



## European Migration Network (EMN) Educational Seminars on Migration and Discussion Evenings 2012 – 2017, Bratislava, Slovakia

### PROFILE OF THE EMN EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR ON MIGRATION:

The EMN Educational Seminar on Migration's overall objective is to provide professionals working in the state institutions, non-governmental sector and other entities (e.g. research bodies, academia, media) with comprehensive and up-to-date information on migration issues and thus contribute to policymaking process in Slovakia, other EU countries and Norway. Furthermore, the 2.5-day seminar aims to create a unique learning platform about migration in Slovakia and fosters networking, experience sharing and discussions among (inter)national experts and participants.

The seminar has been organised by IOM as the coordinator of the EMN activities in Slovakia since 2012, each year on specific migration related topic. The first 2012 Educational Seminar on Migration entitled [Migration Globally and Locally](#) introduced various aspects of migration: migration as a global phenomenon, migration policy of the Slovak Republic in the global and EU context, labour migration worldwide, ability of the Slovak Republic to respond to labour market needs through migration, migration and development, forced migration and irregular migration. In 2013, [Labour Migration Opportunities and Challenges](#) seminar focused on labour migration management, the status of labour migrants on the labour market, risk factors of labour migration and human trafficking. The 2014 Educational Seminar on [Forced Migration – Causes and Possible Solutions](#) dealt with causes of contemporary displacement and current situation with regard to forced migration, asylum and other forms of international protection globally and in the EU, resettlement as a vital tool of international protection, and refugee hotspots in the Mediterranean region. In 2015, the Educational Seminar on [Irregular Migration – Borders and Human Rights](#) was devoted to irregular migration in the world, EU and Slovakia, smuggling and other forms of irregular migration, measures to tackle irregular migration, ways to deal with a situation of irregular migrants and protection of their rights as well as intermingling of forced and irregular migration. The last-year Educational Seminar focused on [Addressing the Needs of Forced Migrants in the 21st Century](#), including migratory trends and international governance, enhancement of safe and legal pathways for migrants, protection of migrants, and empowerment of refugees of the 21st century. In 2016, the seminar did not take place due to the organisation of the EMN Annual Conference under the first Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU.

The seminar participants have the opportunity to meet various experts from the European Commission, EU agencies, international organisations like ICMPD, IOM, UNHCR and UNODC as well as from renowned universities and other institutions. In previous years, among guest speakers were Ronald Skeldon (University of Sussex), Roger Zetter and Simona Vezzoli (University of Oxford), Patrick Taran (Global Migration Policy Associates in Geneva), Gudrun Biffel (Danube University in Krems), Gilles Reckinger (University of Innsbruck), Boldiszar Nagy (University of Eotvos Lorand and Central European University), Elizabeth Collett (Migration Policy Institute Europe), Martin Xuereb (Migrant Offshore Aid Station), Kilian Kleinschmidt (Innovation and Planning Agency), Mariam Safi (Organization for Policy Research and Development Studies), Petra Hueck (International Catholic Migration Commission Europe), Klara Skrivankova (Anti-Slavery International), Jacob Townsend (Seefar), Asmita Naik (independent consultant), François Gemenne (environmental geopolitics expert), Alexander Randall (Climate Outreach and Information Network), Zoi Sakellidou (EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator Office), Caroline Van Buren (UNHCR Regional Representation for Central Europe in Budapest), Peter Kresak (UNHCR Office in the Slovak Republic), Bernd Hemingway (IOM Regional Office for the EEA, the EU and NATO in Brussels), Frank Laczko (Migration Research Division at IOM Headquarters in Geneva), Michael Gray (Resettlement and Movement Management Division at IOM Headquarters in Geneva), and Jose Angel Oropeza (IOM Coordinating Office for the Mediterranean and Head of IOM Mission for Italy and Malta).



#### PROFILE OF THE EMN DISCUSSION EVENING:

The EMN Educational Seminar on Migration also reaches out to the public through free-of-charge evening programme. EMN discussion evening combines a documentary screening and moderated discussion with experts in the particular field. Since 2012, the following evenings have been organised: [Are we at Home Here?](#) (2012) about migrant integration in Slovakia and Czech Republic, [The Tree Workers Case](#) (2013) about labour exploitation and human trafficking, [People Forced to Flee](#) (2014) about the forced migration, refugees and assistance to them, [Europe or Die?](#) (2015) on irregular migration and current situation in the Mediterranean, and [Refugee Camp, My Home](#) (2017) about the dire conditions which refugees face. In 2015 and 2017, film screening extended the educational seminar's accompanying events and offered the Slovak premiere of the Hollywood movie [The Good Lie](#) about Sudanese refugees resettled to the United States of America.

#### PROFILE OF THE SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS:

Each year, the seminar welcomes more than 50 participants with different professional backgrounds. It targets mainly professionals from the Slovak public administration and non-profit sector who deal with or are interested in the topics related to migration of third-country nationals. In 2017, the seminar for the first time opened up also to participants coming from/nominated by other EMN National Contact Points based in all EU Member States and Norway.

#### ABOUT THE EMN:

The EMN provides up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information on migration and international protection to the EU and its Member States to support policymaking. The EMN activities are focused on third-country nationals.

The network is composed of National Contact Points for all EU Member States and Norway as well as the European Commission (DG Migration and Home Affairs). Coordinator of the EMN National Contact Point for the Slovak Republic is the International Organization for Migration (IOM), other members are the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic and Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic. Further information is available at [www.emn.sk](http://www.emn.sk) and [www.ec.europa.eu/emn](http://www.ec.europa.eu/emn).

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