

Conference News

EIGHTH
INTERNATIONAL
METROPOLIS
CONFERENCE

Gaining from Migration

Vienna 2003

Daily Bulletin
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Photo: Peter Rigaud

For Renate Brauner, the Metropolis 2003 Conference is one of the most important events in her seven-year career as City Councillor for Integration. In this interview, she explains why and how Vienna has always gained and will further gain from migration.

Vienna has always gained from migration

Why is Vienna a good venue for the Metropolis 2003 Conference?

In its multicultural history, Vienna has always gained from different cultures. We want to nurture and further develop these advantages. We have learned a lot from the international exchange at past conferences and try to carry out integration as a structured and monitored process, for example through a welcome package in foreign languages, so-called "orientation interviews" and tailored German courses in our language programmes. So far, over 25,000 persons have participated in the language programmes. Another milestone was the right to vote at district level, which migrants were granted in December 2002.

Who will attend the conference on behalf of the city administration?

Numerous experts of the City of Vienna take part in the conference. At present, we are evolving our integration

policy. It is therefore very important for me that the latest findings and international experiences should influence this process. Diversity is our focus in policy formulation in order to comprehend integration as a process that touches all spheres. We shift integration from the periphery to the centre and will set up a Municipal Department for this purpose instead of the Vienna Integration Fund. This is a logical step, as one quarter to one third of the population in Vienna have a migration background.

What are your expectations and wishes for this conference?

The motto "Gaining from Migration" is very well chosen. Vienna has already benefited from the advantages of immigration. This has enriched the city, which is also flourishing as a business location.

I wish the conference all the best and hope that it will be a success for all participants!

Today's Keynote Speakers



Session 1.1.
Migration flows –
Economic & social
implications for
development
Jagdish N. Bhagwati
Columbia
University, New York

Jagdish Bhagwati was born and raised in India. He attended Cambridge University where he graduated in 1956, then studied at MIT and Oxford, returning to India afterwards to teach. He went back to MIT, leaving it twelve years later to join Columbia University. Professor Bhagwati has also served as Economic Policy Advisor to Director-General, GATT and as Special Adviser to the UN on Globalization. Currently, he is an External Adviser to the WTO. He is regarded as one of the foremost international trade theorists of his generation. Professor Bhagwati will address the concerns regarding the management of international migration. He wishes to put

forward a policy approach which is aimed at accommodating as well as maximizing the benefits of international migration. He will focus on questions related to skilled migration including "brain drain" which affects poorer countries, in particular African nations.



Session 1.2.
Migration and trans-
national connectivity –
Policy options
Rita Süßmuth, Chair
in the Independent
Council of Experts on
Immigration and Integration, Berlin

Before embarking on her political career, Rita Süßmuth was Professor for International Comparative Educational Sciences at the Universities of Bochum and Dortmund. From 1987 to 2002, Rita Süßmuth was a member of the German Federal Parliament, serving as its president from

1988 to 1998. For three years, she was Federal Minister for Family Affairs. Before starting her activities at the Independent Council, she was Vice President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and Chairperson of the Independent Commission on Migration to Germany. Rita Süßmuth will talk about increased transnational connectivity between states and peoples due to globalisation. Policy-makers must identify its advantages and drawbacks for citizens of receiving societies and for the global community. The keynote will address policies that can be implemented to yield the best results in this context. Areas include empowering migrants to foster the productive use of their transnational links, integration policy, recruiting of highly skilled workers, protection of women and families, (temporarily) returning migrants to develop their home countries and control of irregular migration.

Daily Programme

Managing Migration Globally
9:00–10:45 Session 1.1
11:15–13:00 Session 1.2
14:30–18:00 Workshops

Changes in the Programme
Lord Meghnad Desai will not attend plenary session 1.2. Workshop 2.2. has been cancelled.

Social Event

Viennese wine tavern
Buses leave at 20:00 sharp
from Friedrich-Schmidt-Platz!

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What are your expectations on the Metropolis Conference?



Penny Jorgensen
Auckland Regional Migrant Services Charitable Trust (New Zealand)

I came a long way to learn about migration experiences from other countries and I expect to hear about future trends in migration to be better prepared for the coming years.



Can Malatacik
(Germany)

I am currently doing my PhD on migration issues. Although the plenary sessions involve big shots, I'm utmost interested in the workshops dealing with migration on a municipal level.



José Kimenga
Swedish Integration Board (Sweden)

I want to gain more insight in the Metropolis network and to learn more about migration in other countries. It is a good possibility to establish contact with different kinds of people working in this field.



Maria Nenette Motus
International Organisation for Migration (Ukraine)

I am working for the IOM Ukraine. My projects foremost deal with the migrants' health, so I hope to learn from the workshops about migration and current research on migration policies.



Biljana Lauvstad
District Furuset, Municipality of Oslo (Norway)

I want to get information dealing with my daily work: my current project focuses on 'migrants helping migrants' and I'm looking for international experience on this topic.

Vienna City Hall



Photo: PID/Velava

"The Stones Will Speak" – A leitmotif of late 19th-century architecture

Plans for a new city hall took shape around 1850, when the city expanded dramatically due to the incorporation of outlying districts. The number of inhabitants suddenly rose from 50,000 to 430,000, and the old building no longer met the needs of the large centralised administration. The new Vienna City Hall is situated on the finest boulevard in Vienna, the Ringstrasse. The medieval city walls were torn down in 1857 and a variety of palaces, banks and public buildings were erected in a very short time on the construction plots gained.

Like the Parliament and Vienna University, Vienna City Hall was designed in the historicist style by Friedrich Schmidt, considered one of the leading neo-Gothic architects at the time. In 1883, after only ten years, the keystone was laid by the emperor. It was Friedrich Schmidt's intention to build

a city hall that would stand as a symbol of the bourgeoisie and clearly present itself to the citizens as a public building. Gothic stylistic forms are used for those parts that serve a public function (e.g. Council Chamber, Ceremonial Hall). The building is richly decorated with statues symbolising the values of 19th-century bourgeoisie. It stands fifteen steps above ground level and rises to a 98-metre central steeple flanked by four turrets of 61 metres each.

Today the building is the seat of the city's legislative authorities, its administrative departments, the City Senate and Councillors and of the Mayor of Vienna. As well as being a centre of political power, it is a centre of social and artistic activity where cultural events, exhibitions, balls (e.g. the world-famous Life Ball) and conferences like Metropolis are being held.

Integrationshaus

Getting Austrians and migrants involved

Founded in 1995, the Integrationshaus (literally, "Integration House") has become both a platform for activities to combat xenophobia and a reception centre for refugees, providing decent shelter and psychosocial care within a transitory residential home. At the same time, a number of related projects aim to include the native residential population in the endeavours of the Integrationshaus. At present, 135 people, including 25 unaccompanied minors, are being sheltered. They receive immediate support, as many of them have suffered traumatic experiences. The facility offers a place to live for 2 years.



Photo: Wiener Integrationsfond

During their stay at the Integrationshaus, migrants as well as Austrians may attend qualification programmes including classes in German and other languages, job orientation training, further education and qualification for people who want to work with refugees. The organisation also provides daycare facilities for children and a kindergarten. Another important focus of the Integrationshaus is to alert public awareness to both the needs of migrants and integration policy. To raise funds, the Integrationshaus organises a ball every year and publishes the "good newspaper".

When a refugee family has succeeded in obtaining a new economic basis, they move to a final home and may claim follow-up services.

The Integrationshaus tries to show in an exemplary way which factors are important for social integration and moreover serves as a model project for integration.

www.integrationshaus.at

IOM Vienna

Managing migration for the benefit of all

The International Organisation for Migration works with migrants and governments to provide humane responses to migration challenges. It was established in 1951 as an intergovernmental organisation to resettle European displaced persons, refugees and migrants. The tasks of the IOM encompass the following areas: humanitarian return, prevention and management of irregular migration, trafficking in human beings, labour and economic migration, voluntary resettlement, integration, anti-discrimination, migration and health as well as movement and evacuation. Research and analysis of migration flows throughout Europe as well as monitoring is done to provide reliable and transparent data.

Since 1998, the IOM office in Vienna has been mandated with regional functions for Central Europe and assists governments in meeting the growing challenges of migration management within the framework of the EU *acquis communautaire*. This region includes Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania and Bulgaria. The mandate is to provide advanced understanding of migration issues, to encourage social and economic development through migration and to uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants. Furthermore, in the same period a Technical Co-operation Centre for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (TCC) was established as well.

IOM in Austria organised a conference in October 2002 to provide a platform for personal encounters and information exchange on best practices and experiences regarding the integration of migrants in Vienna and in capitals of the EU accession states in Central Europe. In June 2003, a conference on anti-discrimination was held in Vienna, followed by a conference on migration trends in accession countries in July 2003. With regard to integration, IOM Vienna has begun enhanced activities in the field of migration and health on the basis of EU projects and been nominated National Contact Point (NCP) for the EU Migration Observatory. The General Austrian Humanitarian Voluntary Return (AHVR) programme: IOM Vienna strives to improve the return and re-integration of returnees, especially in the case of vulnerable groups such as unaccompanied minors. In 2002, IOM Vienna assisted 878 individuals going back to almost 40 destinations. As of April 2003, IOM Vienna has been entrusted with the implementation of the project "Co-ordination of the Assistance for Voluntary Return to Afghanistan", which is being financed by the European Refugee Fund and the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior.

www.iomvienna.at
www.iom.int



Discover Vienna

Explore the Vienna Ringstrasse via public transport. The tram line 1 will take you full circle around the boulevard and its monumental buildings. The stop is just in front of City Hall Square.

Facts

History of integration policy in Vienna

The Vienna Integration Fund (WIF) Was founded in 1992, when due to the dismantling of the Iron Curtain large migration movements from ex-Yugoslavia resulted in tensions between locals and migrants. "We are all Vienna" has been its motto for 11 years now. The Vienna Integration Fund communicates with people of different origins, supporting natives as well as newcomers also by lobbying and policy counselling.

New citizens want to have a say The right to vote on the district level in Vienna, long demanded by WIF, was granted in December 2002 against the objections of the Austrian federal government. Migrants who have lived in Vienna for 5 years may cast their vote for the first time in 2006 – so far an exclusive right of Austrians and EU citizens. A study has shown that a majority will make use of this right (almost 70%).

Diversity management Step by step, the city administration will shift from integration policy to a diversity and equality approach. "Migrants are no longer a minority group. International trends as well as society have changed, therefore more administrative services should be offered to citizens in their mother tongue", says Renate Brauner, City Councillor for Integration. By 2004, a municipal department for integration will be set up to implement diversity policy in the whole city administration. It will focus on basic research and watch international developments. However, co-operation with private counselling institutions on the regional level remains an important pillar.