



European Migration Network (EMN)

EMN Conference 2016

Rethinking Returns from the EU

Sustainable Returns and Cooperation with Countries of Origin

6 – 7 July 2016

Hotel Sheraton, Pribinova 12, Bratislava, Slovakia

1. About the EMN Conference

The EMN Annual Conference seeks to discuss current state of play in the field of return and further practical cooperation with countries of return by bringing together European policy-makers and practitioners from the EU Member States, EU institutions and agencies, EU-funded cooperation projects, inter-governmental organisations, non-governmental sector, academia as well as countries of origin. European return policy and measures will be put into the broader context of current migration trends and realities as well as of situation in the countries of return in order to contribute to further EU policy-making in this area.

The conference collects best practices and lessons learned from various stakeholders for further use by the EU, its Member States and Norway. The conference builds upon the latest policy developments and EU legislation in the field of return and reintegration; foremost the European Agenda on Migration, EU Action Plan on Return and European Council's Conclusions adopted on 15 October 2015; as well as upon the Programme of the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU. As Slovakia follows up on the Netherlands' endeavours and results achieved in the return agenda, the conference to be held in the wake of the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU aims to bridge this process.

The following topics will be discussed:

- Current migration situation in Europe and the role of the EU return policy amidst of it;
- Enhancing cooperation with countries of return from the EU perspective;
- Practical cooperation in achieving sustainable return and reintegration;
- Perspectives from countries of origin on return and reintegration;
- Approaches to rejected asylum seekers and migrants with challenges to return.

The conference is organised within the framework of the European Migration Network (EMN) under the first Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU. The event is hosted by IOM Bratislava as the coordinator of EMN activities in Slovakia in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic and the European Commission (DG Migration and Home Affairs).

2. Programme

6th July 2016	
09.00 – 9.30	Registration and refreshment
9.30 - 10.00	<p>Opening and Keynote Speeches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Robert Kaliňák, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic ★ William Lacy Swing, Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM)
10.00 – 11.30	<p>Panel I. Enhancing cooperation with countries of return from the EU perspective</p> <p>Main questions/issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current policies, mechanisms and operational measures in the field of return and reintegration ▪ Enhancing effectiveness of the EU return system based on best practices and lessons learned ▪ Challenges and future steps in light of the latest developments <p>Chaired by Zuzana Vatráľová, Head of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Office in the SR</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Olivier Onidi, Deputy Director General, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission, Belgium ★ Berndt Körner, Deputy Executive Director, FRONTEX, Poland ★ Walter Oostelbos, Strategic Policy Advisor at Migration Policy Department, Ministry of Security and Justice, Netherlands ★ Igor Slobodník, Ambassador-at-Large for Migration, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovak Republic <p>Questions/discussion</p>
11.30 - 13.00	Lunch
13.00 – 14.30	<p>Panel II. Practical cooperation in achieving sustainable return and reintegration</p> <p>Main questions/issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ways to enhance sustainability and efficiency of return and reintegration schemes ▪ Feasibility of AVR(R) harmonisation: services, sums, target groups and packages according to countries of return ▪ Role of monitoring and evaluation in measuring performance of return and reintegration programmes ▪ Synergy of development cooperation with return and reintegration policies and its impact on sustainability <p>Chaired by Erlend Paasche, researcher on return migration, Norway</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Nassim Majidi, Co-Founder and Co-Director, Samuel Hall, Kenya (video contribution) ★ Anh Nguyen, Head of Migrant Assistance Division, International Organization for Migration (IOM) Headquarters, Switzerland ★ Anne Dussart, Asylum and Migration Director of Caritas International & Member of the Steering Committee at European Reintegration Support Organisations (ERSO), Belgium ★ Po Ling Ho, Programme Manager, European Reintegration Network (ERIN), Netherlands ★ Isabelle Wahedová, Czech expert seconded as International Cooperation Officer at Asylum and Migration Thematic Unit, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission, Belgium <p>Questions/discussion</p>

14.30 - 15.00	Coffee break
15.00 - 16.30	<p>Panel III. Perspectives from countries of origin on return and reintegration</p> <p>Main questions/issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Challenges in and impact of return and reintegration programmes on countries of origin and transit ▪ Post-return counselling and assistance ▪ The role of local communities and diaspora ▪ Understanding migrants' decision-making and its relevance for European policy-making ▪ Best practices and regional cooperation <p>Chaired by Erlend Paasche, researcher on return migration, Norway</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Michele Bombassei, Regional Migrant Assistance Specialist, International Organization for Migration (IOM) Regional Office for West and Central Africa, Senegal ★ Heather Amstutz, Regional Director, Danish Refugee Council Horn of Africa and Yemen, Kenya ★ Liza Schuster, Co-Founder of Afghanistan Migrants Advice and Support Organization (AMASO), Afghanistan & Sociologist at the City University London, United Kingdom ★ Ahmed Waqas Javaid, Return Counsellor and Researcher, WELDO, Pakistan <p>Questions/discussion</p>
16.30 - 17.30	<p>Panel IV. Return as part of migration management</p> <p>Chaired by Zuzana Vatráľová, Head of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Office in the SR</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Dimitris Avramopoulos, European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship ★ William Lacy Swing, Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM) ★ Robert Kaliňák, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic <p>Questions/discussion</p>
18.30	Guided walking tour and Post-socialist bus tour in the Bratislava city centre (by invitation only)
20.00	Dinner (by invitation only)

7th July 2016

9.00 - 9.30	Registration and refreshment
9.30 - 11.00	<p>Panel V. Approaches to rejected asylum-seekers and migrants with challenges to return</p> <p>Main questions/issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reasons for non-return (e.g. situation in the countries of origin, unknown identity of a migrant) ▪ Measures to overcome obstacles for return and their impact on return policy effectiveness ▪ Feasibility and performance of forced and (assisted) voluntary returns ▪ Situations of protracted irregularity and vulnerabilities of migrants with challenges to return <p>Chaired by Vladimír Bilčík, Head of EU Program, Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (RC SFPA), Slovak Republic</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Dana Spinant, Head of Irregular Migration and Return Policy Unit, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission, Belgium ★ Laura Hayward, Managing Consultant, ICF International (EMN Service Provider), United Kingdom ★ Patrick Schmidtke, Head of Return at International Projects and Integrated Return Management Unit, Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, Germany ★ Kristina Rännar, Return Process Specialist at Quality Department, Swedish Migration Agency, Sweden ★ Lilana Keith, Advocacy Officer – Border, Detention and Children, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), Belgium ★ Martijn Pluim, Director for the Eastern Dimension and Research, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), Austria <p>Questions/discussion</p>
11.00 - 11.30	<p>Concluding remarks and closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Dana Spinant, Head of Irregular Migration and Return Policy Unit, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission, Belgium ★ Igor Slobodník, Ambassador-at-Large for Migration, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovak Republic
11.30	Lunch