

European Migration Network (EMN) Educational Seminars on Migration and Discussion Evenings 2012 – 2019, Slovakia

PROFILE

EMN EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR ON MIGRATION:

The EMN Educational Seminar on Migration is a unique learning platform about migration organised in Slovakia which for three days fosters networking, experience sharing and discussions among (inter)national experts and participants. The seminar provides 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 and in this way aims to contribute to enhanced policymaking process in Slovakia, other EU countries and Norway. It reaches out also to the public through various evening events. The seminar has been organised by IOM as the coordinator of the EMN activities in Slovakia with funding by the European Union since 2012. Each year it focuses on a specific migration related topic.



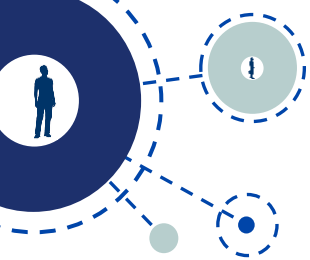
In 2019, the seminar "[Impacts and Opportunities of International Migration](#)" focused on the relationship between politics and migration, how and why people decide to migrate, good governance as a way forward in migration, and migration in urbanizing world, with special focus on cities.



In 2018, the Educational Seminar on Migration "[Causes and Consequences of Forced Migration](#)" discussed migration myths and data based migration policy-making, migration governance and future scenarios of international migration, current migration development from the countries of origin perspective, vulnerabilities and human rights of migrants, environmentally induced migration as well as labour migration and the risks of modern slavery. Participants had a chance to explore impact of current actions for the future migration policy-making through

interactive role-play board game developed by the EU Policy Lab of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre.

In 2017, the 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. The 2015 seminar "[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 topic of the seminar in 2014 was "[Forced Migration – Causes and Possible Solutions](#)", dealing 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 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 first 2012 Educational Seminar on Migration “[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 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. In 2020, the organisation of seminar was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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. Over the past years, among numerous guest lecturers were for example (in alphabetical order):

Alexander Randall | Climate Outreach and Information Network

Argentina Szabados | IOM Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Arjen Leerkes | Erasmus University Rotterdam & Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

Asmita Naik | independent consultant

Bernd Hemingway | IOM Regional Office for the EEA, the EU and NATO

Boldizsar Nagy | University of Eotvos Lorand & Central European University

Caroline Van Buren | UNHCR Regional Representation for Central Europe

David Brown | University of Nottingham’s Rights Lab

Elizabeth Collett | Migration Policy Institute Europe

Euridice Marquez | UNODC

Evan Easton-Calabria | University of Oxford’s Refugee Studies Centre

François Gemenne | environmental geopolitics expert

Frank Laczko | IOM Headquarters’ Migration Research Division

Gilles Reckinger | University of Innsbruck

Gudrun Biffi | Danube University in Krems

Jacob Townsend | Seefar

Jeffrey Labovitz | IOM Regional Office for East and Horn of Africa

Jose Angel Oropeza | IOM Coordinating Office for the Mediterranean & IOM Mission for Italy and Malta

Kanta Kumari Rigaud | World Bank Group

Kilian Kleinschmidt | Innovation and Planning Agency

Klara Skrivankova | Anti-Slavery International

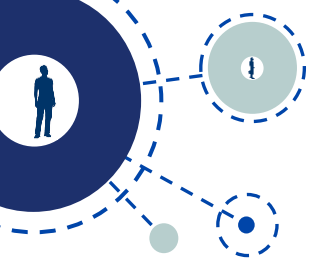
Lara White | IOM Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Liza Schuster | Afghanistan Migrants Advice and Support Organization & City University London

Mariam Safi | Organization for Policy Research and Development Studies

Martin Xuereb | Migrant Offshore Aid Station

Michael Gray | IOM Headquarters’ Resettlement and Movement Management Division



Nassim Majidi | Samuel Hall & Africa Center
for Migration Studies, Wits University

Patrick Taran | Global Migration Policy
Associates

Penelope Kyritsis | Worker-Driven Social
Responsibility Network & Worker Rights
Consortium

Peter Kresak | UNHCR Office in the Slovak
Republic

Petra Hueck | International Catholic Migration
Commission Europe

Renald Gregoire | Embassy of Canada

Roger Zetter | University of Oxford

Ronald Skeldon | University of Sussex

Simona Vezzoli | University of Oxford

Zoi Sakellidou | EU Anti-Trafficking
Coordinator Office

EMN DISCUSSION EVENING:

The EMN Educational Seminar on Migration reaches out also to the public through free-of-charge evening programme: film screenings and/or discussion evenings. EMN Discussion Evenings combine a documentary screening and moderated discussion with experts in the particular field.

[The 2019 EMN Discussion Evenings](#) included theatre play by Nová scéna Theatre Home (where is yours?) followed by discussion with experts on how to talk about migration in an accurate and balanced way as well as screening of documentary movie *The Good Postman* following the election for mayor of an almost deserted Bulgarian village on the Turkish border. Previous EMN Discussion Evenings [Migration Caused by Climate Change](#) (2018) highlighted devastating consequences of this phenomenon for people and [Refugee Camp, My Home](#) (2017) the dire conditions which refugees face. Older EMN Discussion Evenings included topics [Europe or Die?](#) (2015) on irregular migration and current situation in the Mediterranean, [People Forced to Flee](#) (2014) about the forced migration, refugees and assistance to them, [The Tree Workers Case](#) (2013) on labour exploitation and human trafficking, [Are we at Home Here?](#) (2012) about migrant integration in Slovakia and Czech Republic. 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.



SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS:

Each year, the seminar welcomes more than 70 participants with different professional backgrounds. It targets mainly professionals from the Slovak public administration, non-profit sector and academia 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, Norway, Georgia and Moldova 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 and www.ec.europa.eu/emn.

