



Ressort: Politik

International Migrants Day celebrated by OSCE in Vienna

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An OSCE conference was held in Vienna on 18 December 2018 on the occasion of the International Migrants Day. The total number of deaths recorded only on the African continent during migration amounts to 1,386 in 2018, based on surveys conducted by the Mixed Migration Centre's Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (4Mi). When people don't have access to legal migration routes and few reliable records exist, human

traffickers and smugglers put the lives of would-be migrants in danger. Many of the deaths recorded by the Missing Migrants Project, for example, are concentrated on routes used by smugglers. Most migration deaths reported within Africa appear to have occurred while migrants are on the road to Libya: deaths recorded since 2014 are predominately in the Sahara Desert, northern Niger, southern Libya, and northern Sudan.

The main causes of death recorded indicate that many migrant deaths in Africa are preventable. Starvation, dehydration, physical abuse, sickness and lack of access to medicines are causes of death frequently cited by the migrants who reported deaths on routes within Africa.

To address labour shortages and allow migrants to be a resource for countries of origin and destination, socio-economic integration is essential, said participants at the OSCE conference held in Vienna on the occasion of the International Migrants Day.

The Co-ordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Vuk Žugic, said that the discussion showed how much our societies and economies are interconnected. "Co-operation is not an option, but a necessity," said Žugic. "Dialogue remains key for long-term solutions. I believe that the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security offers a unique lens to search for suitable responses."

The event was organized with policymakers, economic and social partners, civil society representatives and practitioners. The conclusion of the event was that only a multi-stakeholder approach can ensure an effective labour market integration of migrants, thanks to the involvement of the private sector, governments, workers' associations, education and training institutions, academia and civil society. The work done at the OSCE in 2018 on migration has been a priority for the Italian OSCE Chairmanship. The discussion offered a renewed opportunity to improve understanding, explore common solutions and renew strategic partnerships for the OSCE's future engagement in the field of migration governance.

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“Despite persisting challenges among many countries on how to address the phenomenon of migration, we cannot shy away from this conversation,” said Paul Bekkers, Director of the Office of the OSCE Secretary General. The dialogue on labour integration of migrants should be fact-based, not driven by fear, with the aim to serve both hosting and origin societies alike, but most of all the individuals concerned – the migrants themselves.

The OSCE will carry on its comprehensive approach to security in order to address existing challenges in migration governance, implementing the continuing efforts of the international community, together with its field operations and long-standing partners: the International Organization for Migration, the International Labour Organization, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and other relevant agencies and entities, as well as the private sector, academia and civil society.

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