Table*

During the "round-table" the following issues were discussed:

summary of the activities on implementation of readmission agreements in the Russian Federation and main tasks for 2010-2011;

the results of the needs assessment with the purpose of further optimization of readmission procedures in the Russian Federation;

establishment of the federal legislative basis and practice of readmission agreements implementation;

identification, documentation, interviewing of persons potentially subject to readmission;

organization of transportation, escort, provision of security of readmitted persons and provision of the public order in process of transportation;

stay of persons subject to readmission in the specialized centers (including the issues related to the regime of stay, catering, services, family stay, pre-departure preparation of persons subject to further transfer within the frameworks of readmission agreements, access of NGOs, provision of consultative and legal assistance), etc.

The practice of some EU countries was shared by EU expert during the discussion as well. The participants noted that the discussions were very lively, useful and constructive. As some of the issues need further detailed work it was suggested to organize several expert meetings among representatives of the FMS of Russia and competent authorities, international organizations and EU Embassies.

Upon completion of the "round-table" second meeting of the Steering Committee of the project took place.

**PROJECT: "DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A RETURN AND REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME FOR VOLUNTARY RETURNEES TO THE CHECHEN REPUBLIC"**

*Main regional partners in providing reintegration assistance to the returnees on the North Caucasus identified*

On February 10-12, during the third working visit to the North Caucasian region (Vladikavkaz, Nazran'), IOM Moscow staff signed service agreements with two regional non-governmental organizations, which become the main partners in providing reintegration assistance to the returnees to the Chechen Republic.



*In front of Vesta office*

The Interregional Public Organization Vesta, which has been actively involved in providing counseling and humanitarian assistance to the IDPs and asylum seekers, will become the main partner responsible for social reintegration and monitoring of the situation of the returning families. Another principal partner of IOM will be the Chamber of Commerce of the Chechen Republic, which is the acknowledged expert in support and development of small businesses, professional education and vocational training in the region. In the framework of the pilot project, the Chamber of Commerce will be responsible for economic reintegration of the returnees, counseling on the possibilities for income generation and micro-entrepreneurship activities in the Republic.

Taking into account high unemployment rates in the region, all partners agree that encouragement of self-employment and income-generation activities will be the key to sustainable returns and successful reintegration of the families in the North Caucasus.



*At the airport in Vienna*

**PROJECT PREVENTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**  
**(MARCH 2006 – DECEMBER 2009)**

Funded by the European Union jointly with U.S. Department of State and the Government of Switzerland

*Accomplishment of the Project: results*

On 31 December 2009 the project "Prevention of Human Trafficking in the RF", funded by the European Union, US State Department and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and implemented by the Bureau of International Organization for Migration (Bureau of IOM) in Moscow, in Moscow region, Astrakhan' and Republic of Karelia, was accomplished. The project put a special emphasis on the aspects of the victims' human rights. The project was aimed at providing assistance to the Government and the public organizations of the Russian Federation in their activities against different forms of human trafficking in Russia as a country of origin, transit and destination.

The project was launched in 2006 as the first initiative to comprehensively counter-act the phenomenon of human trafficking in Russia. On 31 December 2009 the project came to an end.

The project worked to promote and further develop those national initiatives that followed the signing and ratification by Russia in spring 2004 of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols, including the Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children.

The programme has included the following components:

*Policy Advice:*

*upgrade of legislation and state policy on counter-human trafficking*

A baseline study on the scope of the trafficking phenomenon in the Russian Federation was conducted, which included a concise description of the root causes, consequences and other related issues in 3 pilot regions of Russia (regions of Karelia, Astrakhan and Moscow).

The baseline study had a goal to assess the number of Russian, CIS and non-CIS victims involved, and describe the victims' profiles, trafficking routes, etc., referring to the regions of origin, transit and destination.

*An analytical report was produced and published in Russian and English and presented to all interested stakeholders, including RF high-ranking officials, project partners, the press, civil society representatives, interested international stakeholders, etc.*

Also a standard THB research model was developed (in a form of a methodical manual) –in order to increase the capacity of the Russian authorities and NGOs to carry out similar researches.

*In the frames of this component, IOM Moscow engaged in cooperation Russian and international experts who conducted a comparative analysis of the counter-trafficking provisions of the Russian legislation and selected destination countries of the EU region.*

#### **Prevention:**

*Awareness raising among the "at-risk" groups and general public; organization of work of Information-Consultative Centers and the telephone of "hot-line" for vulnerable groups of population and potential victims of human trafficking; capacity building of relevant law enforcement bodies countering human trafficking, upgrade of competence of governmental and nongovernmental bodies in the counter-human trafficking area.*

Within this component three study tours to Italy, Belarus and Germany were organized for the representatives from the state authorities, law enforcement and civil institutions in order to share practices in the counter-human trafficking area.

IOM Moscow with support from the UNODC regional office for Russia and Belarus developed "The use of the typological approach in the investigation of human trafficking cases. Research manual", which was published in December 2009.

In December 2009 the development of the counter trafficking Manual with special focus on financial investigations was accomplished. This book was disseminated among the law enforcement bodies and training centers of the Ministry of Interior of Russia (Moi). The directory of contacts of Russian and foreign police agencies, prosecutor's offices and justice bodies of the EU and CIS member-states was also developed and its e-version will also be disseminated on CDs.

The specialized scientific workshops were organized in the pilot regions of the project on the methodology of preliminary investigation and judicial proceedings of the human trafficking crimes. The workshops were attended by practitioners from law enforcement bodies, scientific research institutions, international, interagency and nongovernmental organizations.

Additionally, trainings were carried out for law enforcement officers on psychological and medical aspects of treatment of human trafficking victims.

Within the project's life the counter-human trafficking units of the law enforcement agencies were equipped with the state-of-the-art equipment securing effective combating human trafficking crimes.

Information dissemination campaign about the risks of such grave phenomenon was organized on federal and regional levels of Russia. Information campaign was aimed at raising awareness for the society about the existence of problem of human trafficking in Russia, making people consider their safety and security of their close ones, in order to avoid risky behavior not to fall into the situations of trafficking.

High profile was given to the information-consultative work with youth - students of high-schools and young people as well as with risk groups - unemployed, minors from difficult families, migrants - moving to other regions and foreign citizens, coming to Russia for work.

In Moscow, Astrakhan and Petrozavodsk Information and Consultative Centers (ICC) were established; the Centers provided free of charge consultations (during personal visits and by the "hot-line") on a variety of questions. By the end of November 2009 an all-Russia hot-line (8-800-333-00-16) was basing in IOM Moscow. At the present time the line is fully functioning within the project of IOM Moscow partner - St. Petersburg Russian Red Cross Office.

Information campaign activities included dissemination of social advertizing - distribution of leaflets with the "hot-line" number for migrants and vulnerable groups of population, advertizing of the "hot-line" services on street billboards, stickers and posters in Moscow metro and suburban trains' carriages, in public transport (trolley-buses, public mini-buses) in Astrakhan and Petrozavodsk. TV spots of social advertizing, with participation of IOM Good Will Envoy Ambassador Russian singer Valeria, were transmitted on a free basis on a number of federal TV channels (with support from Gazprom Media Co.).

Rock-concerts were organized for young people and general public in pilot regions of the project. Musicians appealed to the young audience to know more about the problem of human trafficking and information on how to protect yourself.

Thematic art contests of social poster and creative works were organized among young artists, students of art faculties in three pilot regions for orphans and children without parental custody in Moscow and Moscow region.

The Student Forum "Youth against Slavery" was organized with the support from the Russian State Social University.

Experts of the project have developed the Manual for educational specialists, working with minors, on the issues of employment for school graduates and risks of human trafficking in relation to it; seminars and trainings for trainers (ToTs) were organized in the pilot regions for school teachers, psychologists and pedagogues.

A specialized Guide on the role of mass media in prevention of human trafficking in Russia for journalists, editors and decision makers of various mass media was developed and published. IOM Moscow has organized a representative two-days training and a series of briefings for journalists. IOM Moscow jointly with the RF Public Chamber carried out the contest for journalist who work on the topic of «Modern Slavery: Mass Media Focus» pursuing to focus the attention of general public to the human trafficking problem.

Internet site of the project [www.no2slavery.ru](http://www.no2slavery.ru), illustrating project initiatives and activities of day-by-day work, was regularly updated.

#### *Victims' Assistance:*

*institutionalization and capacity building of the governmental and local nongovernmental organizations in the area of rehabilitation and reintegration assistance to human trafficking victims, provision of direct assistance to victims.*

The Rehabilitation Center for assistance to victims of human trafficking was opened in Moscow in April 2007. The Center provided human trafficking victims with comprehensive medical, social and psychological assistance and safe temporary accommodation. During the period from April 2007 to December 2009 the Rehabilitation Center personnel provided assistance to 424 victims of human trafficking from 9 countries.

In the end of the project, upon the donor approval, all equipment and furniture have been donated to one of the key partners of IOM - the Federal Migration Service of Russia, to the Foreigners Temporary Accommodation Centre in Rostov-on-Don.

At present time an operative model of specialized medical facility for provision of rehabilitation and reintegration assistance for victims of trafficking is successfully replicated on base of an Assistance Center for victims of human trafficking in Vladivostok, organized within the state social institution, which is funded from the budget of the Administration of Primorsky krai.

Activities of the project promoted the development of the network of counter-trafficking organizations, working in the sphere of countering human trafficking, made up of 20 Russian NGOs, geographical coverage - from the Republic of Karelia to Primorsky krai. NGOs are the main partners, dealing with the issues of reintegration of victims in their home regions. Rehabilitation and reintegration assistance to victims, provided by NGO specialists, is based on a standard IOM approach for provision of assistance.

Under the project, IOM Moscow has established a model of inter-agency cooperation - "mechanism for the referral" of victims of trafficking to an appropriate agency/organization for assistance and offering them professional and case-specific services.

IOM has organized 9 "referral mechanism" round-table meetings in the project regions with the primary goal of raising the awareness of key authorities and other stakeholders to the special status of trafficking victims and promote internationally recognized standards of treating such victims.

*IOM observes a referral mechanism as an inter-agency operational network involving the governmental authorities, such as regional and municipal administrations, law enforcement authorities, public health care and social support institutions as well as NGOs and international organizations.*

#### *Publications of the project:*

The following Manuals and Guides were developed and published within the project:

- Final report on the results of the large-scale survey of the problem of human trafficking in the RF;
- Model Methodology of a baseline survey of human trafficking in the RF;
- Comparative analysis of the counter-trafficking provisions of the legislation of Russia and selected destination countries of the EU region;
- Manual "The use of the typological approach in the investigation of human trafficking cases. Research manual";
- Manual for LE specialists – "Human trafficking and legalization of criminal assets. Aspects of prevention";
- Guide for labour migrants in Russia and Russian citizens, going abroad was developed in Moscow (in cooperation with Moscow city Government), in Astrakhan (together with local FMS office) and in the Republic of Karelia (in cooperation with the Administration of Petrozavodsk city);
- Guide on the activities of Information and Consultative Centers (basing on the Russian and international experience);
- Guide on experience of Moscow Rehabilitation Center in provision of assistance to victims;
- Booklet "Infectious Diseases" with preventive information;
- Guide for journalists "Human Trafficking: Mass Media as a Resource of the Public Counteraction to the Modern Slavery";
- Guide for diplomats on the issues of identification of victims and prevention of human trafficking;
- Working materials of the Guide for educational specialists, working with minors "Risks of Human Trafficking in Russia. Ways of Prevention", and a booklet for minors – "Be ware of Human Trafficking".

#### PROJECT: "COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION (SIDA)

##### *Publication of the materials of the International Conference*

In accordance to Plan of Joint Actions of IOM Moscow and CIS Executive Committee in January IOM Moscow organized printing of materials of the International Conference "Improvement of International Cooperation in Counteracting Human Trafficking" held in Moscow on 29-30 September, 2009. The materials were forwarded to the participating agencies: CIS Executive Committee, CIS Bodies of Sectoral Cooperation, CIS member nations agencies dealing with problem of human trafficking, EU Embassies, US Embassy, as well as international and regional organizations: UNODC, OSCE, CSTO.



*International Conference publication*

*Networking visits to countries of origin of victims of trafficking for Russian law enforcement specialists*

On February 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> 2010 a delegation consisting of representatives of the RF Investigative Committee at the Public prosecutor's office and IOM Moscow represented by Chief of Mission and Project assistant visited Chisinau, Moldova to familiarize with good practices of combating human trafficking and providing assistance to victims. Working contacts with respective Moldovan authorities were established and a draft of Cooperation Agreement was passed for a further coordination.



*Participants to the networking visit*

*Working visit of the Moscow Ministry of Interior University to Belarus*

On March 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> 2010 a delegation consisting of representatives of Moscow Ministry of Interior University visited Republic of Belarus, Minsk city. Russian delegation was represented by specialists of the Criminology Department of Moscow Ministry of Interior University. The working meetings were held at the Republic of Belarus Ministry of Interior Academy, the International Training Center on Migration

and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Belarus.



*Participants of the working visit to Belarus*

*«Countering Criminality in the Sphere of Migration»*

The conference was organized in cooperation with the Institute of International Law and Economics and the Criminology Department at the Moscow MoI Russia University.

During the conference a presentation of the following manuals was organized: "Human trafficking and legalization of criminal assets. Aspects of prevention", "The use of the typological approach in the investigation of human trafficking cases. Research manual", developed by IOM Moscow and "Victimology", developed by Ms. Tatyana Varchouk.

The seminar participants were provided with the counter-trafficking materials. In the course of the conference a wide range of questions were discussed, in connection to countering illegal migration, human trafficking and prevention of criminality in the sphere of migration in general.



*At the Conference*

## MEDICAL ASSESSMENT OF AFGHANI REFUGEES IN KRASNODAR

IOM medical team was in Krasnodar to examine Afghani refugees selected for resettlement to U.S. in the period from March 15 to March 19, 2010. This examination was conducted by Doctors Alexey Klyjlenko and Eugenia Kislyakova, radiologist Larisa Nekrasova and psychiatrist Olga Borisova. As all the refugees were Muslims strict ethical regulations were observed, it was foreseen that the IOM team consisted of both men and women doctors.

The presence of IOM radiologist Dr. Nekrasova allowed IOM doctors to get pathology data if any in the process of medical examination, which prevented the refugees from an extra trip for additional medical examination. The follow-up examination was done right after the examination by other diagnostic methods or on the basis of the local TB dispensary. The follow-up has revealed an active infectious TB case.

The patient was a market seller well-known within his ethnic community for his assistance to its members who were in need. He turned to be sick and hospitalized. The community collected money for his treatment in the hospital in Rostov. Since the community is poor, the support has not been sufficient and he was discharged from the hospital with still highly infectious condition. IOM has organized his hospitalization in TB hospital in Krasnodar for further transportation to U.S., when he is recovered.

Such situation is not unique. Individuals who lack Russian citizenship are not eligible for free medical assistance. It is one of the reasons why migrants join together in Diasporas that provide assistance to the migrants in need. IOM also assists people in extreme conditions.

*Regular surveillance and evaluation of the laboratory services* with respect to IOM migration health assessment programs took place in Ukraine and Moldova. QC&CA visits to laboratories used by IOM for health assessment specifically regarding the transmissible diseases of TB, HIV and syphilis were performed in 22-27 February in Kiev and Chisinau. Checklists based on the detected data for the IOM Global Laboratory Manager on TB labs visited has been prepared. Arrangement and preliminary evaluation of smear sets for Microscopy Proficiency Testing for implementation in TB labs used by IOM was performed.

## MOSCOW CULTURAL ORIENTATION TEAM HAS JUST FINALIZED ANOTHER YEAR OF COA (CANADIAN ORIENTATION ABROAD) ACTIVITIES

The month of March marks the end of the Fiscal Year in Canada, thus making it a busy time for our COA team. It is the time to report what achievements have been made during the year and what obstacles our trainer had to tackle to make this year a success. During the period of April 2009 – March 2010, fifteen COA sessions were delivered by COA Russia in Moscow, Timisoara (Romania) and Tashkent (Uzbekistan) serving 207 refugees.



*A group of Ethiopian refugees in Romania*

The questions asked during the COA sessions reflected the differences in the participants' cultural and educational background: the Ethiopians shared their fear of language barrier, travelling by air and the Canadian climate; the Afghans who had accumulated some experience of surviving in another country were mostly interested in education and career opportunities as well as certain family issues. Some questions asked during the sessions were:

### Travel to Canada

- The airport announcements are made in English, how will I understand them?
- Do airlines serve halal food onboard?
- Will the IOM staff escort me onboard?
- Where will I go from the airport in Canada?

### Services available for refugees in Canada

- Who will inform my Canadian relatives on my arrival?
- Will anybody, my relatives / representatives of resettlement agencies, or both meet me at the airport?
- What kind of assistance will I get in Canada (money checks, orientation, language courses, accommodation and job arrangements)?

### Rights and responsibilities

- Can I move to another apartment if I do not like the first one? Shall I take my things with me in this case?
- Can I change Edmonton for Toronto? I think life in a big city is better than in a small one.
- If I find a job within the first year of living in Canada, what will happen to the governmental assistance assigned to me?
- Should children report to the government if they find a temporary job, e.g. if they help their

neighbours to do some household job and are given some money for it?

- Will the government give me financial support if I do not find a job in one year?

#### Education

- Are there special schools for immigrants in Canada (i.e. with instruction in their native language)?
- I have been studying at the local university for 2 years. Can I continue my education in Canada?
- Will the government help me to pay for education?

#### Job opportunities

- How will I find a job without any Canadian experience?
- Will I be permitted to set up a small business?

#### Life in Canada

- How can I live in Canada if I don't speak English or French?
- How can Canadians survive in such cold climate?
- Is that true that we are not allowed to arrange birthday/ wedding parties and invite relatives and friends to our rented apartments?

#### Family issues

- How can I sponsor my relatives?
- Will I be resettled to the same city where my son lives?
- My parents have found me a fiancée in Afghanistan. How can I bring her to Canada?
- My son was refused refugee status. Will I be permitted to invite him to Canada for a short visit?

It was interesting to learn about the participants' thoughts and ideas regarding their life in Canada, especially from the Ethiopians in the refugee camp in Timisoara, who were less informed and thus less prepared for the move. Mostly they had very high expectations and were sure that they would have a very prosperous life supported by the government assistance. Some of their expectations:

- We will be accommodated in a hotel, and then the government will provide us with free housing.
- Medicine is free in Canada, and if it is not free – the government will pay for our treatment and medications.
- The government will give us banking cards with money (a comment made by a participant during demonstration of the "First Steps" video showing a visit to a bank and work of ATMs).
- Our first apartment will have a computer with Internet access so that we can keep connection with our relatives and friends.

All questions and ideas were discussed during the sessions; the participants enjoyed watching videos and were actively involved in activities offered by the trainer.

As done in a number of previous sessions, the COA trainer had to focus attention on standards for luggage transportation and regulations regarding goods imported to Canada. The participants were strongly recommended to avoid taking excess luggage. In spite of these directions and advice, the IOM airport coordinators reported after the departure that some refugees still preferred to take extra bags with them which slowed down the departure procedure in the airport, not to mention the costs incurred by the refugees.

In November 2009 a group of 11 trainers from different COA sites were invited to Ottawa for In-Canada training organized with the support of Citizenship and Immigration Canada. The purpose of the training was to familiarize the trainers with services that are provided to refugees and other categories of migrants in Canada. The trainers visited different agencies and organizations providing settlement services to newcomers. The service providers invited immigrants to meet the COA team, and the trainers had an excellent opportunity to hear how the settlement services worked and to understand how the COA program contributed to the newcomers' successful settlement in a new country from the immigrant point of view.

The other purpose of the training was to bring together trainers from different countries so that they could discuss training matters such as the COA syllabus, experiences and teaching practices from the COA sites, COA Code of Ethics, materials and resources used in the sessions.

The COA team enjoyed the training which enriched their knowledge of the settlement program, and the information and materials obtained during the training would be widely used in further COA sessions.



*COA trainers*

In the framework of technological upgrade funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada new equipment (a laptop with DVD drive and software, an LCD projector and a projection screen) was purchased by IOM Russia. The equipment was installed and is now used during the COA sessions in Moscow, thus improving visual perception of the delivered information. The COA trainers will be able to use the

portable equipment during mobile sessions to other COA sites which will certainly enrich the COA seminars.

### 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 2010 through 31 March 2010 are as follows:

Applications received and processed: 1181 individuals  
Presented to DHS for status determination: 757 individuals  
Departures to the U.S.: 775 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, Odessa, Kharkov (Ukraine), Malta, Timisoara (Romania), as well as Krasnodar, and Moscow, Russia.

### MIGRATION ISSUES

1. The Head of Investigative Committee of Russia Mr. Alexander Bastrykin is lobbying for finger printing all the migrants coming to Russia. In his opinion it will help decreasing crime rate among migrants. This initiative is strongly opposed by human right advocates who take total finger printing of migrants for violation of their human rights and discrimination. (GZT.RU)

2. The terms of obtaining Schengen visa have changed. As of 5<sup>th</sup> of April the EU countries introduced unified visa application three page form that would replace the old two page form. The new filled in form will require two personal signatures. Apart from that the confidential data about an applicant can be passed to any other consular service of the country of the Schengen zone without prior notification of the applicant. Transit visas have been eliminated and one will need either a single entry or a multiple entry visa instead. (Fontanka.ru)

3. The Director of the Federal Migration Service Konstantin Romodanovskiy issued two decrees enacting FMS staff to stick to certain time limit not only when it comes to issuing new passport but also to providing consultation to people replying to their queries and keeping people staying in lines. For instance it must take no more

then 10 days to replace a lost passport as of the day all the required supporting documents were submitted to FMS. It concerns the very department of FMS that initially issued the lost document. All other FMS departments must issue a passport within 2 months. FMS staff can't keep the visitors waiting in line for more than half an hour. The consultations can't last longer than 10 minutes. Telephone consultation should last for 5 minutes. The answer to any written query should be issued within a month. In case the FMS is referred to by email the reply should be given within 5 days (RG.ru)

4. Secretaries General of UN and CSTO signed a declaration on Cooperation in Moscow on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March.

The Declaration will promote our cooperation and will guarantee peace and security in the Region. It will assist in solving practical issues such as combating trans-border crime and drug trafficking. These are the main areas to develop cooperation – Ban Ki-moon said. The signing of the declaration became the next step following the UN General Assembly Resolution of 2<sup>nd</sup> of March "On Cooperation between UN and CSTO"(GZT.RU)

5. The authorities of St. Petersburg are planning to open guest houses for labour migrants. According to the internet portal "Business Petersburg" and with reference to the State Housing Committee the rent will make no more than 200 RUR per day. The first guest house will appear in the Admiralty Region of St. Petersburg. (Fontanka.ru)

6. Russia and Turkey started the process of annihilation of the visa regime between two countries. According to the Prime Minister Erdogan the procedure will be completed by the end of June.

7. Anticipation of some of the experts that due to economic crisis the influx of labour migrants from the near abroad to Russia will increase were not justified. The underrated quota for labour migrants adopted last year was used by 82 per cent only. (RG.ru)

8. As of 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2010 Federal Migration Service (FMS) starts accepting foreign passports application via internet portal gosuslugi.ru

9. Russia-Iceland intergovernmental agreement on visa facilitation comes into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March MFA RF says. Businessmen, scientists, artists, sportsmen, journalists, professors and those having close relatives in Iceland and Russia will be able to get multiple entry visas valid up to 5 years in a simpler way. It must take the respective agencies no more than 10 days to issue visas.

10. The Federal Migration Service of Russia proposes to present the draft of the law for the State Duma consideration that would ease movements of the Russian nationals within the country, the head of the FMS press service, Mr. Poltoranin says. "We hope that in the nearest future the permanent registration will be cancelled. The Russian nationals moving around Russian Federation will be able to inform the local authorities of it via post offices". According Mr. Poltoranin the article on the permanent registration of draft law was in general approved. Currently FMS is studying the experience and practices of other countries on this issue.

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