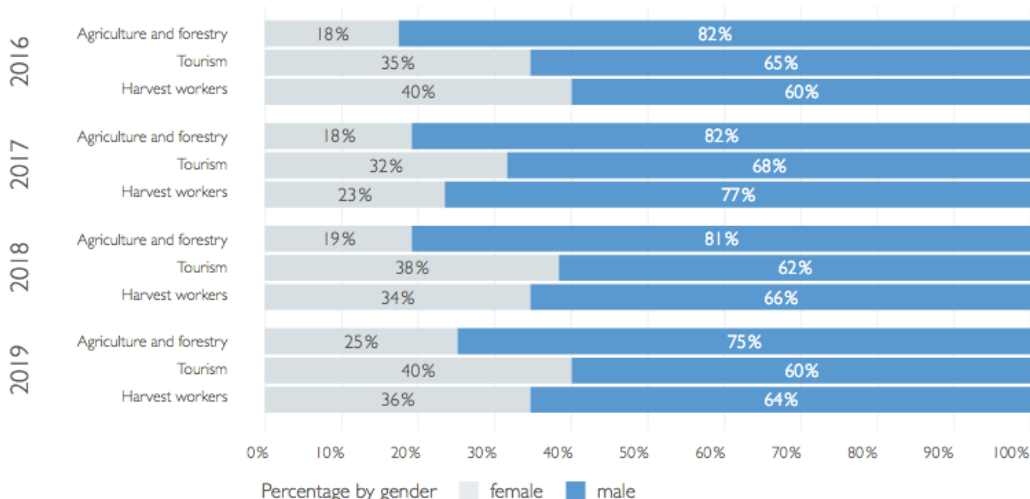


## Tourism sector in Austria and immigrant labour force – The case of seasonal workers



For the cover story of this monthly newsletter, the first of this new year, I would like to propose an interesting lecture, the report about “Seasonal workers from Third Countries in Austria” published by the National Contact Point in Austria for the European Migration Network (EMI) in the International Organization for Migration (IMO), offers an overview about such Austrian models for seasonal workers. The report brings under the light a less covered part, at least in the general public discourses, regarding the conditions of the seasonal workers among the immigrant labour force. Although the paper is quite technical and focuses on national and EU seasonal workers directives and the Austrian model for the admission of season workers based on quotas issued each year for the tourism, agriculture and forestry sectors, it's of great relevance and interest for understand certain dynamics applied in the tourist sector which employ many seasonal workers every year (more than 100,000 third-country workers enter the EU each year). Seasonal workers from third countries are employed in many sectors for which it has become increasingly difficult to find

**First-time work permits issued, by gender and sector (2016–2019)**



workers in the EU. Between these sectors the tourism sector is also particularly affected by this challenge. In fact, Austrian trade unions argue that, even if there are enough jobseekers in the country, in reality most of them are refusing seasonal job positions due to

the current employment conditions. Most recently, this tension between the need for foreign seasonal workers and their working conditions is also reflected in the public debate taking place in Austria. Although the number of work permits issued has risen continuously in recent years, the tourism and agriculture and forestry industries have claimed a massive shortage of seasonal and harvest workers and demanded an increase of the quotas. As far as a socio-political change can be seen with regard to the appreciation of the work done by seasonal workers in the last years, also due to the challenges emerged during the pandemic, it has still to be demonstrated to which extent it leads to a concrete improvement in working conditions for the seasonal workers. On another hand, beside the worst working conditions they are facing, in fact, seasonal workers are also less likely to be affected and influenced by all inclusion efforts leading to a long-term integration in the community they are working for, due to their relatively short engagement in the hosting counties.

For more information, see: [emn-national-report-2020-seasonal-workers-in-at.pdf](https://www.emn.at/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/emn-national-report-2020-seasonal-workers-in-at.pdf)

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce our readers to another study on irregular migrant work in the tourism sector. Even though this ILO-commissioned research is older, some of its findings are still relevant. Here we quote from the executive summary<sup>1</sup>:

“To obtain irregular employment, contacts through family and friends are seen as the most important search strategy for migrants. Next in importance, pro-



fessionally organized recruitment agencies, followed by contacts through previous employment in Austria, contacts through ethnic community networks and irregular sub-contractors acting in bad faith, are listed by our experts. Contacts through media advertisements, street markets or going from door-to-door in search of employment are seen as comparatively unimportant search and recruitment strategies. The dominance of certain recruitment strategies for irregular

<sup>1</sup> Jandl, Michael; Hollomey, Christina; Stepien, Anna Migration and irregular work in Austria : results of a Delphi-study / Michael Jandl, Christina Hollomey and Anna Stepien ; International Labour Office ; International Centre for Migration Policy Development. - Geneva: ILO, 2007

workers in particular branches is seen as causally related to the prevalence of certain nationalities in particular segments of irregular labour markets. According to our expert panel, the main countries of origin of irregular migrant workers in Austria vary by branches and types of employment. Overall, Poland, the successor states to the former Yugoslavia, Slovakia, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Turkey and Romania are listed as the main countries of origin of migrants engaged in IMW (in this order), but in certain branches and fields the sequence is changed (e.g. for care in private households, Slovakia and the Czech Republic come out on top) or other nationalities are named as important as well (e.g. Chinese in catering). “

### **Austria to Take In More Third Country Tourism Workers in a Bid to Revive the Sector<sup>2</sup>**

The tourism sector in Austria has marked a significant improvement after being profoundly affected by the spread of the Coronavirus and its new variants. Austrian leaders are continuously attempting to find new possibilities to help the country’s tourism industry get out of the crisis caused by the Coronavirus and its new variants.

According to authorities in Austria, changes to the Foreigners Employment Act (AuslBG) as well as the Settlement and Residence Act (NAG) help to facilitate further access to the labour market for workers from third countries, while the admission procedure is simplified and accelerated through digitalisation. In a particular form, the permanent season regulation that became effective on January 1, 2022, will be transferred to a permanent system.

Authorities in Austria have confirmed that seasonal workers who have been employed in the tourism industry for a period of at least three months, in the past five years, within the framework of quotas and who register with the regional offices of the Public Employment Service can receive work permits regardless of the quota.

*“The labour market situation is one of the biggest challenges in the tourism industry. Since our tourism has grown steadily in recent years, there was a need for skilled workers even before the Corona pandemic. Qualified workers from third countries are particularly important for the tourism labour market,”* the Minister pointed out in this regard.

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<sup>2</sup> The Online-Journal SchengenVisaInfo.com has published an interesting statement of Austria’s Minister for Agriculture and Tourism, Elisabeth Köstinger. See SchengenVisaInfo.com May 12, 2022, online available: <https://www.schengenvisa.info.com/news/austria-to-take-in-more-third-country-tourism-workers-in-a-bid-to-revive-the-sector/>

Besides, Köstinger stressed that new regulations on the red-white-red card are an important step toward counteracting the shortage of skilled workers engaged in the tourism sector.

## Outside the Box



# AEGARE

ASOCIACIÓN DE EMPRESARIOS GALLEGOS  
DE RIBERAS DEL EBRO

AEGARE is a business association that was founded in July 2011 with the aim of strengthening relations between Galician entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs based in Aragón and the banks of the Ebro.

As a representative entity of the business spectrum in which organizations of different sectors of activity participate as associates, it brings experience related to the analysis of professional profiles of young people with no work experience, their employability, and the development of professional skills.

Finally mention that AEGARE is part of the International Network of Galician Businessmen in the World and that maintains relations with diverse international institutions.



## İZMİT İLÇE MİLLİ EĞİTİM MÜDÜRLÜĞÜ



İzmit İlçe Milli Eğitim Müdürlüğü (İzmit District Directorate of National Education - IIMEM), founded in 2008, is a governmental organization in charge of planning and coordinating all kinds of educational activities from pre-school to

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university and adult education. The first and foremost objective is the improvement of management and organizational capacities of public educational bodies located in İzmit Region. In this context it supports school principals, teachers and other staff with variety of in-service training courses, besides cooperating in many national and international projects.

Izmit is the capital of Kocaeli province, a small province in terms of surface area, however, it is very relevant terms of production and added value in the industrial sector, natural beauty and beaches. It has the great potential to be an important tourism destination due to the rich nature, sea, culture and history, gastronomy, sports tourism infrastructure and potential throughout the city. With the aim to bust that touristic potential, under its umbrella, IIMEM organizes 70 different courses that are open to the public. The strategic goals of IIMEM are to train qualified personnel to be employed in the tourism sector, projects aimed at increasing the professional, technical and language skills of the people serving in the region, and projects aimed at ensuring quality standardization in order to increase the quality of service in the tourism sector.

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## *News from partners*

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### **Gesellschaft für Inklusion und Soziale Arbeit - ISA**

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Fachzentrum Migration Integration - FMI**

Due to the changed immigration situation in recent years, social work in the fields of migration and integration is also in a constant state of change and is continuously confronted with new challenges. The issues of standards and methods of social work in these areas, but also knowledge and skills of qualified and needs-based social counselling and support for refugees play a major role. With the aim to support, accompany and promote the process of quality improvement ISA funded in 2017 the **Fachzentrum Migration Integration**. Based on accumulated knowledge, capabilities and experiences this specialist Centre on migration and integration issues has become one of the mayor projects of ISA and during the last evidenced a substantial impact in social worker community, based in the Federal State of Brandenburg.

#### **Start of construction works at ADEGCO**

For years, ISA has supported the work of the small civic association ADEGCO, based in Bukedea, north-eastern Uganda, through knowledge transfer, exchange of experience and joint projects. The most important project of this cooperation so far has been the establishment of a computer cabinet with 12 workstations. Since November 2019, 320 youths, young adults and teachers

from primary schools in the region have been given the opportunity to acquire basic knowledge in computer science. Demand for the courses, which last several weeks, remained very high and the rented space had long been bursting at the seams. A permanent solution became increasingly urgent.

The partner contacted the Bukedea municipality, which provided a building plot free of charge, subject to certain conditions. A design for a new educational building began to take shape. According to this design, the new training centre should have a spacious IT laboratory and another training room, two

adequate offices and a counselling/stay room for teachers as well as sanitary facilities. At the request of the partner, ISA applied for funding from the North-South Bridges Foundation in the middle of last year to finance the construction measures and raised donations to secure the own funds to be contributed. A few days before Christmas, the Foundation received the grant.



On 23 January 2023, the first cut of the spade could take place on the allocated plot of land. If everything continues at the same pace as presented at the start of

construction, the construction manager will be proved right: The building will be ready for occupancy at the end of April. Then ADEGCO will enter a new stage. With the completion of the construction measures, the partner will be provided with a building that will allow for the expansion of the content of the previous education and training offers and their significant increase.

## Service Civil International Österreich - SCI

### 84th International Committee Meeting (ICM), the SCI General Assembly online

The annual world meeting of the Service Civil International movement took place online from 7 to 11 December 2022 with two days off dedicated to workshops. The meeting was characterised by broader and deeper discussion re-



garding new resolutions and recommendations proposed to the move and voted by the delegates of all SCI branches. The ICM is an yearly moment where all member organisations decide on the future of the organisation by bringing their voice to the movement, adopting new rules or abrogating old ones, a very important and significant moment for the whole SCI family. For more information: [SCI General Assembly is concluded - Service Civil International](#)

[national](#)

### Training on urban actions and youth engagement

In January 2023 we had the transnational training for staff members in Cagliari,

**Il progetto.** In città il Youth Urban Action

## Le idee dei giovani sul canale navigabile

Dieci giovani europei e non in città per parlare prima di partecipazione giovanile negli interventi di rigenerazione e sviluppo urbano, e per metterla poi concretamente in pratica in città: fra i case studies, anche il canale navigabile finanziato attraverso il Pnrr, in progettazione per Cagliari.

Il progetto si chiama "Youth Urban Action" ed è finanziato dal programma Erasmus+: si tratta di un'azione coordinata tra più realtà e Paesi, dai quali provengono i dieci partecipanti europei e extraeuropei (partner per la Sardegna è l'organizzazione cagliaritano Urban Center)



Il canale Palma-Terramaini

Canale. Domani si terrà invece il laboratorio di creatività urbana aperto alla cittadinanza: consisterà in un intervento di branding creativo alla Galleria del Sale, in via Pessagno, prima galleria d'arte contemporanea a cielo aperto del-

Per le vostre segnalazioni su questa pagina: mail: [cagliari@unionesarda.it](mailto:cagliari@unionesarda.it) whatsapp: 348250978

Italy, related to the E+ cooperation project on Urban regeneration and youth engagement called "Youth Urban Action: developing urban spaces". The five days of training, participants from Italy, Austria, Turkey, Germany and Romania with sessions and workshops about urban development, urban mapping, participatory planning approaches and youth engagement in urban regeneration projects.

**L'iniziativa.** Via al confronto internazionale

## Giovani europei progettano i canali navigabili

Da Austria, Germania, Romania e Turchia nuove idee per rigenerare la città



MARINA - CASTELLO - STAMPACE - VILANOVA - SANT'AVENDRACE - TUVIREDDU - CEP - IS MIRRIONIS - SAN MICHELE - MULINU BECCIU - LA VEGA - BINGIA MATTÀ - SAN BENEDETTO - FONS - SANT'ALINZEDDIA - QUARTIERE EUROPEO - GENNEDDU - SAN GIULIANO - BONARIA - MONTEURPINU - MONTE MIZI - LA PALMA - QUARTIERE DEL SOLE - SANT'ELLA - PORTO - SAN BARTOLO

## İzmit İlçe Milli Eğitim Müdürlüğü - IIMEM

### Official project launch READING CHILDREN OF İZMIT



An *Adventure Full of Books* Project has been launched on 5 November 2022. With this project, it is planned that the books of teachers and students who are authors in İzmit district will be read by all teachers and students. Various interviews, autograph sessions and invitations of writers from other cities are other activities within the project.

On January 15, 2023, the "Young Stars of İzmit" program has been organized and the students who received awards in various arts and sports branches were invited and a Certificate of Appreciation has been presented. Especially, due to the fact that there are students working in the field of tourism, the project has been introduced in the program.



On January 5, 2023, the Erasmus+ Project *Inclusion of Migrants by Qualified Occupation in the Tourism - Includmi* has been introduced our project to the employees of the Provincial Directorate of National Education and the Research and Development (R&D) unit in other districts of Kocaeli. During that meeting a productive exchange of ideas and suggestions has taken place with the aim to involve the different public institutions in the dissemination of the future project results.

#### Disclaimer:

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