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IOM NEWSLETTER

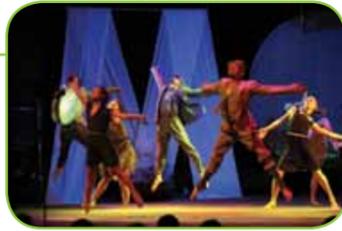
FOR BELARUS, MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE



MIGRATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Missions in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine

US SECRETARY OF STATE CLINTON BRIEFED BY IOM UKRAINIAN
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UKRAINIANS HONOURED FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

By Ruth Krčmář and Svitlana Slabinska, IOM Ukraine



On 2 December, 2010, on the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery the IOM honoured individuals and organizations that have made outstanding efforts to combat human trafficking in Ukraine. **The Fifth Combating Human Trafficking Awards Ceremony** took place at the Kyiv Academic Puppet Theatre.

US Ambassador to Ukraine H.E. John F. Tefft stated that the inclusion of rehabilitation services funded by the State Budget for victims of trafficking foreseen in the new State Programme Against Human Trafficking for 2011 is an important step in the right direction.

"The U.S. Government stands ready to continue and strengthen this partnership with the Government of Ukraine, its civil society and the international community to move closer to putting an end to modern slavery".

US Ambassador to Ukraine H.E. Mr. John F. Tefft

During the Ceremony awards were presented to Ukrainian law-enforcement and government officials, civil-society organizations and private enterprises that had shown particular dedication in fighting human trafficking in the past year.

Having received the award for bravery and personal contribution to combating human trafficking, Second Secretary on Consular Issues of the Embassy of Ukraine to Indonesia Mr. Andrii Pysarevskyi said: "The result was achieved as a joint effort and our example in Indonesia has been followed now by the officials of diplomatic consulates in other countries."

Awardees heard words of courage by well-known human rights activist and first President of the Czech Republic Mr. Václav Havel. "Today's awardees have shown that it makes sense to fight such a grave evil as human trafficking, to save people and give other victims hope," wrote Mr. Havel in his address read by Mr. Vítězslav Pivoňka, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Czech Republic in Ukraine.

"The European Union is happy to support efforts of the Ukrainian Government and society in their fight against

trafficking in people. I am proud and applaud nongovernmental organizations of Ukraine for their devotion to combating this phenomenon".

Head of Operations and Coordinator for Cooperation of the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine Ms. Laura Garagnani during presenting the award for assisting victims of trafficking

One of the winners of the nomination "For assisting victims of trafficking", the Head of Suchasnyk NGO, Representative of the Coalition of Ukrainian Civil Society Organizations Ms. Elvira Mruchkivska underlined: "The last two years were so hard for us, but our efforts are reaching child victims of trafficking. You cannot forget the eyes of a child, who was hurt."

Each year since 2005 IOM Ukraine has honoured individuals earning special merit for their activity, vigor, virtue and involvement in the fight against modern-day slavery.

"The Fifth Combating Human Trafficking Awards Ceremony is an important event, meant to draw the attention of Ukrainian society and the international community to the fact that modern slavery still exists in a significant scale in Ukraine. However, the stories of those whom we will honour for courage show that every individual contribution to fighting human trafficking can change the situation for the better," Chief of Mission Mr. Manfred Profazi noted.

The Ceremony was supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

The American people, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), have provided assistance worldwide for nearly 50 years. In Ukraine, USAID's assistance focuses on three areas: Health and Social Transition, Economic Growth and Democracy and Governance. Since 1992, USAID has provided \$1.7 billion in technical and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine. For additional information about USAID programs in Ukraine, please call USAID's Development Outreach and Communications Office at: +38 (044) 492-7101 or visit: <http://ukraine.usaid.gov>.

KYIV CELEBRATES CULTURAL DIVERSITY THROUGH 'DIVERSARTY'

By Mark Hanbury and Svitlana Slabinska, IOM Ukraine

The IOM Mission in Ukraine held an art-event 'DiversARTy: The Art of Living Together' to promote multiculturalism in Ukraine. The two-day event included documentary films, a painting and photography exhibition, and a dance performance. The event took place at the Kyiv M17 Contemporary Art Centre.

The subjects of the documentary films, premiered at the event, were men of different ethnic origins who have enriched Ukraine through their artistic abilities and their innate humanity. One of the men was the famous painter Akbar Khurasani, who came to Ukraine from Afghanistan as a refugee 20 years ago and brought with him a remarkable talent. The subject of the other film was Erik Vakiv, a young man who took part in the televised dancing competition "Everyone to the Dance Floor". Despite facing prejudice, Erik remains positive and has become an inspiration for many young Ukrainians.

"The event is called the 'art of living together' as we believe that societies progress through a culture of openness. We cannot just naively celebrate the values of diversity; we have to also see the difficulties many people face today in Ukraine when their skin colour distinguishes them from the majority. If migration and the perception of migrants is managed well, it benefits both migrants and society. That is what IOM stands for and why we are promoting an open and positive perception of migration and migrants," stated Mr. Manfred Profazi, Chief of Mission of the IOM Mission in Ukraine at the opening of the event.

A special guest of the event, His Excellency Mr. Leigh Turner, Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Ukraine, underlined the importance of multiculturalism, also emphasizing that:

"... this great event is designed to celebrate the talent and diversity of people from different countries who have come to live and work in Ukraine."

To compliment the short documentaries, Akbar Khurasani exhibited some of his paintings, including the piece representing his "two motherlands: Afghanistan and Ukraine." In addition, Erik Vakiv performed a stunning dance routine.

"The title of one of my paintings exhibited is "My Window". Each element of the painting is a symbol: I take my vision of the world from the jug entitled Afghanistan-Ukraine, and I am filling it with gratitude in return. In my dreams I live in Afghanistan. But now Ukraine is my second motherland and I am a citizen of this country," reflected Akbar Khurasani.

Also included in the event was an exhibition of amateur photographs which were gathered for IOM's Facebook competition titled 'Citizen of the World' (<http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=112443798769327>). The winner of the competition was Tetyana Karpyuk with her photo "Bedouin Kids".



'DiversARTy: The Art of Living Together' was organized as part of IOM's concerted effort to promote cultural diversity in Ukraine.

A FRESH START AFTER SEASONAL WORK IN PORTUGAL

By Iryna Savchenko and Svitlana Slabinska, IOM Ukraine



"I spent six months working in the Algarve province of Portugal, under an EU/IOM project. I'm very happy that I had the chance to take part in this labour migration programme and would love to do it again. The time I spent in Portugal and earnings I collected will help me for the rest of my life. I can now pay back my debts and move on. I have been given a fresh start", said Ms. Liudmyla Pashynska, who participated in the EU/IOM-supported initiative.

"After returning home, I participated in vocational training organized by EU/IOM in my native town Kamianets-Podilskyi in Khmelnytskyi region. The training helped me greatly and I learned so much about how to create my own business and run it effectively using the money that I earned abroad," says Liudmyla.

Liudmyla was one of 35 labour migrants who benefited from this project that organized the travel and seasonal employment of Ukrainian workers in Portugal, and provided vocational training upon their return.



The pilot project "Temporary and Circular Labour Migration between Portugal and Ukraine" was funded by the EU, designed by the World Bank and the IOM Mission in Ukraine in close cooperation with the Portuguese and Ukrainian authorities. The project is part of IOM Ukraine's efforts to facilitate legal labour migration and expand the opportunities for Ukrainians to benefit from circular migration movements.

US SECRETARY OF STATE CLINTON BRIEFED BY IOM ON COUNTER-TRAFFICKING IN UKRAINE

By Oksana Horbunova, IOM Ukraine

US Secretary of State Clinton was briefed by IOM on the counter-trafficking situation in Ukraine, in the framework of the Third Meeting of the US-Ukraine Strategic Partnership Commission which took place in Washington D.C. in February, 2011.

IOM Ukraine's Senior Counter-Trafficking Officer Oksana Horbunova was invited to Washington to update the US State Department on the subject and participate at the thematic workings groups discussions at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

The outcomes of these discussions provided a platform for the ensuing negotiations between the Governments of US and Ukraine. The negotiations culminated in the signing of numerous strategic bilateral documents, including the Cooperative Plan on Combating Human Trafficking in Ukraine, by the US Secretary of State Clinton and the Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hryshchenko.

This document is expected to produce a positive impact on the lives of current and potential trafficking victims in Ukraine.



IOM TOOK PART IN THE MEETING OF UN SECRETARY-GENERAL WITH THE UN COUNTRY TEAM IN UKRAINE

During his visit to Ukraine dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, United Nations Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon met with the UN Country Team. During the meeting, Mr. Ban was briefed about the UN's activities as well as IOM's work in the country.



IOM DOCUMENTARY ABOUT CULTURAL DIVERSITY WINS ARTE AWARD

By Mark Hanbury, IOM Ukraine

The documentary film "Erik" produced by the IOM Mission in Ukraine about a young black Ukrainian dancer won a contest organized by the German-French art-channel ARTE in partnership with the First National Channel in the category "Problem of Racial Intolerance".

The protagonist of the film is Erik Vakiv who grew up in a Ukrainian orphanage and took part in the popular TV show "Tantsiut' Vsi" ("Everyone to the Dance Floor"). The intention of the film director Sergii Stepanyi was to show how in spite of facing prejudice and discrimination, Erik remains positive and has become an inspiration for many young Ukrainians.

The film was premiered during IOM Ukraine's 'Divers ARTy: The Art of Living Together' event in February, 2011 (please read an article about the event on P. 4). The film demonstrates that, despite facing discrimination, people of different ethnic origins can integrate into Ukraine and enrich society through their artistic abilities and their innate humanity.



You can upload the IOM documentary through the following links:

Video Vault

<http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/media/video-vault/lang/en>

Press note "Documentary Film on Cultural Diversity in Ukraine Wins Award"

<http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/media/press-briefing-notes/pbnEU/cache/offonce/lang/en?entryId=29466>

IOM Ukraine country page

<http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/ukraine/cache/offonce>

SURVIVOR OF TRAFFICKING PRESENTED HER SOUL-STIRRING PAINTINGS TO UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S SPOUSE

By Ruth Krčmář and Svitlana Slabinska, IOM Ukraine



During her visit to the IOM Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Human Trafficking on 20 April, Mrs. Ban Soon-Taek, the spouse of United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, met with two survivors of human trafficking.

Mrs. Ban received two pictures painted by a survivor of human trafficking in the course of her rehabilitation process, which show her gradual way to recovery. While the one drawn at the beginning of the therapy shows black and gloomy patterns, the second one, finished as she left the Centre, is colourful and filled with hope.

"We are proud and honoured by Mrs. Ban's visit", said Mr. Manfred Profazi, Chief of Mission of IOM Ukraine. "It is through the continued close cooperation with our partners in the UN that IOM can uphold the awareness of the continuous existence of modern-day slavery in Ukraine and globally."

Mrs. Ban was touched by her meeting with the former victims of human trafficking, who had been treated at the Centre after regaining their freedom. She also learned about the medical and psychological care provided by IOM, which is the first and most

crucial step to ensure the full rehabilitation and reinsertion of victims into society, regardless of the type of exploitation they were subjected to.

"We are extremely grateful that Mrs. Ban took some time to talk to the victims personally. Her visit will be well-remembered by those that receive much needed help here and by those IOM colleagues who assist them in their struggle," added Mr. Profazi.

"Those women are true heroines and survivors. It is thanks to the dedicated and professional care provided at the Centre that they are now able to live normal lives in spite of the horrors they have been through."

Mrs. Ban, the spouse of UN Secretary-General

Mrs. Ban decided to visit the Rehabilitation Centre during her trip together with the Secretary-General to Ukraine in the framework of his participation in the international conference 'Chernobyl, 25 Years On: Safety for the Future' held to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

The IOM Mission in Ukraine has been fighting human trafficking in Ukraine for the last ten years, assisting more than 7,500 victims of this crime to return to a normal life. According to the IOM, more than 100,000 Ukrainians have been trafficked since 1991.

The IOM Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Human Trafficking – the only one of its kind in Ukraine - provides free of charge medical and psychological assistance to victims of human trafficking, a crime with complex and often grave health consequences. Overall, IOM Ukraine

provided comprehensive reintegration assistance to more than 7,500 persons, including financial and legal support, medical and psychological counselling, family assistance, vocational trainings and other. Each victim participates actively in the development of its individual reintegration programme.

The Rehabilitation Centre is a cornerstone in IOM's overall effort to fight trafficking of Ukrainian men, women and children through prevention, protection and supporting persecution of traffickers.



"One morning an elk came up to our door..."



IOM in Ukraine: FROM UKRAINE TO ALASKA: A NEW BEGINNING

By Albert Galimzyanov, IOM Ukraine Resettlement Programme Participant

When we applied to IOM for resettlement assistance to the US we didn't know what to expect. Even though we received information about life in Alaska, my family and I were anxious about the journey ahead – we knew that a big change was coming. Our voyage began at Kyiv Boryspil airport. I remember the whole trip as a series of passing images: queues for passport control, faces of border guards, customs procedures, IOM bags, the plane, transfers, and then at last, our final destination – Alaska, a new world and a new beginning.

As for the place itself, Alaska is beautiful, simply beautiful. People and wild animals live side-by-side here; I've never seen anything like it. One morning, an elk came up to our door, grazing in our front yard, and my daughter could not leave the house to go to school. We had to call in to explain why she's late. No one was even surprised; it is apparently a common occurrence.

What started with a knock at the door of the IOM office in Ukraine is now a new life for us in Alaska.



"Alaska is beautiful, simply beautiful"

We started working soon after our arrival, within four months my wife, my elder daughter and I were all employed. I'm making a living as a driver, my spouse is providing in-home care to the ill and the elderly, and my first daughter is working as a teaching assistant. My second daughter will graduate from High School this year and she's preparing for university entry exam as we speak. We are glad that we can stand on our own feet now; we are told that it's very rare for newly arrived migrants to become integrated so quickly.

IOM assists in the processing of individuals applying for refugee status and for resettlement to the United States. IOM assistance includes organization of logistics, homeland security circuit rides, cultural orientations lectures and counseling, and movements/ travel assistance. Since its start, IOM Ukraine has assisted approximately 70,000 persons to start a new life in the US. The programme is funded by the US.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVOR BECAME A SUCCESSFUL HAIR-DRESSER

By Kateryna Ardanyan,
IOM Ukraine

Lena* grew up in a really poor family. One day Lena met her friend Anya whom she knew from school. Anya told Lena that she had worked in Moscow as a waitress and earned a good salary plus tips. Lena was impressed and asked Anya to help her.

When they had arrived in Moscow, Lena learned that she had to work as a prostitute on the road. She started crying and asking to let her go home. People there told her that she would be free after she pays them a debt of 3,000 USD and that her friend Anya sold her for 500 USD. Other girls who came together with Lena were also crying. They were threatened with physical violence if they refused to work. The same night they were taken to the road close to the town, of R...

If a girl didn't want to work, she was deprived of food and beaten. This lasted for two months until one of the clients learnt that Lena was a minor and helped her escape.

Lena returned home with severe psychological trauma and was referred by a local NGO to the IOM Medical Rehabilitation Centre. She received medical assistance, psychological counseling and was offered a chance to obtain a profession through the vocational training programme.

Lena is now working as a hairdresser in her hometown and earns regular income.

The IOM Mission in Ukraine has been fighting human trafficking in Ukraine for the last ten years, assisting more than 7,500 victims of this crime to return to a normal life. According to the IOM, more than 100,000 Ukrainians have been trafficked since 1991.



*All names are changed

IOM RETURNEE STARTED UP A BUSINESS PRODUCING CLOTHES FOR BABIES

By Kateryna Stolyarenko,
IOM Ukraine



Olena Kozak* returned to Ukraine in December, 2009, after living in London for eight years. Within one week after her return, Ms. Kozak received her reintegration assistance from the IOM. Together with her husband, Olena decided to start up a small business producing clothes for babies.

She had extensive experience in this area and did not need additional training to start a micro-business that IOM Ukraine provides for other programme participants. She used her reintegration grant to purchase an industrial embroidery sewing machine.

Today the capital repairs of the working area of Ms. Kozak's business are fully completed and now Olena successfully produces her own goods.



Before the Capital Repair



After the Capital Repair

IOM in Belarus:



BELORUSSIAN VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING RECEIVED A CHANCE FOR BETTER LIFE

By Anna Sigaeva, IOM Belarus

Exhausted and handicapped, Alyaksandr* found himself in the hospital in Russia with no documents, no money, no citizenship, no relatives to want him and care, and with no feet, which were amputated almost two months ago when frostbitten.

IOM Minsk received an emergency call about a possible Belorussian victim of human trafficking (VoT) from the Red Cross and immediately contacted the hospital to acquire more information on the case. The handicapped man was interviewed through phone and identified as a VoT.

In close cooperation with the Belorussian Consulate in Russia, IOM assisted Alyaksandr to get a Certificate for Return and he received the identification document without leaving the hospital.

The transportation was arranged in an IOM car with a medical escort provided by the Ministry of Health.

Through the successful cooperation with the Red Cross and local authorities, Alyaksandr has been provided with placement in a hospital to further diagnose for disability grouping and guarantee of social benefits.

HORRIBLE VACATION IN EGYPT

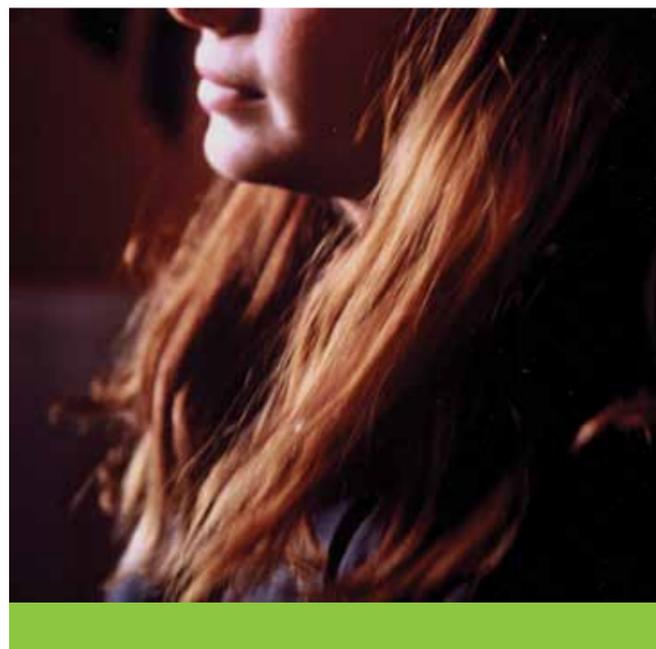
By Anna Sigaeva, IOM Belarus

Everyday millions of people go to vacation but no one can imagine that it may become the start of the end. This is exactly what happened to Nastya*.

Nastya had planned her winter vacation long in advance. Together with a friend of hers she decided to visit the popular sea resort in Egypt. At first, there were two weeks of paradise where they met some new friends. At the end of vacation, however, these friends proposed to have a farewell dinner at a restaurant, which in the end turned into a nightmare.

On her way to the hotel Nastya realized that her new friends were bringing them to an Egyptian brothel. Nastya and her friend were forced to work as prostitutes for half a year. After that they were saved by the local police and returned to Belarus.

In Belarus IOM together with a NGO "Business Women Club" from Brest provided to Nastya and her friend psychological support and medical assistance. They were also given a chance to get a job as nail technicians. They are about to start their own business, in which they will not be slaves any more.



IOM in Moldova:

YOUNG OVERSEAS GRADUATE IS COMING BACK TO MOLDOVA TO SUPPORT HIS COUNTRY

By Tatiana Jardan and Nelea Motriuc, IOM Moldova

Vadim B. is a 29 year old young graduate of Bucuresti' Academy of Economic Studies, Romania. He was among the first Moldovan youngsters who left the country to explore new opportunities and challenges abroad. In 1997 Vadim moved to neighboring Romania and chose to study economy as his major subject for degree. At the same time Vadim got wide experience in the area of marketing and public relations while working in two Romanian companies.



Nevertheless, Vadim was always thinking of his home country and eagerly wanted to come back. One day he came across the information about the IOM's programme* on creating temporary internship placements for young Moldovan graduates of foreign educational institutions. Without having a second thought, Vadim applied and benefited from the programme support to return to Moldova.

Now Vadim is working for a big Moldovan Company as Chief of the Marketing Department. In the future Vadim plans to invest more in his professional and personal development, as well as to contribute to the economic and social development of his country.

"I always kept in my heart and mind the desire to come back to Moldova. Permanently tracing the situation in my homeland, I noticed that recently both State and different Moldovan organizations show high interest in reducing the number of youth that leave the country for studying or working abroad. At the same time there is increased demand of highly skilled professionals on the labour market and our Moldovan economic area offers a lot of opportunities that could be explored," says Vadim.

Vadim explains that the IOM programme for young graduates brought positive changes in his life. It allowed him, first of all, to come back home and reunite with his family. It enabled him to improve his professional capacities and skills, exploring non-realized potential, as well as opening for him a door to contribute to the swift development of the country. *"I am proud to be among the first young graduates who came back to Moldova to build our future here, at home, together with family and friends. We share experience and knowledge gained abroad and foster prosperous development of our home country,"* states Vadim.

* The programme "Creating temporary internship placements for young Moldovan graduates of foreign educational institutions" is implemented by IOM Moldova within the EU-funded project "Supporting the implementation of the migration and development component of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership". The programme is addressed to young Moldovan overseas graduates who wish to come back to Moldova and be employed in the public or private sector. The project will offer support for approximately 30 overseas graduates in the identification of employers, logistical and administrative assistance, financial support in covering transportation costs and monthly living allowance to the participants for a period of up to six months.



Austrian
Development Cooperation

“LAUNCH OF A BUSINESS IS LIKE A BABY BIRTH”

By Tatiana Jordan and Nelea Motriuc,
IOM Moldova

Elena is one of a few Moldovan women who surrender herself with true passion to any work she does, be it scientific or business activity. Elena started her career as a researcher in Biochemistry, getting a PhD in Biology and working at the same time as a university professor. Elena's life changed drastically when in 2006 she decided to launch her own small business in the field of production of Moldovan traditional clothes. Together with her husband, Elena equipped one of the premises of her house with all necessary equipment and employed eight people. She prioritized hiring socially vulnerable persons, being eager to support and empower them.

“Launch of a business is like a baby's birth. Once waking up, you understand that you have a lot of responsibilities and commitments to undertake. Thanks to IOM Moldova support I managed to reach success in my job,” Elena conveys. But she was ready for it, because she felt the necessity to do something useful for her country. Elena wanted to revive the concept of the Moldovan folk costume, and to adapt it to modern society, as she felt that Moldovan traditions were neglected and overshadowed after the USSR collapse and difficult transition period. She strived to give an opportunity to Moldovan younger generations to discover their historical origins, culture and customs.

“Usually the folk suit is made by hand. This hard work needs a lot of efforts, patience and proficiency. Hence, this kind of clothes cannot be sold at a low price. The problem encountered was that our buyers were cultural State institutions that often faced financial difficulties, because of the state budget limits. Besides, we needed to procure additional equipment to be able to expand the production.” Despite all her efforts and commitment, Elena faced big difficulties while trying to expand her business.

In 2009 Elena participated in the IOM's programme* “Coordination of the Return and Reintegration Assistance for Voluntary Returnees to Moldova” and received financial support, as part of prevention of irregular migration strategy, allowing her to buy necessary equipment to continue her suit design work.

As soon as the business started to improve, Elena decided to open another tailor shop, employing an additional 15 persons. Together with the new team, Elena produces leather items (bags, suitcases, cosmetics bags, etc.) that are exported to EU countries.



* The IOM programme “Coordination of the Return and Reintegration Assistance for Voluntary Returnees to Moldova” funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and oriented towards return and reintegration of migrants returning from EU countries, as well as providing reintegration services to members of local communities, offers alternatives to irregular migration and contributes to local community development and poverty reduction.



“THE KEY TO MY SUCCESS IS THE SUPPORT OF MY FAMILY”

By Tatiana Jordan and Nelea Motriuc,
IOM Moldova

Sergiu is a 28 year old Moldovan man who chose to take small steps towards a brighter future hand-in-hand with his family, receiving reciprocal support and understanding. Living through difficult times with his family, he never had a second thought of leaving home and going abroad. He preferred to support his family in need.

After the economic crisis, a small family business run by Sergiu and his father did not bring much profit. For its development and strengthening, it was necessary to invest additional financial resources. At that moment Sergiu found out about the National Economic Empowerment of Young People Programme (PNAET) that was developed to meet the priorities of the Government of Moldova, and is being supported by IOM Moldova.*

Participation in the PNAET programme provided not only additional skills and knowledge acquired in Economic Empowerment training, but also a low interest rate loan, enabling him to purchase a special mechanism to carry heavy loads, and a mixer for making asphalt. Also, due to his perseverance and desire to grow, he benefitted from a grant in the form of equipment, provided by IOM that allowed him to further develop his business. At the present moment, Sergiu manages over 10 employees, providing them with a chance to earn a decent salary for their families.

When asked whether he intends to migrate, Sergiu promptly replied as if he had already prepared an answer: *“Although the times were not always easy and favourable, I still continue to develop my business and contribute to the prosperity of my family and community here, in Moldova. The key to my success is the support of my family and the knowledge and experience of my father, and I prefer to stay with them.”*



*The economic empowerment programme for youth and women is organized and implemented by the Organization of Small and Medium Enterprises in partnership with IOM Moldova in the framework of the EU-funded project “Supporting the Implementation of Migration and Development Component of the Mobility Partnership EU-Moldova”.

“THERE WERE NO IDOLS IN MY LIFE...”

Interview with a young Ukrainian dancer Eric Vakiv

By Maryna Grodzytska, EEDI Electronic Bulletin “In the Same Boat”

IOM Project “Promoting Values of Cultural Diversity by through Living Library Events”

One day Eric read online about the dancing competition - “Everyone to the Dance Floor” and joined hundreds of performers who traveled to Yalta...

After watching the short film about his life, a lot of thoughts come to mind: his growing up without parental care, his evident talent and ability for expression through the art of dance and his far from sheltered life...

What makes him so endearing is his incredible smile, so sincere and frank. After numerous insults and hate attacks he hasn't become angry and has not lost faith in people.

More of Eric Vakiv's story follows in the interview...

M.G.: When did you first feel the desire to dance and who at that time was an idol for you in the art of dance?

E.V.: There were no idols in my life, and the interest to dance I felt after the movie “Proscenium”. Three wonderful people helped me to reach my goal: the winner of the All-Union competition of performers in Moscow - Shabarshyna Galyna Ivanivna, Mytrofanov Valeriy and Kaihorodov Dmytrii Yevhenovych choreographic college - “Kyianochka” director. I am very indebted to these people for their patience, work and desire to help.

M.G.: Erik, please, tell about your childhood.

E.V.: I was born in Kherson city and did not know my parents. They left me in a maternity hospital, after which I was moved to an orphanage, then boarding school. From childhood I had to rebuff the sneers because my skin colour was different from others. I defended myself, sometimes in violent fights. This test of strength started my life, but very early I felt the desire to dance.

M.G.: What was your experience of growing up in Ukraine?

E.V.: I found good people who taught me the art of dance. I still remember my first teachers with gratitude. Choreography classes were almost the only consolation in my orphan life. But at the same time these dance classes became the cause of ridicule among orphanage children.

One day I read online about a dancing competition, – “Everyone to the Dance Floor,” and after participating, got the chance to travel to Yalta (Crimean autonomous republic of Ukraine) to have practical dance classes with specialists for two weeks. However, in the first class I started to feel dizzy and could not stand the pressure like other participants could. The reason was a recent head wound that I received after being beaten in the street. Due to this, unfortunately, the lessons had to stop.

M.G.: I heard that your dance lessons were not perceived well by children in the boarding school. How did you manage to overcome their negative attitudes, to confront ridicule, and move on to the end goal?

E.V.: Yes, they treated me badly because of the dancing. Thanks to my guardian

angel, Galyna Ivanivna, I was able to overcome it. To be honest, I had dropped dance lessons, but she came to boarding school and gave me lessons, to give me a start in life. Thanks to her for that.

M.G.: How did you get into the contest “Everyone to the Dance Floor” in 2009, and how did you prepare for it?

E.V.: Regarding the project, “Everyone to the Dance Floor” I didn't think of going. It was an ordinary morning when I woke up in a friend's apartment and went to the Internet. I was looking for offers in commercials and films, and came to the site of STB Ukrainian National TV Channel with information on casting for “Everyone to the Dance Floor”. I decided to try. Everything happened very quickly; the preparation was only a week. I got a good statement, thanks to Yevhenii Kot, a finalist of the first season. So I got a place in the best 100 dancers in Ukraine.

M.G.: You said that you changed your attitude towards people who treated you with enmity because of skin colour. What has changed - how do you react now to manifestations of racism?

E.V.: Enmity ... I will say this: In every country there are idiots that you have to fight, who start conflicts and wars ... a lot of them. And I asked myself the question: if they are worth paying attention to, to waste your emotions? I think - no. I have other priorities in life. When I was a kid – I was fighting, went to hospital with wounds. ... But as they say, all that does not kill us makes us stronger.

M.G.: You're very young. What are your dreams?

E.V.: I'm 22, and I am an average person. Some might say that I was born in the wrong place at the wrong time, but I do not think so. I love my country. And I'm ready to do everything to make it good. I still have another year of study. After graduation, I won't get shelter or a roof over my head. My dreams are to have a place to live, get on my feet and have a family. And I'd like to have kids, not less than three.

M.G.: What do you appreciate about other people?

E.V.: I always treat people the way I'd like them to treat me. I always believe them, although sometimes it will have consequences. The most important thing that I value in people is that even in difficult situations they remain human beings.



Erik's dancing performance during the 'DiversARTY: The Art of Living Together' Event, Kyiv, 18 February, 2011

MIGRATION NEEDS TO BECOME A TWO-WAY STREET

Interview with IOM Moldova Chief of Mission Martin Wyss

By John Buchwalder, IOM Moldova

J.B.: What impact did remittances have on economic development?

M.W.: Remittances in Moldova have been an important – maybe the most important factor for economic growth since 2000, fuelling a strong and persistent increase in household consumption. These monetary transfers made by Moldovan emigrants out of solidarity to their families are much underappreciated gestures of sacrifice for the Moldovan loved-ones at home. They reached a peak of 1.8 billion USD in 2008; this amount was equal to more than 30 per cent of the official GDP. Such a high level of remittance income has a number of effects.



In 2009, remittances on average constituted 17 per cent of the household income, spent mainly for consumption such as clothing and food along with investments in education, health and housing. But, if we look at the 30% of households receiving remittances, then the amount of household budget support by money from abroad averages 40%.

J.B.: What impact had remittances on entrepreneurship?

M.W.: Looking at the connection between migration, entrepreneurship and remittances, we can say that remittances have boosted saving levels in Moldova. But what happens to these savings? Are there enough safe investment opportunities? It is no exaggeration to claim that the safest investment choice for many average Moldovans has been emigration. It produces the highest and safest returns and in certain cases it guarantees better life chances for emigrants and their family in the future. We do not say this lightly, but the known facts have to be analyzed and interpreted. Many Moldovan emigrants have made attempts to invest in the past and a big part of them failed for a variety of reasons. Moldova is a difficult environment both in terms of market and additional risks.

J.B.: What impact had migration on social development?

M.W.: Turning to the effect of migration on social development, a very common discourse in Moldova is that emigration has led to a massive loss of human capital, and sometimes to a breakdown of family life, including abandonment of children as their parents emigrate to work abroad. Emigration also contributed to an "emigration culture" amongst the young, which is and will be a huge handicap for the national economy. Emigration from Moldova doesn't just happen due to uncompetitive wages, poor employment prospects and bad working conditions at home, but also because of a weak personnel management and training culture.

J.B.: What could be done to optimize the impact of migration on development?

M.W.: This is a very big question indeed: the short answer is that migration needs to become a two-way street, as so far it is just limited to emigration. As a result Moldova's economy, the country as a whole may continue to weaken and shrink. Emigration has to be coupled with immigration of other nationals along with the return of Moldovans. Every economy needs people as producers, as investors, as consumers, as academics, and workers, etc. In cases where emigration cannot be reversed into return-immigration, we have to do all in our powers to remember our compatriots so that they remember us at home so that they are at least not lost as guests, and maybe future investors.

"LIVING LIBRARY BUILDS BRIDGES AMONG NATIONS"

Interview with the Ambassador of Egypt to Ukraine H.E. Mr. Yaser Atef

By Svitlana Slabinska, IOM Ukraine

S.S.: What do you think about the "Living Library" project? Is it useful to organize the "Living Libraries" in Ukraine?

Y.A.: I think the "Living Library" project is a useful project that helps in building intercultural bridges between peoples and rectifying prejudices and stereotypes. It is important to have such a project in Ukraine - and I hasten to add it should be applied worldwide - as it presents the country with an opportunity to get to know what the different countries and cultures of the outside world have to offer. In the case of Egypt and Ukraine the project gave me the chance to tell my "readers" that both countries have a rich Christian Orthodox heritage as the majority of Egyptian Christians are Orthodox Christians.



S.S.: Please describe your experience as a "living book" and the Ukrainian "readers".

Y.A.: It was a novel experience where I tried to avail my readers of as many pages, if not the whole book. I have to say that it was very difficult to do that for the simple fact that the book they were reading is so voluminous, rich and diverse. The readers were young and eager to read the book, some of the readers came more prepared as they already visited or let me say skimmed through this book before once or twice.

S.S.: Tell us about your life in Ukraine, and your opinions about Ukrainian culture and traditions.

Y.A.: My life in Ukraine is interesting as I strive to further enhance cooperation between Egypt and Ukraine in various fields. This endeavor takes me through different fields where I get to know more about different facets of Ukraine, its economy, culture, history, traditions etc. It is a European country in many ways, but in other ways I feel that Egypt and Ukraine share a lot of traditions. This includes our care and love for our families including the extended families, our pride in our rich cultural heritage and so forth. One of the things that really impressed me here is the rich repertoire of folk songs and dances.

S.S.: Why is it important to develop the intercultural dialogue in Ukraine?

Y.A.: The intercultural dialogue is important, as I said before. As a youthful state Ukraine has a lot to offer and a lot to gain from such a dialogue. It is a two-way process that enhances mutual understanding and consequently reduces friction and tension in our contacts.

S.S.: Do similar events take place in your country?

Y.A.: I trust that IOM office in Cairo has the same or similar project in my country. I think we need to make the "Living Library" more frequent and to dedicate more time for each session of the project. We should explore the possibility of exchanging experiences between books and readers of different countries.

The "Living Library" event is a system whereby the "books" of the "library" are individuals from different social or ethnic backgrounds, and the "readers" of the books are high school or university students. The event serves as a tool for opening dialogue between people, and in doing so provides an informal setting in which to ask questions and discuss stereotypes or prejudices.

IOM in Ukraine

In February, 2011 – The IOM Ukraine Counter-Trafficking team participated in the Quest game "Internet as a Part of Your Life? Make It Safe!". The event was initiated by the international NGO "School of Equal Opportunities" on the occasion of the Child Internet Safety Day for 300 pupils of Kyiv city.



IOM informs and raises awareness about the risks of Internet usage in relation to trafficking/false opportunities ending up in exploitation.

Some 25 children of visible ethnic minority communities, from 6 to 15 years old, of secondary school # 3, Kirovohrad city (Dnipropetrovsk region) received the chance of a better education and integration into Ukrainian society through working with a teacher and psychologist to deepen their knowledge about Ukraine through a project funded by the IOM Mission in Ukraine and due to the work of Charity Foundation Goreinje.

At weekends the young Roma Oglu usually plays accordion for people on the local market. In order to earn money for his big family including seven children. Due to the project he learned more about Ukrainian culture and intercultural relations.



On 16-17 March, 2011, the official closure of the GUMIRA project and launch of the SIREADA project, both funded by the European Union and implemented by the IOM Mission in Ukraine, took place at the President Hotel in Kyiv. The two-day event aimed to highlight the efforts undertaken within the GUMIRA project, and to introduce the main goals of SIREADA.

Both projects support IOM Ukraine's efforts to assist the GoU in improving the living conditions and treatment of irregular migrants and to further align Ukraine's border management with international best practices.

On 25-31 March, 2011, in the framework of the International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival Docudays in Kyiv, which was held on 25-31 March 2011, IOM Ukraine presented three new counter-trafficking ads, produced with the support of USAID. IOM Ukraine experts facilitated a workshop on innovative methods in promoting cultural diversity and tolerance among the youth of Ukraine. IOM's support of and participation in the Docudays festival was the first in the series of events in Ukraine united by the 60th IOM anniversary slogan "Migration for the Benefit of All".



In April, 2011, IOM launched a new information campaign against sexual and labour exploitation, as well as child trafficking for passengers of Kyiv metro stations and travelers at Kyiv Boryspil airport to make them aware about the dangers of human trafficking while commuting to work or waiting for their flights. Posters/spots were produced with the support of USAID.



Fragment from a short film of the campaign



February-March, 2011 - IOM Diversity Initiative Posters were displayed in public space around Kyiv to promote cultural diversity in Ukraine. The message binding the materials was that – 'We are all united by our emotions. The colour of our skin doesn't matter'.

In June, 2010, the U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues Melanne Vermeer visited IOM Ukraine to get an update on the trafficking situation in Ukraine and IOM's activities.



Ambassador Vermeer was interested in various aspects of trafficking and wanted to learn in detail about the country's counter-trafficking policies and measures, the impact of the state response, and the international community's cooperation with the Ukrainian Government in fighting human trafficking.

November-December, 2010, - On the occasion of the International Migrant's Day and anticipating the increased interest in contemporary migration



processes IOM offered a series of pro bono lectures on migration for the students of 26 academies and secondary schools of Ukraine that were read by 42 IOM staff members. The lectures were attended by more than 1,225 students between the age of 17-22 years.

On 8 April, 2011, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between IOM Ukraine and the Institute for Innovative Technologies and Education Content



(IITEC) under the Ministry of Education, Science, Youth and Sports of Ukraine to promote cultural diversity and other migration-related topics among Ukrainian students. In its effort to find sustainable solutions to educating the young generation about migration, IOM Ukraine and the IITEC will work jointly on producing and disseminating targeted educational materials on the challenges and benefits of migration and understanding of migration in institutions throughout Ukraine.

On 13 April, 2011, IOM took part in launching a "UN Green Alley" at the Botanical Garden in Kyiv. The 23 samples of a rare species of magnolia trees were donated to the Botanical Garden



by the Yves Rocher Group within the United Nations' supported "Plant for the Planet: Billion Tree Campaign," which is aimed at raising awareness on climate change and deforestation.

Invited by the United Nation's Resident Coordinator, Mr. Olivier Adam, IOM's Chief of Mission Manfred Profazi planted a tree on behalf of the Organization in the heart of Kyiv, thus making IOM's contribution to the Billion trees Campaign and symbolically highlighting the importance of climate-change induced migration.

On 24 March, 2011, IOM co-signed the UNDAF/ Partnership Framework for Ukraine. The document represents a common



strategic planning framework for the UN Country Team in Ukraine development operations and assistance to Ukraine with the primary aim to improve the living standards and welfare of the people of Ukraine.

In November, 2010, IOM organized a training session on international standards and EU best practices for border guards dealing with irregular migrants in Chop, Zakarpattia region.



In coordination with the State Border Guard Service (SBGS) of Ukraine the trainings were designed to focus on first aid, cultural orientation and legal issues.

In September, 2010, IOM received a Thank you letter from the School of Social Work of the Kyiv Mohyla Academy. In the letter the Head of the School Ms. Nadia Kabachenko expressed the appreciation of the university and thanked the organization for detailed information about IOM's activities directed towards securing migrants' rights, migration management, counter-trafficking and building tolerance.



The State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (SBGS) at their Velyki Mosty Training Centre is seeking to expand its training portfolio and provide non-



canine specialized and advanced courses for non-commissioned officers and officers of the SBGS. In this context, the IOM facilitated the conclusion of a 2010-2011 cooperation agreement between the Velyki Mosty Training Centre and the Polish Border Guard's Specialized training Centre in Lubań.

The IOM and the U.S. State Department supported cooperative efforts of the Ukrainian and Polish border guard services to inaugurate joint patrolling.



Joint patrols are a confidence building measure that enhance border monitoring and promote cross-border cooperation and understanding. Ukraine and Poland are committed to addressing irregular migration and smuggling through mutual action in light of increased bilateral and multilateral border management obligations.

IOM in Belarus

In August, 2010, the Administrative training for NGOs involved in the implementation of the project 'Prevention of Trafficking in Persons in Belarus' was held in Minsk region. The training aimed to provide partner NGOs with the administrative requirements and procedures used at the IOM in Minsk.



IOM in Moldova

In February-March 2011, the Moldovan National Referral System (NRS) for Assistance and Protection of Victims and Potential Victims of Trafficking in



Human Beings, underwent its second official monitoring procedure conducted by the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family (MLSPF) with the support of IOM and the International Centre "La Strada". The purpose of the activity was to assess the level of implementation of the NRS that represents the national counter-trafficking strategy of Moldova established to ensure the protection of the rights of victims of trafficking (VoTs) through assistance services as well as to proactively prevent trafficking through assistance to vulnerable groups that are at risk of being trafficked (potential victims).

On 14 March 2011, an official inauguration of two new buildings designed for accommodation of migrant women and families as well as for some administrative facilities of the Migrants Accommodation Centre (MAC) took place.



The MAC is a subdivision of the Bureau of Migration and Asylum (BMA) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Moldova, which is designed for temporary placement of irregular migrants under public custody. The ceremony hosted honorable guests such as donors, representatives of the government and international community, and local media.

In August, 2010, a delegation from Afghanistan visited Moldova for study on assistance and protection to victims of trafficking. The visit specifically focused on cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Moldova on the Empowerment of Women, the National Referral System and Shelter Management.





PHOTO-CONTEST ON CULTURAL DIVERSITY: "CITIZEN OF THE WORLD"

The photographs being presented are the short-listed submissions from the IOM's Facebook based photography competition, 'Citizen of the World'. The aim was to inspire people to see the inherent beauty of different cultures and to join together in a virtual community to celebrate diversity.

More than 700 people spanning the globe became members of this group and 348 photographs were posted on the Facebook 'wall'. By looking at these pictures you are looking through the lens and the heart of the photographers and seeing just what cultural diversity means to them.

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=112443798769327>



BORDERLANDS: TELLING TRUE STORIES OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING THROUGH A SOCIAL ART PROJECT

"Borderland" is a unique educational and art project. It tells seven stories about human trafficking in the genre of comics, based on real testimonies from survivors.

The project grew out of the collaboration between *Olga Trusova*, who worked on trafficking issues in Ukraine as a Fulbright fellow in 2009-2010, and an American illustrator and author, *Dan Archer*, in cooperation with the IOM Mission in Ukraine and with funding from USAID. Their goal was to educate the public about human trafficking by introducing victims' stories in a new way, which would make it easier for the audience to identify with those who suffered from modern-day slavery and be more careful when making their own decisions.

The exhibit was shown in Kyiv Shevchenko park and aims to raise awareness of the problem of human trafficking in Ukraine.





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КІНЦЕВИЙ ТЕРМІН ПОДАВАННЯ РОБІТ: 30 ЧЕРВНЯ 2011 РОКУ

On 15 April, IOM Ukraine launched a contest for students of Ukrainian universities on “What is the Future of Migration in Ukraine?”, as part of the activities related to the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the organization and 15 years of presence in Ukraine, observed in 2011.



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