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Directorate-General Home Affairs

Comparative Study on Best Practices
to Interlink Pre-Departure Reintegration Measures
Carried out in Member States
with Short- and Long-Term Reintegration Measures
in the Countries of Return

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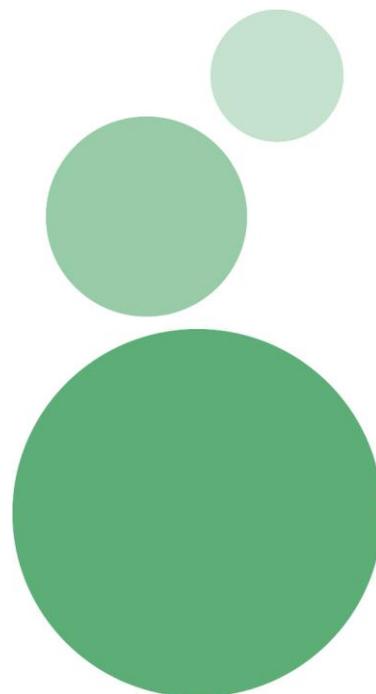
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Final Report

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ecre
European Council
on Refugees and Exiles



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Executive Summary

Introduction

The **overall purpose of the study was to provide practical guidance to Member States¹ with regards to the development and implementation of a coherent reintegration policy and sustainable return**. Specifically, the focus has been on ‘interlinking’ pre-departure reintegration measures with post-arrival reintegration measures.

A reintegration policy is coherent when the strategies and actions to achieve reintegration do not conflict with the objectives of reintegration. That is to say, if reintegration objectives are to promote sustainable return then a coherent reintegration policy should implement activities that favour and promote a sustainable return. Sustainable return can have several definitions, but it generally implies the absence of re-migration after return because the returnee is fully integrated socially and economically in the home community.

The study adopted a largely qualitative approach - gathering documentation and feedback from key stakeholders and other sources around current reintegration practices. **The information provided in this study draws on 31 comparative country profiles and 17 case studies**. The scope of the comparative country profiles was to provide an overview of reintegration assistance across Europe, focusing on:

- Legislative/policy framework underpinning reintegration assistance;
- Overview of programme volume and timelines;
- Information about providers and beneficiaries;
- Type of assistance; and
- Budgetary information.

The purpose of the case studies was to gain a better understanding of the organisational culture around reintegration programmes. The analysis also helped to gain an insight as to the difficulties which may occur in the process of implementing reintegration measures, and to provide illuminating examples of best practice.

The results of the study were summarised in an **inventory of best practices** and a set of **policy relevant recommendations** on how to create positive synergies between different existing reintegration measures.

¹ Throughout this study, the term ‘Member States’ denotes the 27 EU Member States as well as the 4 Schengen Associated States bound by the Directive (Switzerland, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein).

Main Findings

Existing literature does not provide a specific definition of **‘interlinking’ pre-departure reintegration measures with post-arrival reintegration measures**. Nevertheless, the concept can be deduced from current practices, and includes the following aspects:

1. **Providing Reintegration Assistance ‘Both’ Pre-Departure and Post-Arrival:** whereby reintegration assistance starts in the host countries and is continued in the countries of return. Post-arrival reintegration measure may consist of new and/or follow-up/complementary activities to those initiated in the host country;
2. **Tailoring of Reintegration Measures:** tailoring technical assistance to each individual returnee and/or to the development policy of a country through case-specific, up-to-date and reliable information gathering and dissemination prior to return;²
3. **Cooperation between providers of assistance in sending and returning countries:** through the exchange of information, knowledge, skills and resources;³
4. **Monitoring the Progress/Success of Reintegration Measures:** monitoring of returnees for example through local partners in the country of return.

A number of factors that help or hinder the interlinking between different existing reintegration measures were identified, namely:

- **Timelines:** The short time period between the issue of the return decision and the actual departure limits the activities that can be carried out before departure in preparation for return;⁴
- **Financial Resources:** Limited budget availability necessarily restricts the scope of existing reintegration assistance and consequently dictates the choice to focus on one phase rather than the other. Furthermore, as tailoring would require investing considerable financial and human resources, limited budget can also explain why some countries may choose a ‘one-size fits all returnees’ model. Evaluating programmes against a set of pre-determined criteria is important in order to identify and address existing weaknesses and challenges which have not led to a sustainable reintegration. Insufficient funding makes the evaluation of reintegration projects difficult as monitoring efforts are restricted to between 6 and 12 months following the arrival in the return country.

² For example: on the availability of educational facilities, the housing situation, health infrastructure, and employment opportunities. See Koser, Khalid. 2001. ‘The Return and Reintegration of Rejected Asylum Seekers and Irregular Migrants’ in IOM Migration Research Series. Geneva.

³ Danish Refugee Council. 2008. ‘Recommendations for the return and reintegration of rejected asylum seekers: Lessons learnt from Returns to Kosovo.

⁴ According to Article 7 of the Return Directive (2008/115/EC) A return decision shall provide for an appropriate period for voluntary departure of between seven and thirty days. According to the same article Member States shall extend such period in special circumstances such as the existence of children attending school and the existence of other family and social link.

- **Availability of Experienced Staff and Partners:** Professionally trained staff with adequate and specialised training (in psycho-social assessment for example) is necessary for identifying and tailoring support around returnee needs. When host country organisations responsible for reintegration assistance have no staff in the field or are unable to relocate their own staff, they build relationships with local partners. At times it can be difficult to find local support organisations with specific expertise in dealing with the multiple dimensions related to reintegration assistance.
- **Returnee Motivation to Leave the Host Country:** Some countries might choose not to provide some type of pre-departure assistance when they believe it might have an adverse effect on the willingness of returnees to leave the host country. Although training received in the host country is designed to shape or strengthen those skills necessary to build a profession and become self-sustained in the country of return⁵, returnees might decide to put these newly acquired skills to the test in the host country.
- **Complementary and Competing Priorities:** The extent to which interlinking takes place, largely depends on the policy priorities of host and return countries, as well as the mandate of the agencies in charge of reintegration assistance. A mismatch of priorities can occur when return countries might actually encourage migration and re-migration. In fact, remittances constitute a significant part of developing countries' economies. In 2009, remittances accounted for 6.6% of Ghana's GDP and 8% of Sri Lanka's GDP (and as high as 35% in Tajikstan or 22.4% in Moldova). Remittances contribute significantly to economic growth;⁶ consequently some countries of return might not want to promote durable return and thus are less inclined to cooperate with EU actors in the field;⁷

⁵ See returnees' stories in the countries of return.

⁶ This was stressed by the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Acra, who note that "returning migrants meant not just the possible burden of society supporting them to re-integrate, but a reduction in remittances which had hitherto supported households and in some cases been the mainstay of local economies as was the case in some communities in the BrongAhafo Region".

Source:

<http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=213702>.

⁷ The World Bank, Fact Book 2011,

Stats: [http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTDECPROSPECTS/Resources/476882-1157133580628/RemittancesData_Inflows_May10\(Public\).xls](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTDECPROSPECTS/Resources/476882-1157133580628/RemittancesData_Inflows_May10(Public).xls).

Best Practices & Recommendations

The ‘best practices’ below reflect the experiences gained in the case study countries. These activities directly or indirectly promote a coherent reintegration policy and a sustainable return. In order to improve existing reintegration programmes and to facilitate the adoption of best practices in all Member States a number of recommendations need to be put forward.

Best Practice 1: Counselling is the backbone of reintegration and the first step towards sustainable return. The case studies on Belgium, Germany, Hungary and the Netherland show that providing **counselling that is “comprehensive in scope, up to date, provided by qualified practitioners and extended to the family or close circle of the returnee”** is a best practice.

Best practice 2: The UK case study and in particular the “percentage approach” suggests that providing **tailored in-kind assistance decided in consultation with the returnees** is a best practice. Granting returnees some ownership over how much of their in-kind assistance is allocated to the different reintegration components, allows them to make the assistance more relevant to their needs in their country of return.

- **Recommendation 1:** Conduct socio-economic profiling of potential returnees during pre-departure counselling sessions in host countries to assess their skills, needs and motivations, coupled with an assessment of the conditions and prospects in the country of return to support the migrant’s decision to return.
- **Recommendation 2:** Involve specialised workers to psychologically prepare returnees – vulnerable individuals in particular – prior to departure.
- **Recommendation 3:** Develop an online platform to share information and experience.⁸
- **Recommendation 4:** Work with family members in parallel to assistance provided to the returnee.⁹
- **Recommendation 5:** Establish mentoring or visits systems and support the development of a network of reintegration assistance recipients.

Best practice 3: Migrants often ignore the existence of reintegration assistance available in the host country or in the country of return. Therefore, **raising awareness** about available reintegration assistance needs to be strengthened. The case studies on Belgium, Ecuador, Ghana and Italy, show that good practices come in the form of **“strategic multi-media media campaigns, online websites in several languages, or radio programmes”**.

- **Recommendation 6:** Inform migrants that reintegration assistance providers are independent from the police or border agencies, and that getting information about voluntary return does not jeopardise an asylum application or put the person at risk of being detained for irregular stay.

⁸ A similar recommendation was put forward in the European Return Fund (2008-2013) Community Action Annual Programme 2010.

⁹Spanish case study.

Best practice 4: Very few returnees are likely to have the skills to be self-employed in the country of return and they require special training if they are to develop their potential and not lose the skills that they may have acquired in the host country. The case studies on Ecuador, Spain and Georgia show that **providing vocational or other training before departure or after arrival. Training needs to be tailored and focussed on the development of business skills** is a best practice.¹⁰

- **Recommendation 7:** Extend the provisions of reintegration assistance beyond 12 months.
- **Recommendation 8:** Increase and optimise the financial assistance available for reintegration activities so as to provide more sustainable reintegration and monitoring resources.
- **Recommendation 9:** Increase coordination between EU financial instruments in the field of migration.

Best practice 5: Evaluation and monitoring of returnees is key to improve reintegration programmes. The Italian case study shows that it is a good practice to **systematically monitoring returnees through SWOT analyses of the programmes.**

- **Recommendation 10:** Strengthen partnerships with and the training of local partners with knowledge of the country of return and who can contribute to the monitoring.¹¹¹²

¹⁰ This best practice is inferred from the case studies as well as the “Red Cross Return Initiative: A study on how to support sustainable return in safety and dignity” (Red Cross 2006).

¹¹ A similar best practiced can be drawn from the CSES Evaluation of Preparatory Actions 2001-2003 B7-677, which advocates the importance of collaboration and consultation with partners in third countries especially on design and preparation of projects to create synergies between different goals; those of the donors and those of the return countries.

¹² The importance of training can be found in the Annual Report of AENEAS programme 2000 where by capacity building of civil society organisations of third countries needs to be more systematically foreseen in the programme's design and project proposal.

1.0 Introduction

This document contains the final report produced by Matrix Insight/ICMPD/ECRE for a “Comparative Study on Best Practices to Interlink Pre-Departure Reintegration Measures carried out in Member States with Short- and Long-Term Reintegration Measures in Countries of Return”. The project started in February 2011 and was completed in mid-October 2011. This section outlines the study objectives and provides an overview of the structure of the draft final report.

The overall purpose of the study was **to provide practical guidance to Member States in developing and implementing a coherent and sustainable reintegration policy** by providing Member States¹³ with information on current national policies on reintegration measures, an inventory of best practices and a set of policy relevant conclusions and recommendations on how to create positive synergies between different existing reintegration measures.

The report is structured as follows:

Section 2.0 presents the conceptual framework for the analysis. The information in this section is primarily drawn from desk research and examines the link between reintegration assistance and voluntarily and sustainable return.

Section 3.0 provides a comparative overview of findings regarding the existing reintegration systems, including:

- Legislative/policy framework underpinning reintegration assistance;
- Overview of programme volume and timelines;
- Information about providers and beneficiaries;
- Type of assistance; and
- Budgetary information.

Section 4.0 identifies and describes best practices and recommendations on how to create positive synergies between different existing reintegration measures by examining good practice examples from selected Member States.

Section 5.0 provides conclusions and recommendations.

Supporting documents, including the overview of the methodological approach are provided in the appendices. In addition to questionnaire templates and contact logs, this includes 31 country profiles and 17 country case studies.

¹³ Throughout this study, the term ‘Member States’ denotes the 27 EU Member States and the 4 Schengen Associated States bound by the Directive (Switzerland, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein).

2.0 Conceptual Framework

An “effective removal and repatriation policy, based on common standards”, is a priority for the European Union. This means that persons should be returned in a “humane manner and with full respect for their fundamental rights and dignity”.¹⁴ The European Return Fund was thus set up as part of the general programme “Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows”,¹⁵ and it funds, among others, voluntary return and reintegration programmes. In this section we provide a brief overview of reintegration assistance – target group, timing and type of assistance, before exploring the concept of ‘interlinking’ pre-departure and post-arrival reintegration measures.

2.1 Overview of Reintegration Assistance

Reintegration assistance may serve as an **incentive to encourage foreigners to go back voluntarily** (alternatively, in the case of forced returns, States may choose to offer no, or only limited, reintegration assistance). Above and beyond providing incentives for third country nationals (TCNs) to leave their host country voluntarily, reintegration measures are generally designed to facilitate sustainable return (e.g. long-term (re-)integration in the society) and reduce the risk of re-emigration by helping returnees to stay in their country of return.

2.1.1 The Target Group for Reintegration Assistance

The focus of this study is on reintegration assistance provided to Third Country Nationals (TCNs) as defined primarily by Article 7 of the Return Fund Decision.

Table 1: TCNs Included in the Scope of this Study

TCNs under no legal obligation to leave	TCNs under legal obligation to leave
Asylum seekers awaiting a decision. Refugees and beneficiaries of international protection (2004/83/EC). Beneficiaries of temporary protection (2001/55/EC).	TCNs subject to a return decision who comply voluntarily. ¹⁶ TCNs subject to a return decision not willing to depart voluntarily. ¹⁷ TCNs who do not or no longer fulfill the conditions for entry and/or stay in the Member State.

¹⁴ Brussels European Council of 4 and 5 November 2004, Presidency Conclusions, the “Hague programme”

¹⁵ Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council No 575/2007/EC of 23 May 2007

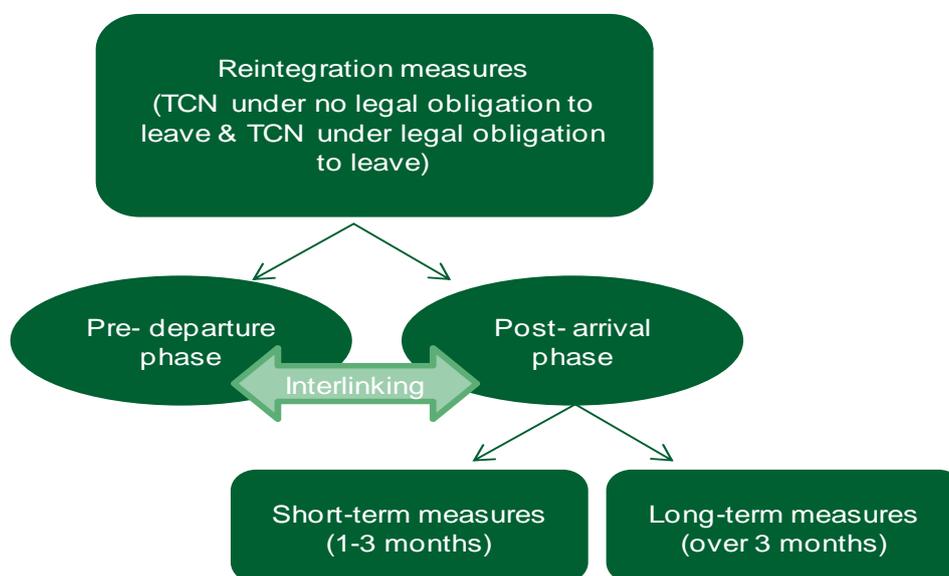
¹⁶ Return Fund Decision refers to these as ‘voluntary departure’

¹⁷ Return Fund Decision refers to these as ‘removals’

2.1.2 The Timing of Reintegration Assistance

As the figure below illustrates, **reintegration assistance may be provided during the pre-departure or post-arrival phase.** As per the terms of reference, post-arrival measures are considered short-term *for the first months and long-term thereafter.*¹⁸ The research team has agreed on a three months cut-off as no specific definition has been identified in the literature consulted during the evidence review.

Figure 1: Reintegration Assistance Measures



2.1.3 The Type of Reintegration Assistance

The table below gives examples of the type of assistance provided to returnees in both the pre-departure and the post-arrival phase. Reintegration assistance is not always offered in both the host country and the country of return as it tends to focus on one or the other.¹⁹

Table 2: Type of Assistance Provided Pre-Departure and Post Arrival

Pre-Departure Phase	Post-Arrival Phase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal and return counselling; • Provision of information; • Medical and psycho-social support; • Provision of necessary travel documentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to arrival (i.e. assistance with transportation from airport to final destination); • Support to initial integration (i.e. through financial support), including:

¹⁸ Terms of Reference (hard copy), p. 3.

¹⁹ I.e. the Irish Reception and Integration Agency (RIA) return programme only provides pre-departure assistance in the form of temporary accommodation and medical assistance.

Pre-Departure Phase	Post-Arrival Phase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical assistance • Relocation grants • Financial assistance (i.e. cash incentives as travel aid) • Temporary accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Housing (including temporary accommodation) ○ Employment ○ Income generation ○ Education • Healthcare/ Medical assistance; • Capacity building; • Business set-up support; • Vocational training.

Source: Country profiles, Danish Refugee Council (2008), and IOM (2010), Available at: <http://www.iomlondon.org/doc/avr/faq/AVRFC%20-%20English.pdf>

2.2 'Interlinking' of Pre-Departure & Post-Arrival Measures

No specific definition of 'interlinking' pre-departure reintegration measures with post-arrival reintegration measures has been identified during the literature review. Nevertheless, the concept can be deduced from the practices in place. Interlinking can thus take on the following forms:

- **Providing Reintegration Assistance 'Both' Pre-Departure and Post-Arrival** – whereby reintegration assistance starts in the host countries and is continued in the countries of return. Reintegration measures after return can consist of new or follow-up/complementary activities to those initiated in the host country;
- **Tailoring of Reintegration Measures** – tailoring technical assistance to each individual returnee and/or to the development policy of a country through case-specific, up-to-date and reliable information gathering and dissemination prior to return;²⁰
- **Cooperation between providers of assistance in sending and returning countries** through the exchange of information, knowledge, skills and resources;²¹
- **Monitoring the Progress/Success of Reintegration Measures** – monitoring of returnees for example through local partners in the country of return.

²⁰ For example: on the availability of educational facilities, the housing situation, health infrastructure, and employment opportunities. See Koser, Khalid. 2001. 'The Return and Reintegration of Rejected Asylum Seekers and Irregular Migrants' in IOM Migration Research Series. Geneva.

²¹ Danish Refugee Council. 2008. 'Recommendations for the return and reintegration of rejected asylum seekers: Lessons learnt from Returns to Kosovo.'

2.2.1 The Impact of 'Interlinking' on Voluntary and Sustainable Return

Before discussing a possible impact of 'interlinking' on voluntary and sustainable return, we outline the common definitions of terms 'coherence', 'sustainability' and 'voluntariness'.

Definition: Coherent Reintegration Policy

The OECD affirms that the term "coherence" presents ambiguities as well as contradictions within the international framework.²² The definition developed by Forster and Stokke (1999) has often been adopted by many actors (including OECD) and adapted to different contexts, such as coherence in development or in trade. Forster and Stokke define a coherent policy as :

"a policy whose objectives, within a given policy framework, are internally consistent and attuned to objectives pursued within other policy frameworks of the system - as a minimum, these objectives should be not conflicting; where strategies and mechanisms are attuned to the objectives, they should, as a minimum not conflict with the objectives or with the intentions and motives on which these are based; and where the outcome is corresponding to the intentions and objectives, it should, as a minimum not conflict with these".²³

If we apply this concept to reintegration, then a coherent reintegration policy could be understood as one where the strategies and actions to achieve reintegration do not conflict with the objectives of reintegration. If reintegration objectives are to promote sustainable return then a coherent reintegration policy should implement activities that favour and promote a sustainable return.

Definition: Sustainable Return

In the context of return, the term 'sustainability' is not used consistently.²⁴ Even different actors collaborating on the same programme may have conflicting understandings of what a 'sustainable return' consists of.²⁵ The most conventional definition of 'sustainability' is '**the absence of re-migration after return**'.²⁶ Anarfi et al. have furthermore categorised 'sustainability of return' by individual, household and wider community levels.²⁷ According to a study conducted by the HIT Foundation, a return was deemed sustainable by different stakeholders when returnees:²⁸

²²

[http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=COM/AGR/DCD/PCDF\(2006\)8&docLanguage=En](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=COM/AGR/DCD/PCDF(2006)8&docLanguage=En)

²³ Forster, J. and O. Stokke (eds) (1999) Policy coherence in development Cooperation, EADI Book Series 22, Frank Cass, London.

²⁴ This point was highlighted throughout the initial stakeholder interviews. Please refer to Appendix 6.6.1 for the log of the initial interview.

²⁵ HIT Foundation. 2010. 'European Cooperation on the sustainable return and reintegration of asylum seekers'.

²⁶ Gent and Black. 2005.

²⁷ J. Anarfi et al. Dec 12-15 2005. 'New Frontiers of Social Policy'. Arusha Conference Paper.

²⁸ HIT Foundation. 2010. 'European Cooperation on the sustainable return and reintegration of asylum seekers'.

- go and never come back to the individual member state;
- go and never come back to any other member state of the European Union;
- leave voluntarily and are ready to start a new life;
- establish a new livelihood in their country and sustain a family;
- make a meaningful contribution to the community they are returning to and therefore be accepted upon return;
- contribute to the economic and social development of the country of return; and
- decide to use legal and official means of migration in the future.

Black et al. (2004)²⁹ consider three standpoints from which sustainability can be conceptualised:

- return can be viewed as 'sustainable' in relation to the situation of each individual returnee, and also in relation to the home society as a whole;
- 'sustainability' for individuals can be considered from the (subjective) vantage point of the returnees, as well as in terms of objective measurement of their situation; and
- sustainability can be measured in relation to the physical location or desired location of migrants after return, but also in relation to socio-economic and political-security considerations.

Definition: Voluntariness

Like 'sustainability', there is no single definition that encapsulates the notion of '**voluntariness**'. According to Morrison (2000)³⁰, "three gradations of 'voluntariness' can be identified":³¹

- 'a clear and open choice [...] either to return to his or her country of origin or to stay permanently and integrate into the host society;
- a choice between returning to the country of origin now in a voluntary fashion (perhaps with financial or other incentives) or staying and risking forcible return later; and
- an absence of force: the returnee does not manifest disagreement with removal'.

²⁹ Black, Richard, Koser, Khalid, Munck, Karen, Atfield, Gaby, D'Onofrio, Lisa, Tiemoko, Richmond. 2004. 'Understanding Voluntary Return'; Home Office Online Report 50/04., p.25.

³⁰ Morrison, J. 2000. 'External Evaluation of the Voluntary Return Project for Refugees in the United Kingdom'. London, Refugee Action.

³¹ Black, Richard, Koser, Khalid, Munck, Karen, Atfield, Gaby, D'Onofrio, Lisa, Tiemoko, Richmond. 2004. 'Understanding Voluntary Return'; Home Office Online Report 50/04., p.4.

3.0 Comparative Country Overview

The comparative country overview focuses on the following aspects:

- Legislative/policy framework;
- Programme volume and value;
- Programme providers and beneficiaries;
- Budget;
- Interlinking of pre-departure and post-arrival measures.

3.1 Legislative/Policy Framework

The table below illustrates that most Member States use the legal framework of Assisted Voluntary Return as the basis for reintegration policies. In a quarter of the countries subject to this study, no legal basis reintegration policy is in place (i.e. Finland, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Malta, Norway, Slovakia and Romania).

Table 3: Legislative Framework of Reintegration Assistance

	Legal Basis
AT	At present there is no legal basis for reintegration policies. ³² Some of the amendments of the alien laws ³³ have come into force with the 1 May and 1 July 2011 amendments. Some provisions will enter into force on 1 December 2011.
BE	Assisted Voluntary Returns are provided under the law governing the Public Centre for Social Assistance (CPAS). ³⁴ The Agency in charge and timeframe for assistance is defined by the law on the reception of asylum seekers. ³⁵
BG	Reintegration activities are envisaged as part of the annual Programme of the European Return Fund. There is also a National Strategy in the sphere of migration, refugee and integration (2011-2020).
CH	Return assistance is governed by the Asylum Act, ³⁶ Asylum order 2 ³⁷ and the Swiss Alien Act art. ³⁸
CY	The reintegration policy is shaped within the actions implemented through the European Return Fund.
CZ	There is no special legal basis related to the reintegration policy. The reintegration policy follows from the legal basis of AVR which is governed by two special acts ruling residence of foreigners in the territory of the Czech Republic. ³⁹

³² Kratzmann/ Petzl/ Temesvári: Programmes and Strategies in Austria fostering Assisted Return to and Re-integration in third countries. Vienna 2010, p. 33.

³³ Asylum Act, Aliens' Police Act, Settlement and Residence Act, Aliens' Employment Act.

³⁴ Organic law governing the Public Centre for Social Assistance (CPAS) of 8 July 1976, article 57(2). Paragraph 2.2 states that persons who have asked for return assistance to IOM are entitled to receive benefits from CPAS.

³⁵ Law of 12 January 2007 on the reception of asylum seekers, Article 7(4) fixes deadlines for assistance and indicates that the Belgian agency Fedasil is in charge of ensuring access to AVR programme.

³⁶ Article 93.

³⁷ Articles 62-78.

³⁸ Article 60.

³⁹ Act No. 326/1999 Coll., provision 123a of this act, and the Asylum seeking procedure, Act No. 325/1999 Coll., provision 54a of this act). These provisions give illegal migrants and asylum seekers possibility to apply for reimbursement of costs associated with the return to their countries of origin. The legislative basis of AVR is, in the field

	Legal Basis
DE	Return assistance is governed by the Return Assistance Act of 1983. Programmes in the Federal States are mostly regulated by ordinances, ministerial decrees or administrative directives.
DK	The Danish Aliens Act, which in 2007 underwent amendments with regards to unsuccessful asylum seekers receiving economic and reintegration assistance provided by IOM.
EE	No answer provided or found through desk research.
EL	There is no special legal basis related to the reintegration policy.
ES	The legal framework for assisted voluntary return builds on 8 provisions of the current Alien Law which imparts financing for voluntary return programmes that endorse reintegration elements. Furthermore, the 2008 and 2011 Royal Legislative Decrees address reintegration.
FI	There is no general framework for voluntary return.
FR	The Labour Act states that the OFII (French Office for Integration and Immigration) participates in all actions related to the return and reintegration of third country nationals to their home country. ⁴⁰
HU	The following define the legal basis for reintegration assistance: Act II of 2007 ⁴¹ and its amendments; Government Decree 114/2007 and its amendments. ⁴² Programmes co-financed by the European Return Fund are implemented according to the Directive 2007/575/EC of 23 May 2007. ⁴³ Programmes co-financed by the European Return Fund are implemented according to the 2007/575/EC of 23 May 2007, establishing the European Return Fund for the period 2008 to 2013 as part of the General Programme 'Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows'.
IE ⁴⁴	There is no legal framework governing assisted return in the Irish domestic legislation. ⁴⁵
IS	Few asylum seekers arrive annually and there is no legal base for reintegration measures. An reintegration programme may be put on the agenda in the near future.
IT	In harmony with EU asylum and immigration policy, Italy implemented several Directives following the implementation of a European Return Policy. Directive 2008/115/EC was fully implemented in June 2011. Voluntary return was encouraged in spite of forced return even before the full implementation of the cited directive. ⁴⁶ . With this development rejected person will also have the right to leave by voluntary return and thus also make use of reintegration assistance.
LI	Reintegration is governed by the Aliens Act ⁴⁷ and the Refugees Law. ⁴⁸
LT	The Law on the Legal Status of Aliens of the Republic of Lithuania ⁴⁹ regulates the entry, stay, departure and expulsion of foreigners. However, it contains no legal provisions regarding reintegration policy.
LU	There is no specific legal basis for reintegration except for a Law issued in May 2006 related to asylum rights and to complementary forms of protection.
LV	A new Immigration law that will among others define the framework for reintegration policy is currently being discussed in Parliament.

of reintegration, supplemented by the Decision No 575/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Return Fund for the period 2008 to 2013.

⁴⁰ Article L 5223.1 du Code du travail.

⁴¹ Act on the Admission and Right of Residence of Third-Country Nationals.

⁴² Decree (V. 24.) on the Implementation of Act II of 2007 on the Admission and Right of Residence of Third-Country Nationals.

⁴³ Directive establishing the European Return Fund for the period 2008 to 2013.

⁴⁴ Irish EMN Report (2010).

⁴⁵ The Immigration Act 1999, which is the legal basis for deportation, sets out that before issuing a deportation order the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform is obliged to inform the individual of his or her intention. Programmes and Strategies in Ireland Fostering Assisted Return to Third countries and to invite the person to leave Ireland voluntarily. No specific mention of voluntary return repatriation has been made in the published Immigration and Residency Bill (2008).

⁴⁶ Italy carried out information sessions Racine I-II (2008-2008) and the information campaign NIRVA I,II,III (2008-2009-2010).

⁴⁷ Ausländergesetz LR 152.20.

⁴⁸ Flüchtlingsgesetz LR 152.31.

⁴⁹ Official Gazette 2004, No. 73-2539.

Legal Basis	
MT	There is no legal basis for reintegration assistance. ⁵⁰
NL	A number of instruments form the legal basis for reintegration namely: the Return Memorandum of 21 November 2003 and Illegal Aliens Memorandum of 24 April 2004; the '2008 International migration and development Memorandum'. ⁵¹ Finally, the Remigration Act defines which third country nationals with an asylum residence permit, which relatives and which lawfully residing third country nationals qualify for reintegration assistance.
NO	There is no legal basis for reintegration assistance.
PL	The legal basis for reintegration policy is Article 4 Section 2 of the 2005 Agreement between the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration of the Republic of Poland and IOM on the co-operation in the field of voluntary returns of aliens leaving the territory of the Republic of Poland. ⁵²
PT	There is no legal basis regarding reintegration policy in Portugal. This procedure is stated in the Protocol signed between IOM and the Government of Portugal in 2001. However, voluntary return policy is included in the legal framework for foreigners in Portugal. ⁵³
RO	At present there is no legal basis for reintegration policies.
SE	Assisted Return is regulated within the context of the existing national legal framework. ⁵⁴ Re-establishment grants can be given on the basis of the Ordinance on Re-establishment Support for Certain Aliens. ⁵⁵ Fundamental statutes related to enforcement of return/removal decisions are found in chapter 12 of the Aliens Act and in the Government Bill. ⁵⁶
SI	No specific legislation addresses reintegration assistance. Only voluntary return is addressed as part of the 1999 Aliens Act. ⁵⁷
SK	There are no specific legal provisions related to reintegration of third country nationals in the country of return.
UK	The legal basis for voluntary return is Section 58 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002. Section 59 of the Act further permits the Secretary of State to participate in international projects, including those aimed at assisting or ensuring the return of migrants.

Source: Matrix Insight/ICMPD/ECRE Research

⁵⁰ The Immigration Act (Immigration ACT Cap 217 Article 14 paragraph (3).) which is the basis of the Maltese Immigration Legislation, only makes an indirect reference to voluntary return (not assisted). It states that the provisions of the act relating to the issuance of a removal order, allowing for a person to be held in custody pending deportation, do not "affect the obligation of any person who does not fulfil or who no longer fulfills the conditions of entry, residence or free movement to leave Malta voluntarily without delay". It is therefore possible to imply that the law assumes that a person, whose legal stay in Malta has come to an end, should make his own arrangements to leave. Failing this, it provides for the framework to enforce this return.

⁵¹ This is a follow-up to the 2004 Memorandum on 'Development and Migration'.

⁵² IOM projects co-financed under financial support of European Funds.

⁵³ Law N° 23/2007.

⁵⁴ Aliens Act (SFS 2005:716).

⁵⁵ Statute 2007: 640.

⁵⁶ Government Bill 1997/98:173.

⁵⁷ Aliens Act of 1999 amended in 2002 Article 50, paragraph 2.

3.2 Number of Programmes in Place

Reintegration programmes/projects are currently implemented to varying degrees in all but three Member States, Greece, Iceland and Poland.⁵⁸ The number of programmes currently in place in the year 2011 range from a minimum of 1 to a maximum of seven.⁵⁹

For an overview of current and previously implemented projects as well as for more details related to the reintegration assistance provided under each programme/project please refer to the country profiles in Appendix 6.4.

Table 5: Overview of Running Reintegration Programmes/ Projects across Member States.

	Total Number of Programmes ⁶⁰	Programmes
AT	1	RRAVRK
BE	3	REAB, RP and ARS
BG	3	Annual Programme 2009/Activity 1 3 and 7 ⁶¹
CH	5	Individual Return Assistance, Iraq Programme, Nigeria Programme, Georgia Programme Guinea-Conakry Programme.
CY	2 ⁶²	Action 3.3.4 and Action 3.3.1
CZ	1	FIRMS
DE	5	URA, Heimatgarten Programmes, REAG/GARP, Solwodi Programmes and Returning Specialists Programme.
DK	2	The reintegration allowance programmes for a) unaccompanied minors and b) victims of trafficking
EE	1	VARRE
EL ⁶³	0	
ES	3	Plan for Voluntary Return (accumulated benefit), AVRR and Humanitarian Programme for Immigrants in a Vulnerable Situation
FI	1	DAVRiF
FR	5	Pre-departure voluntary programme, post-arrival reintegration

⁵⁸ According to the questionnaire's responses all Polish reintegration programmes running between 2004 and 2010 have been concluded. In other words there are no projects running currently. See the country profile for more details.

⁵⁹ While drafting the final report the research team became aware of the European Return Platform for Unaccompanied Minors (ERPUM). The platform started in January 2011 as a result of the growing numbers of unaccompanied minors applying for asylum in Europe. The project, led by the Swedish Migration Board and also involving the Netherlands, Norway and the UK, aims to find new methods for the human and orderly return of unaccompanied minors. During the project, a senior team and case officer team from ERPUM will work together with government representatives and organisations from countries of return. As part of the project, a study on existing reintegration programmes focusing on unaccompanied minors in the participating countries will be conducted and an EU seminar held for the distribution of results and experiences obtained. An electronic log book will be used to facilitate communication between participating countries. None of the Member States involved mentioned ERPUM in their country profile questionnaire.

⁶⁰ Please refer to the Glossary of Projects for the full name of projects.

⁶¹ All the activities envisaged under this Annual Programme were completed in June 2011.

⁶² Unfortunately from the questionnaire response we are not able to determine whether these programmes were in place in 2011.

⁶³ In Greece there are a number of Assisted Voluntary Return programmes, run by IOM, but until now they have not included a reintegration component. Reintegration programmes are planned and the government is to publish a call for tenders this fall.

	Total Number of Programmes ⁶⁰	Programmes
		programme, IOM departure counselling Pas de Calais and IOM vulnerable migrants' departure assistance.
HU	1	HAVRR
IE	2	RIA and VARRP
IS	0	
IT	7	PARTIR, Odisseo, REMPLOY, RIVAN, PARIVUL, RVA and REMIDA
LI	1	Reintegration assistance
LT	2	Reintegration in countries of origin and reintegration towards sustainable return
LU	1	AVRR
LV	1	AVRR
MT	1	RESTART
NL	3	REAN, HRT, UAM, CRRS, and programmes targeted to Afghanistan
NO	5	BIP, IRRANA, IRRINI, FSR, and UAM-AOM
PL	0	
PT	1	AVRR-ARVoRe
RO	5	EVRR, AVR, IOM MoU, AVRR and ESF
SE	4	Returning Afghans, RSS, Swedish Red Cross Third Level Reintegration Assistance, and Swedish Red Cross Second Level Reintegration Assistance
SI	1	AVR
SK	1	RRA
UK	4	VARRP, AVRFC, FRS, and AVRIM
Total	70	

Source: Matrix Insight/ICMPD/ECRE Research

3.3 Providers and Beneficiaries of Reintegration Assistance

The country profiles indicate that different types of actor are engaged in reintegration activities in different Member States. With the exception of Cyprus, Latvia, and Luxembourg⁶⁴ there is at least one national government agency involved in reintegration, which administers reintegration funds. The main actor across all countries is IOM, which implements reintegration assistance programmes in 26 Member States, whether alone or in collaboration with Government authorities and NGOs.⁶⁵ IOM is also involved as partner, either within the EU or in the countries of return.

Table 4: Main Providers of Reintegration Assistance

	Government Authority	NGO/Civil Society	International Organisation
AT	Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior	Return Counselling Agencies (Caritas, Verein Menschenrechte, European Homecare, Provincial Refugee Unit of Carinthia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · ICMPD · IOM Vienna (**) · UN working group in Kosovo
BE	Fedasil ⁶⁶	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Caritas · More than 30 Social organisations 	IOM (**)
BG	Ministry of labour and Social policy (MLSP)	Caritas Bulgaria	IOM (**)
CH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Federal Office of Migration (FOM) · Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Return Counselling Services (RCS) · La Fondation Suisse du SSI (FSSSI) 	IOM (**)
CY		NGOs ⁶⁷	
CZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Asylum Facility office (belongs to the MOI) (**) · National Employment Agency of the Moldavian Ministry of Economy · Migration Resource Centres (Moldova) · Job Counselling and Referral Centre (Moldova) 	SOZE (NGO)	IOM (**)
DE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Federal Office for Migration and Refugees and the Federal States (**) · Central Placement Office for Work Abroad and Specialist Workers (ZAV) · Federal States of Baden- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · AGEF · Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH · Diakonie · AWO International e.V. 	IOM(**)

⁶⁴ This is being followed up and investigated.

⁶⁵ IOM was the service provider for reintegration activities in the UK until March 2011. The NGO 'Refugee Action' is the new provider after winning a public tender.

⁶⁶ Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers.

⁶⁷ The Cypriot stakeholders who filled the questionnaire never clarified who these actors are. However desk research indicates that the Centre for the Advancement of Research and Development in Educational Technology (CARDET) was recently awarded two projects by the Cyprus Civil Registration and Migration Department, to conduct research and design two information guides for migrants. For more details visit: www.cardet.org

	Government Authority	NGO/Civil Society	International Organisation
	Wuerttemberg, Lower Saxony, North Rine-Westphalia, Saxony-Anhalt.		
DK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and integration Affairs Danish Immigration Service (**) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Danish Refugee Council (**) Care 4 You (**) Danish Red Cross 	IOM (**)
EE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizenship and Migration Board (CMB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estonian Migration Foundation 	IOM (**)
EL ⁶⁸			
ES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Labour and Immigration (**) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACCEM ACOBE AESCO CEPAIM RUMIÑAHUI EAR Red Cross MPDL RESCATE 	IOM
FI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Labour (**) Legal Affairs Unit of the Ministry of Interior (**) The Regional Employment and Economic Development Centre (REEDC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better Life Worldwide (BLWW) association (**) Turku Polytechnic (**) Bosnia-Herzegovina Society (**) Finnish Bosnian Association (**) Save the Children Finland (**) Association of the Kosovar Albanians in Finland (Bakshimi) Tampere Adult Education Centre (TAKK) Helsinki Polytechnic (AmiEdu) Finn Church Aid (FCA)⁶⁹ Employment and Commerce Centre of Uusimaa Folkhälsan⁷⁰ Liria Kosovar Association Finnish Refugee Reception Centres 	IOM (**)
FR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFII (**) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secours Catholique (Caritas France) France Terre d'Asile 	IOM
HU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office of Immigration and Nationality (OIN) (**) 		IOM (**)
IE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reception and Integration Agency at the Department of Justice and Equality (**) Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service 		IOM (**)
IS ⁷¹			
IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Interior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtus Italia Onlus (**) ENGIM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IOM (**) European Committee for Education and Agriculture
LI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immigration and Passport office (Ausländer- und Passamt (APA) (**) 		IOM
LT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Interior 		IOM (**)

⁶⁸ There are no reintegration programmes in Greece.

⁶⁹ Partner organisation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

⁷⁰ Third Sector Health Service Provider.

⁷¹ There are no reintegration programmes in Iceland.

	Government Authority	NGO/Civil Society	International Organisation
LU		· Caritas Luxembourg (**)	IOM(**)
LV			IOM (**)
MT	· Ministry for justice and home Affairs (**) · Ministry of Foreign Affairs (**) ⁷²	· SOS Malta · Med Italy ⁷³	· ICMPD ⁷⁴ · IOM
NL	· Ministry of Interior Repatriation and Departure Service · Central Agency for Reception of asylum seekers · Immigration and Naturalisation Service · Alien Police	· Dutch Refugee Council · Mediation Agency for Return	IOM
NO	Norwegian Directorate for Migration (UDI)	BIP (Business Innovation Programme)	IOM (**)
PL	Office for Foreigners and Border Guard (**)		IOM (**)
PT	· Border and alien services · National and Local Support centres for Migrants)	· Brazil Network · Migrants Associations	IOM (**)
RO	National agency for Employment (**)	Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR)	IOM
SE	· Unspecified government Authority (**) · Swedish Migration Board (Migrationsverket)	· Somali Diaspora associations in Sweden · Partner organizations in Kenya and Somalia · Groupa 484 · Praxis	IOM (**)
SI	Ministry of the Interior (**) Police (**)		IOM
SK	· Border and Alien Police (Mol) · Migration Office · Ministry of Labour Social Affairs and Family		IOM (**)
UK	UK Border Agency (**)	Refugee Action (**)	IOM ⁷⁵

Source: Matrix Insight/ICMPD/ECRE Research, (**) Programme leaders

⁷² The MFA only led the DAR projects and is not leading reintegration projects now.

⁷³ Both SOS Malta and Med Italy were only involved in the DAR 1 project.

⁷⁴ ICMPD was only involved in the DAR 1 project.

⁷⁵ IOM has been replaced by Refugee Action as the return assistance service provider in 2011.

As discussed in Section 2.1, the focus of this study is on reintegration assistance provided to Third Country National (TCNs) as defined primarily by Article 7 of the Return Fund Decision (See Table 1: TCNs Included in the Scope of this Study).

Most Member States provide reintegration assistance for (rejected) asylum seekers and irregular migrants who wish to return voluntarily. Only five Member States, namely Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Romania and Switzerland provide reintegration assistance to recognised refugees. A number of countries moreover target specific ethnicities and/or countries in their efforts to provide reintegration assistance.

Table 5: Beneficiaries of Reintegration Assistance

	(Unsuccessful) Asylum Seekers	Persons Granted Subsidiary or Humanitarian Protection	Irregular migrants	Recognised Refugees	Specific Countries/Ethnicities/Other
AT	✓	✓	✓	✓	
BE	✓		✓		
BG	✓	✓	✓		✓ ⁷⁶
CH	✓	✓ ⁷⁷	✓ ⁷⁸	✓	✓ ⁷⁹
CY			✓		
CZ	✓	✓	✓		
DE	✓		✓	✓	✓ ⁸⁰
DK	✓				
EE	✓	✓	✓		✓ ⁸¹
EL ⁸²					
ES			✓		
FI	✓	✓	✓		✓ ⁸³
FR ⁸⁴	✓	✓	✓	✓	
HU	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ ⁸⁵
IE	✓		✓		✓ ⁸⁶
IS ⁸⁷					
IT	✓	✓	✓ ⁸⁸		✓ ⁸⁹

⁷⁶ Vulnerable returnees.

⁷⁷ Source: Email correspondence between Christina Hooson (Matrix) and Thomas Lory (Swiss Federal Office for Migration), 9 December 2011.

⁷⁸ The Reintegration Assistance implemented country wide does not cover irregular migrants, but heavily focuses on asylum seekers and refugees. However, two Cantons, namely Vaud and Geneva have specific programmes for irregular migrants.

⁷⁹ Special programmes exist for victims of human trafficking and exploited cabaret dancers.

⁸⁰ Victims of forced prostitution or human traffic as well as specific ethnic groups and nationalities.

⁸¹ Vulnerable group including for chronically ill or disabled persons.

⁸² There are no reintegration programmes in Greece.

⁸³ Specific ethnic groups (e.g. Roma ethnic minority group from Poland), specific nationalities e.g. returnees to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Somalia and Afghanistan, and vulnerable groups e.g. victims of trafficking and elderly.

⁸⁴ Source: Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

⁸⁵ Special nationalities and destinations (e.g. Eastern Europe).

⁸⁶ Specific Nationalities.

⁸⁷ There are no reintegration programmes in Iceland.

	(Unsuccessful) Asylum Seekers	Persons Granted Subsidiary or Humanitarian Protection	Irregular migrants	Recognised Refugees	Specific Countries/Ethnicities/Other
LI	✓				
LT	✓	✓	✓	✓	
LU	✓				✓ ⁹⁰
LV	✓		✓		
MT	✓	✓	✓		✓ ⁹¹
NL	✓		✓		✓ ⁹²
NO	✓			✓ ⁹³	✓ ⁹⁴
PL	✓		✓	⁹⁵	
PT ⁹⁶	✓	✓	✓	✓	
RO	✓	✓	✓	✓	
SE	✓		✓		✓ ⁹⁷
SI			✓		
SK	✓	✓	✓		
UK	✓		✓		✓ ⁹⁸
Total	24	11	24	6	14

Source: Matrix Insight/ICMPD/ECRE Research

⁸⁸ Only those who are potentially at risk becoming irregular (holding a temporary permit for working or medical reasons) are eligible.

⁸⁹ Vulnerable groups such as victims of trafficking, disabled, elderly, sick migrants, women with children, unaccompanied minors.

⁹⁰ Nationals of Montenegro.

⁹¹ Sub-Saharan nationals.

⁹² Nationals from Afghanistan, Iraq, and Sierra Leone. Other categories such as minors.

⁹³ Recognised refugees from Iraq and Afghanistan can also benefit from IRRINI and IRRANA. Source: Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

⁹⁴ Nationals from Iraq, and under-age minors.

⁹⁵ Those who have applied for a refugee status qualify for assistance.

⁹⁶ Source: Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

⁹⁷ Specific nationalities: Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Serbia, Gaza Strip, Africa, Yemen, Kosovo, Russian Federation Republics of Dagestan, Ingushetia and Chechnya and Roma ethnicity.

⁹⁸ Vulnerable Groups such as victims of trafficking. In addition to Non- EEA Foreign National Prisoners over the age of 18 who have spent at least one night in custodial detention in the UK.

3.4 Budget

Detailed budget information has been provided for a limited number of reintegration programmes. This is partly due to the reticence of many reintegration assistance providers to give out details about their budget. The information available allows us only to provide a general picture of the different funding sources.

Denmark, France, Ireland, Lichtenstein, Luxembourg the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland and Sweden fund reintegration programmes through national funds alone. Most other countries rely on both national and EU funding. In terms of funding beyond national and European sources, Finland furthermore draws funds from the Finnish Slot Machine Association (RAY), while Latvian programmes can benefit from IOM own funds.

Table 6: Sources of Reintegration Assistance Funds⁹⁹

	EU Funds	National Funds	Details
AT	✓	✓	The funding for 2 of the three IOM projects was around €873,000, with around 50% of the funds contributed by the EU. The ReKoKo project (led by ICMPD) received around €200,000 in funding, with 75% contributed by the EU and 25% coming from the Federal Ministry of Interior.
BE	✓	✓	In Belgium REAB and RP have a total annual budget of €6 million and are completely funded by Fedasil (national funds). ARS (€800,000 per annum) is funded by Fedasil (national funds) and the Return Fund (EU) in equal shares (50% each).
BG			The total budget for the three IOM programmes was provided (€89987.8, €99980 and €86050.57 respectively) but the source was not specified.
CH		✓	The budget for the Swiss programmes was not specified.
CY	✓	✓	The programmes have received €63,600 (Action 3.3.4) and €70,000 (Action 3.3.1). The European Return Fund covers up to 75% of the total budget. National funds cover 25% of the total budget.
CZ	✓	✓	EU funds have covered 75% of the budget of two of the three Czech programmes (RP and FIRMS). The budget for the third programme (RP MM) is completely covered by national funds). The programmes budgets were as follow: RP CZK 822,359.10; RP MM CZK 826,774; and FIRMS CZK 432,000.
DE	✓	✓	In the case of REAG/GARP programmes ¹⁰⁰ , the 2010 budget of €5,035,495 received 16% of funding from the EU, with the rest provided by national funds. For the 2011 budget of €5,178,807 40% of the funding has been requested to the EU. In the case URA II programme, its budget is covered completely by national funds (€591,913.90 in 2010 and €813,905 planned in 2011).
DK		✓	The programmes budgets were as follow: Reintegration Allowance USD394,840; DRC RA DKK 4,600,000; AVR I DKK 34,200,000; and AVR CAGP USD 1,446766.
EE	✓	✓	The European Return Fund covers up to 75% of the total budget. National funds come from the Ministry of Interior and are 25% of total funds. VARRE programme had a budget of €170,140 in 2011. AVRE had a budget of €31,620.12.
EL			There are no reintegration programmes in Greece.
ES	✓	✓	The €2,970,000 budget of the Plan for Voluntary return is completely covered by national funds. In the case of the Humanitarian Programme for Immigrants in a Vulnerable Situation budget of €3,932,844 has received 84% of its funds from the EU, the rest provided by national funds.
FI	✓	✓	The data available does not provide enough detail of the budget and the distribution of funding between the EU and national funds.

⁹⁹ Only three countries report to draw funding from other sources namely Finland (Finnish Slot Machine Association (RAY)), Latvia (IOM Funds), and Romania (private contributions)

¹⁰⁰ REAG/ GARP has a small reintegration assistance component, in that it provides for a small amount of cash as a start-up grant for specific countries of return, but it is not an exclusive reintegration assistance project. Consequently, these figures might refer to non-reintegration activities as well.

	EU Funds	National Funds	Details
FR		✓	The 2010 budget for over 1,300 reintegration support projects in France was €6.2 million. 68% of the funds came from the OFII budget, and 32% from the Ministry of Interior
HU	✓	✓	The OIN programmes (Complex assistance before return I, II, III) had budgets of €82,287 in 2009, €78,816 in 2010 and €131,290 in 2011. The European Return Fund covers up to 75% of the total budget. National funds cover 25% of the total budget. The information for the IOM programmes is not available.
IE		✓	In the case of VINN, the eligible costs of the programme were €764,681.91. Almost 60% of these were covered by EU funds. In the case of RIA, national funds covered completely its €561,148 costs. The costs for VARRP were €71,307 in 2008 and €96,842 in 2009. The sources of the funding were not specified.
IS			There are no reintegration programmes in Iceland
IT	✓	✓	The budget for Odisseo Programme was €284,498. The budget for PARTIR II was €1,400,000 EU contributions covered around 80% of the budget. Budget information for the other programmes is not available.
LI		✓	National funds covered the CHF440,000 budget for reintegration assistance.
LT	✓	✓	The European Return Fund covers up to 75% of the total budget. National funds cover 25% of the total budget. The budgets for the projects are as follows: Reintegration - A New Opportunity in Homeland (pilot project) 95,999.19 LTL; Reintegration in Countries of Origin 131,332.97 LTL, and Reintegration/ Towards Sustainable Return 200,497.69 LTL
LU		✓	Luxemburg programmes are nationally funded. The programmes' budgets are as follow: IOM Assisted and Return programmes €293,816 and CARITAS project in Berane, Montenegro, about €500,000.
LV	✓	✓	The 17,300 LVL 2010-2011 budget for the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration programme was covered by EU funds 75%, national funds (15%) and IOM's funds (10%).
MT	✓	✓	Programs are funded under the return fund. Total budgets for the programs including EC contribution are as follows : RESTART 1&2 :€753,923.6; DAR 1: €726,787.82; DAR 2: €581,371
NL		✓	All programmes are nationally funded. Budgets for the programmes are as follow: REAN €6.8 million in 2011; HRT € 4,675,995 in 2010; UAM I €625,170, UAM II €449.917, UAM III € 461,540; Reintegration Afghanistan USD433,983; and CRRS €561,400
NO		✓	All programmes are nationally funded. Budgets are as follow: IRRINI NOK 25,000,000; IRRANA NOK 2,500,000; UAM-AOM NOK 900 000; BIP NOK 1,200,000.
PL	✓	✓	In the case of VRRR programmes, the almost €2 million funding was shared between the EU (75% EFPI) and national funds (25%). The €311,556.95 budget for AVRR-UAS Phase I, II was also shared between the European Return Fund (75%) and the national funds (25%). The budget for CTR-AVR was €1,073,157.60, also shared between the EU (75% EFPI) and national funds (25%). The budget for the latest edition of VRF was 1,203,000.00 PLN, 100% national funds.
PT	✓	✓	The European Return Fund covers up to 75% of the total budget. National funds cover 25% of the total budget. Budgets for the programmes are as follows: AVRR € 784,059.69; AVRR – ARVoRe I €898,520.68; and AVRR – ARVoRe II €930,281.08.
RO	✓	✓	The budget for EVRR programme is €127.483.52, shared by EU (75%), national funds (20%) and private contributions (5%). The ESF project budget is 10,516,269 RON, of which around 75% was covered by EU

	EU Funds	National Funds	Details
			funds and the rest by national funds.
SE	✓	✓	The budgets for the programmes are as follow: Returning Afghans USD 114,002 (Helpline) and USD 442,743 (Reintegration project); IRAQ project USD 1,659,370; and Serbia Project I, II €40,000 (Groupa 484) and €85,289 (Praxis)
SI	✓	✓	The European Return Fund covers up to 75%of the total budget. National funds cover 25% of the total budget
SK	✓	✓	The budget for the RRA programme is €708,180 for 2011-2012, and the funding is shared by the EU (75%) and national funds (25%).
UK	✓	✓	Funding is shared between the EU Return Fund (maximum 50%) and the UK Border Agency
Total	21	28	

Source: Matrix Insight/ICMPD/ECRE Research

3.5 Interlinking of Pre-Departure & Post-Arrival Reintegration Measures

As already discussed in Section 2.2, interlinking reintegration assistance before departure with reintegration assistance after arrival mainly consists of the following aspects, each of which will be examined in more detail below:

- Providing reintegration measures both before departure and after arrival;
- Tailoring of reintegration measures to specific needs of returnees;
- Tailoring of reintegration measures to specific development need of the country of return;
- Cooperation between providers of assistance in sending and returning countries; and
- Monitoring the progress/success of reintegration measures.

3.5.1 Providing Reintegration Assistance Both Pre-Departure and Post-Arrival ¹⁰¹

In this section we provide an overview of reintegration assistance measures each Member State offers and the extent of 'interlinking' which is actually in place. The analysis covers the following types of reintegration assistance:

- Information dissemination and counselling;
- Legal assistance;
- Cash incentives;
- Financial support for vocational training;
- Financial support for university/college;
- Support for setting up a small business;
- Provision of temporary accommodation; and
- Provision of medical assistance.

3.5.1.1 Information Dissemination and Counselling

Except for Lichtenstein where the phase was not specified, all countries provide information and counselling to returnees pre-departure. Twelve countries provide this type of assistance both before departure and after arrival. Information dissemination emerges as the activity which is implemented by all countries in the pre-departure phase, irrespective of whether they declare to be implementing a post-arrival reintegration-type assistance programme (such as the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, and France).

¹⁰¹ While the Questionnaires submitted to the Member States asked respondents to specify whether post-arrival assistance was short-term (1-3 months after arrival) or long-term (from 3 to 6 months), this information was rarely provided.

Table 7: Information Dissemination/Counselling

	Information Dissemination/Counselling
AT	Pre-departure
BE	Pre-departure and Post-arrival
BG	Pre-departure
CH	Pre-departure and Short-term Post-arrival
CY	Pre-departure ¹⁰²
CZ	Pre-departure
DE	Pre-departure and Post-arrival
DK	Pre-departure
EE	Pre-departure ¹⁰³ and Post-arrival ¹⁰⁴
EL ¹⁰⁵	
ES	Pre-departure and Post-arrival
FI	Pre-departure
FR	Pre-departure and Post-arrival
HU	Pre-departure and Post-arrival
IE	Pre-departure ¹⁰⁶
IS ¹⁰⁷	
IT	Pre-departure
LI	Assistance provided but phase not specified
LT	Pre-departure and Short-term Post-arrival
LU	Pre-departure
LV	Pre-departure
MT	Pre-departure ¹⁰⁸
NL	Pre-departure and Post-arrival
NO	Pre-departure and Short/Long-term Post-arrival
PL	Pre-departure
PT	Pre-departure and Post-arrival ¹⁰⁹
RO	Pre-departure ¹¹⁰
SE	Pre-departure and Post-arrival
SI	Pre-departure
SK	Pre-departure
UK	Pre-departure and Post-arrival

Source: Matrix Insight/ICMPD/ECRE Research

¹⁰² An information guide provides information regarding the current situation in the country of origin.

¹⁰³ AVRE programme.

¹⁰⁴ VARRE programme.

¹⁰⁵ There are no reintegration programmes in Greece.

¹⁰⁶ IOM does not offer counselling in the country of return beyond information/support related to reintegration assistance.

¹⁰⁷ There are no reintegration programmes in Iceland.

¹⁰⁸ Under the RESTART projects the reintegration granted is mostly in kind.

¹⁰⁹ Source: Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

¹¹⁰ This answer only relates to one of the three programmes (AVR) implemented in Romania. The Questionnaire returned by the Romanian Immigration Office was rather incomplete. Notwithstanding many attempts to follow up and obtain further information many questions remain answered. However, IOM is responsible for one of the three projects running. We can therefore assume that in line with its approach counselling assistance pre-departure will be provided.

3.5.1.2 Legal Assistance

The questionnaire asked whether legal assistance was provided specifically as part of reintegration package and not as part of the more general return assistance. Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom report to provide no legal assistance as part of reintegration packages. Austria and Slovakia are the only two countries that report to provide this type of assistance both pre-departure and after arrival.

Table 8: Legal Assistance

	Legal Assistance
AT	Pre-departure and Post-arrival ¹¹¹
BE	Post-arrival
BG	Assistance provided but phase not specified
CH	Not provided ¹¹²
CY	No answer Provided
CZ	Assistance provided but phase not specified
DE	Pre-departure ¹¹³
DK	Pre-departure
EE	Not provided
EL ¹¹⁴	
ES	Assistance provided but phase not specified
FI	Assistance provided but phase not specified
FR	Assistance provided but phase not specified
HU	Not provided
IE	Assistance provided but phase not specified ¹¹⁵
IS ¹¹⁶	
IT	Assistance provided but phase not specified
LI	Assistance provided but phase not specified
LT	Pre-departure and Short-term Post-arrival
LU	Post-arrival
LV	Pre-departure
MT	No answer provided
NL	Assistance provided but phase not specified
NO	Not provided
PL	Pre-departure
PT	Not provided
RO	No answer provided
SE	Post-arrival
SI	Not provided
SK	Pre-departure and Short/Long-term Post-arrival ¹¹⁷

¹¹¹ Provided depending on the need.

¹¹² Legal assistance is not provided as part of reintegration package. It is however provided as part of the Assisted Return Scheme.

¹¹³ Legal assistance can consist in clarifications concerning legal status in Germany or German documentation, but no legal counselling concerning the laws of the country of return.

¹¹⁴ There are no reintegration programmes in Greece.

¹¹⁵ Referrals to legal services are arranged when necessary.

¹¹⁶ There are no reintegration programmes in Iceland.

¹¹⁷ Provided depending on need.

	Legal Assistance
UK	Not provided ¹¹⁸

Source: Matrix Insight/ICMPD/ECRE Research

3.5.1.3 Cash Incentives

Except for Estonia, all countries¹¹⁹ report to provide cash incentives. Austria, Germany, Denmark, Latvia, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the UK¹²⁰ indicate that this type of assistance may be provided both before departure and after arrival.

Table 9: Cash Incentives

	Cash Incentives
AT	Pre-departure and post-arrival ¹²¹
BE	Pre-departure ¹²²
BG	Post-arrival
CH	Pre-departure and post-arrival
CY	No answer provided
CZ	Assistance provided but phase not specified ¹²³
DE	Pre-departure
DK	Pre-departure and Short-term Post-arrival ¹²⁴
EE	Not provided
EL ¹²⁵	
ES	Assistance provided but phase not specified
FI	Assistance provided but phase not specified ¹²⁶
FR	Assistance provided but phase not specified
HU	Pre-departure
IE	Not provided
IS ¹²⁷	
IT	Pre-departure ¹²⁸
LI	Assistance provided but phase not specified ¹²⁹
LT	Pre-departure

¹¹⁸ The UK opted out of the Return Directive.

¹¹⁹ Except for Romania where no answer was provided.

¹²⁰ In the UK, IOM led assistance post-arrival is however most often delivered in-kind with only the pre-departure grant being given in cash. Source: Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

¹²¹ Some programmes provide cash pre-departure up to €370 and other post-arrival and some project post-arrival up to €500.

¹²² Up to €250 per adult, and €125 per minor (paid out in cash at the airport just before boarding).

¹²³ Depending on the programme they could receive up to 15,000 CZK for each adult.

¹²⁴ Travel assistance and/or reintegration contribution can go up to €700. Reintegration support takes place mainly pre-departure. An exception is made for elderly who receive a monthly salary from the Danish Authorities.

¹²⁵ There are no reintegration programmes in Greece.

¹²⁶ Can go up to €2,270, incentives available both in cash and in kind.

¹²⁷ There are no reintegration programmes in Iceland.

¹²⁸ €400 as a lump sum for initial accommodation, up to € 3,000 per family for reintegration programs.

¹²⁹ €400 as a lump sum for initial accommodation, up to € 3,000 per family for reintegration programs.

	Cash Incentives
LU	Pre-departure
LV	Pre-departure and Short-term Post-arrival
MT	Pre-departure ¹³⁰
NL	Pre-departure and Post-arrival
NO	Post-arrival
PL	Pre-departure
PT	Pre-departure and/or post-arrival ¹³¹
RO	No answer Provided
SE	Assistance provided but phase not specified ¹³²
SI	Pre-departure
SK	Pre-departure ¹³³
UK	Pre-departure and Post-arrival ¹³⁴

Source: Matrix Insight/ICMPD/ECRE Research

¹³⁰ Under the RESTART projects the reintegration granted is mostly in kind.

¹³¹ Source: Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

¹³² Up to SEK 30,000 per adult, SEK 15,000 per minor, SEK 75,000 per family.

¹³³ Up to €140.

¹³⁴ In the UK, IOM led assistance post-arrival is however most often delivered in-kind with only the pre-departure grant being given in cash. Source: Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

3.5.1.4 Financial Support for Training, Business and Educational Purposes

As the Table below shows, all countries provide financial support for one or more purposes, including vocational training, university/college and for setting-up a small business. Financial support is predominantly provided post-arrival. Denmark is a clear exception, which is consistent with its pre-departure focused assistance. Some financial support is also provided pre-departure by Finland and Hungary.

Table 10: Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing, driving), for University/College Course, and for Setting up a Small Business

	Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses	Support for Setting up a Small Business	Financial Support for University/College Course in the Country of Return
AT	Post-arrival ¹³⁵	Post-arrival ¹³⁶	✓ ¹³⁷
BE	Post-arrival ¹³⁸	Pre-departure and Post-arrival ¹³⁹	✓ ¹⁴⁰
BG	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	✓
CH	Post-arrival	Long-term Post-arrival ¹⁴¹	✓ ¹⁴²
CY	No answer provided	No answer provided	No answer provided
CZ	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	✓
DE	Post-arrival ¹⁴³	Post-arrival ¹⁴⁴	✓
DK	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	✓
EE	Assistance provided but phase not specified ¹⁴⁵	Assistance provided but phase not specified ¹⁴⁶	Assistance provided but phase not specified ¹⁴⁷
EL ¹⁴⁸			
ES	No answer provided	Pre-departure and Post-arrival ¹⁴⁹	No answer provided

¹³⁵ Educational/Vocational courses as well as language courses and cultural education.

¹³⁶ In-kind reintegration assistance can be used to set-up a micro business and to buy necessary professional tools and equipment; the beneficiary is assisted in developing the business plan and to attend training on setting up a micro business.

¹³⁷ To cover partially or fully university/college fees to enable the project beneficiary to attend university-college; support for kindergarten fees, language course fees for children is also available.

¹³⁸ Assistance provided for vocational training courses such as computing, hairdressing, plumbing, etc.

¹³⁹ Includes professional equipment assistance (e.g. assist in the purchase of tools, and equipment to facilitate the establishment of small businesses) as well as professional counselling.

¹⁴⁰ To cover for education fees for children.

¹⁴¹ Fixed amount.

¹⁴² Fixed amounts.

¹⁴³ Up to €120.

¹⁴⁴ Up to €3,000 for business start-up and additional up to €500 for entrepreneur training (only voluntary return).

¹⁴⁵ This only applies to VARRE.

¹⁴⁶ This only applies to VARRE.

¹⁴⁷ This only applies to VARRE.

¹⁴⁸ There are no reintegration programmes in Greece.

	Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses	Support for Setting up a Small Business	Financial Support for University/College Course in the Country of Return
FI	Pre-departure ¹⁵⁰	May be provided for selected returnees	✓
FR	Post-arrival	Post-arrival ¹⁵¹	✓
HU	Pre-departure and Post-arrival ¹⁵²	Post-arrival ¹⁵³	x
IE	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	✓
IS ¹⁵⁴			
IT	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	✓
LI	Assistance provided but phase not specified	Assistance provided but phase not specified	✓
LT	Post-arrival	Long-term Post-arrival	✓
LU	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	✓
LV	Assistance provided but phase not specified ¹⁵⁵	Short-term Post-arrival ¹⁵⁶	✓ ¹⁵⁷
MT	Pre-departure	Post-arrival	x
NL	Short/Long-term Post-arrival	Short/Long-term Post-arrival	✓
NO	Post-arrival	Short/Long-term Post-arrival	✓
PL	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	✓
PT	Post-arrival ¹⁵⁸	Pre-departure and Post-arrival	x
RO	No answer provided	No answer provided	No answer provided
SE	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	No answer provided

¹⁴⁹ Financial help of €1,500 up to a maximum of €5,000 to start a project. Pre-departure consists in guidance on preparing a project, training on entrepreneurship (business plan, management, etc), access to financing, and complementary professional and occupational training. Post-arrival assistance includes help in validating the initial assessment of the project and approval, assessing the need for additional financing channels, occupational and professional training of partners, managers and workers, support with administrative formalities, access to tariff, fiscal and other benefits, and accompaniment and guidance.

¹⁵⁰ Special courses available for vulnerable groups

¹⁵¹ In the programmes funded by the UK but not in OFII's programmes. Source: Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

¹⁵² Pre-departure training (e.g. hairdressing, painter courses) is provided with the aim of achieving a qualification that would enable the returnee to take up employment in the country of origin. Post-arrival training includes Vocational training or further education is provided to a small number of successful applicants with the aim of achieving a qualification that would enable the returnee to take up employment in the country of origin.

¹⁵³ Grants for setting up small businesses are provided to a small number of successful applicants. Business plans are selected for funding based on the assessment of the IOM office in the host country and in the country of origin. Reintegration assistance is provided before the end of the given project.

¹⁵⁴ There are no reintegration programmes in Iceland

¹⁵⁵ Available but nobody has applied for this assistance to date.

¹⁵⁶ Grants for setting up small businesses are provided to a small number of successful applicants. Business plans are selected for funding based on the assessment of the IOM office in the host country and in the country of origin. Reintegration assistance is provided before the end of the given project.

¹⁵⁷ Available but no one applied for this assistance

¹⁵⁸ Source: Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

	Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses	Support for Setting up a Small Business	Financial Support for University/College Course in the Country of Return
SI	Not provided	Post-arrival	✓
SK	Short/Long-term Post-arrival	Short/Long-term Post-arrival ¹⁵⁹	✓
UK	Post-arrival ¹⁶⁰	Post-arrival ¹⁶¹	✓ ¹⁶²

Source: Matrix Insight/ICMPD/ECRE Research

¹⁵⁹ The assistance covers costs of goods/ services necessary for business set-up.

¹⁶⁰ To help pay for fees, equipment and books

¹⁶¹ Consists in pre-departure information and planning, and post-arrival help to pay for stock, equipment, tools, rent, etc. Financial support can be available to set up a business or buy into an existing business.

¹⁶² Post-arrival help to pay school fees for children at government and state schools and to help pay for uniforms, equipment and books. Likewise, adults can be given financial assistance for education at colleges and universities.

3.5.1.5 Provision of Temporary Accommodation

With the exception of Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia, all countries provide temporary accommodation or contribute to cover its costs.¹⁶³ As this type of support takes place in the country of return, no phase is indicated in the table below but only the provision (with a ✓), or lack thereof, of the assistance. While some countries may provide accommodation before return, such assistance is considered as part of the return package rather than reintegration.

Table 11: Provision of Temporary Accommodation

	Provision of Temporary Accommodation
AT	✓ ¹⁶⁴
BE	✓ ¹⁶⁵
BG	✓
CH	✓
CY	No answer provided
CZ	✓
DE	✓
DK	✓ ¹⁶⁶
EE	x
EL ¹⁶⁷	
ES	No answer provided
FI	✓ ¹⁶⁸
FR	✓
HU	x
IE	✓ ¹⁶⁹
IS ¹⁷⁰	
IT	✓ ¹⁷¹
LI	✓
LT	✓
LU	✓
LV	✓
MT	✓
NL	✓
NO	✓
PL	x
PT	x
RO	No answer provided
SE	✓
SI	x
SK	✓
UK	✓

Source: Matrix Insight/ICMPD/ECRE Research

¹⁶³ Except for Poland, Romania and Spain where no answers were provided.

¹⁶⁴ Offered if needed

¹⁶⁵ Assistance provided to cover costs of accommodation.

¹⁶⁶ This is provided for a short term post-arrival.

¹⁶⁷ There are no reintegration programmes in Greece.

¹⁶⁸ May be provided during travel

¹⁶⁹ Specifically suited for the most vulnerable cases

¹⁷⁰ There are no reintegration programmes in Iceland.

¹⁷¹ For up to two weeks after arrival.

3.5.1.6 Provision of Medical Assistance

All countries, except for Estonia, France and Slovenia, provide medical assistance or contribute towards covering the costs.¹⁷² While this type of assistance is provided mainly post-arrival some countries provide it also pre-departure.

Table 12: Provision of Medical Assistance

	Provision of Medical Assistance
AT	Provided but phase not specified ¹⁷³
BE	Post-arrival ¹⁷⁴
BG	Provided but phase not specified
CH	Post-arrival
CY	No answer provided
CZ	Post-arrival
DE	Provided but phase not specified
DK	Pre-departure and post-arrival
EE	Pre-departure
EL ¹⁷⁵	
ES	Could be provided if necessary but phase not specified
FI	Provided but phase not specified
FR	Not provided
HU	Pre-departure and post-arrival
IE	Pre-departure
IS ¹⁷⁶	
IT	Pre-departure and post-arrival ¹⁷⁷
LI	Provided but phase not specified
LT	Pre-departure and post-arrival
LU	Post-arrival
LV	Post-arrival
MT	Pre-departure and post-arrival
NL	Pre-departure and post-arrival
NO	Provided but phase not specified
PL	Pre-departure
PT	Could be provided if necessary but phase not specified
RO	Pre-departure and post-arrival
SE	Provided but phase not specified
SI	Not provided
SK	Post-arrival ¹⁷⁸
UK	During travel and post-arrival ¹⁷⁹

Source: Matrix Insight/ICMPD/ECRE Research

¹⁷² Except for Romania where no answer was provided.

¹⁷³ Medical assistance such as costs of medication and treatment can be provided.

¹⁷⁴ Includes referral to health care and psychological counselling, direct medical assistance, access to medicine and reimbursement of all medical costs for a period of 6 months.

¹⁷⁵ There are no reintegration programmes in Greece.

¹⁷⁶ There are no reintegration programmes in Iceland.

¹⁷⁷ During the stay in Italy the medical assistance is granted by the National Health System; upon return to the country of origin, if the migrant needs health assistance, his/her individual reintegration plan can cover part or all of the expenses (medicines, medical treatment, doctor's visits, etc.).

¹⁷⁸ Covers medical expenses.

¹⁷⁹ Exceptional cases. Source: Correspondence, Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 Dec 2011.

3.5.2 Tailoring of Reintegration Measures

3.5.2.1 Tailoring to the needs of the returnee

Except for the Norway which provides no indication of tailoring to the needs of individual, all other countries report that all or some of their activities under different programmes are tailored around the skills or status of returnees. More details on tailoring to the needs of returnees are available in the Case Studies in Section 6.5.1. Such tailoring can depend on gender, age, education and professional background, health situation, political status, or other (such as being a victim of human trafficking).

Table 13: Tailoring to the Needs of Returnees

	Tailoring to the Needs of Returnees
AT	✓
BE	✓
BG	✓
CH	✓
CY	No answer provided
CZ	✓
DE	✓
DK	✓
EE	✓
EL ¹⁸⁰	
ES	✓
FI	✓
FR	✓
HU	✓
IE	✓
IS ¹⁸¹	
IT	✓
LI	✓
LT	✓
LU	✓
LV	✓
MT	✓
NL	✓
NO	✓ ¹⁸²
PL	✓
PT	✓
RO	✓
SE	✓
SI	✓

¹⁸⁰ There are no reintegration programmes in Greece.

¹⁸¹ There are no reintegration programmes in Iceland.

¹⁸² IOM programmes to Iraq and Afghanistan in Norway allows this insofar as it is within the in-kind support of vocational training, business and job placement. Source: Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

Tailoring to the Needs of Returnees	
SK	✓
UK	✓

Source: Matrix Insight/ICMPD/ECRE Research

3.5.2.2 Tailoring to the Development Needs of the Country of Return

Belgium, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom report that they do not take into consideration the development needs of the country of return when designing their reintegration activities. In the case of the United Kingdom, for example, this is explained by the nature of the administrator of assistance. The UK Border Agency (UKBA) is a law enforcement agency, that protects UK borders, but lacking any development mandate. Nevertheless, a majority of countries do tailor reintegration activities to the development needs of the country of return to some degree. This tailoring takes place at the macro level when designing programmes targeted at certain countries/nationalities and/or at the micro level, targeting certain regions/returnees.

It is important to note that whilst a majority of countries tailor to the development needs of the country of return, such tailoring remains a secondary consideration. Return programmes are primarily designed to aid reintegration of returning individuals rather than advance the development of a particular country. Any kind of country tailoring is thus first and foremost meant to aid tailoring to the needs of the individual, taking into account, for example, local labour market needs.

Table 14: Tailoring to the Development Needs of the Country of Return

	Tailoring to the Development Needs of the Country of Return	Details
AT	✓	IOM project team regularly participates in the inter-agency return coordination meetings organised by UNHCR and the monthly cooperation meetings organised with Government officials in countries of return.
BE	×	So far reintegration policy in the countries of return has not been particularly linked to Belgian development policy.
BG	✓	
CH	✓	The provision of country specific information via RIF further enables the counselling to be tailored to the needs of the individual and also to the development needs of the country of return.
CY		
CZ	✓	Programmes designed in accordance with foreign development aid of the Czech Republic.
DE	✓	Given the decentralised nature of reintegration assistance provided in Germany, different approaches are implemented by different providers. For example projects URA II increasingly take into account the development needs of the country.
DK	✓	Specific programmes in particular aim to target the need of

	Tailoring to the Development Needs of the Country of Return	Details
		the specific country of return. For instance, the Integrated Assisted Voluntary Return Programme from Denmark to Iraq took into account both the social and economic needs of the region, in order to ensure that returnees are welcomed.
EE	x	
EL ¹⁸³		
ES	✓	Tailoring could address both the needs of individual returnees as well as the development needs of the country of return. AVRR also take into consideration the local economy needs of the countries of return.
FI	✓	
FR	✓	The development of the business plan is carried out according to beneficiary's individual capacities and the market conditions of local economy.
HU	✓	Only the Complex Assistance Before Return is a tailored programme. The Documentation Centre of the OIN holds presentations on the actual situation of the most relevant countries of return for the social workers and psychologists on a regular basis that they could provide updated information for the beneficiaries about the development in their home countries.
IE	No answer provided	
IS ¹⁸⁴		
IT	✓	Programmes are linked with local community development projects.
LI		
LT	x	Not yet, due to the limited scope of the programme.
LU	✓	
LV	✓	IOM considers the needs of the community affected by the return process, to help tackling the push factors of irregular migration, as well as avoid creating disadvantages for the local (non-migrant) populations through the assistance offered to returnees.
MT	✓	IOM office in the country of return is linked with the existing local projects.
NL	✓	Generally speaking IOM Netherlands cooperates closely with IOM offices in countries of return in order to provide the best support possible for returnees.
NO	No answer provided	
PL	x	
PT	Under development	Generally speaking IOM Portugal cooperates closely with IOM offices in countries of return in order to provide the best support possible for returnees. Also, when migrant returns to main states in Brazil (São Paulo, Minas Gerais and Goiânia) where IOM has a partner, this partner provides field

¹⁸³ There are no reintegration programmes in Greece.

¹⁸⁴ There are no reintegration programmes in Iceland.

	Tailoring to the Development Needs of the Country of Return	Details
		assistance and, if possible, linkage to local community development projects. ¹⁸⁵
RO	✓	
SE	x	Planned
SI	x	
SK	✓	One of the selection criteria for beneficiaries of reintegration assistance is feedback from IOM missions in countries of return. This feedback can incorporate information on local development policies e.g. in the field of agriculture, micro business set-up, etc., which is then taken into account during the selection process.
UK	x	UKBA, which is the government Agency in charge of reintegration, does not have a development mandate.

Source: Matrix Insight/ICMPD/ECRE Research

¹⁸⁵ Source: Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

3.5.3 Cooperation between providers of assistance in sending and returning countries

Cooperation between providers of assistance in sending and returning countries can take the form of information exchange or resource (e.g. personnel) sharing. All countries offering reintegration assistance report such cooperation for at least some of their programmes. The most common type of cooperation is information exchange, particularly with regard to the situation in the country of return. Channels of cooperation between providers in sending and returning countries include cooperation:

- Between IOM offices in sending and receiving countries;
- Between other assistance providers (including NGOs such as Caritas and the Red Cross) and their staff/networks/implementing partners in receiving countries;
- Between assistance providers in sending countries and diplomatic representations (of the respective sending country) in receiving countries. This is particularly the case in instances where there is no IOM office in the country of return;
- Between assistance providers and governments of receiving countries.

The country profiles give an overview of for which programmes there is cooperation between sending and returning countries. More detail on cooperation can be found in the case studies.

3.5.4 Monitoring and Evaluating the Status of Returnees

Monitoring the status of returnees entails carrying out follow up after return to evaluate the returnees' situation and how they are reintegrating in the country of return. Denmark and the Czech Republic are the two Member States where no monitoring of returnees takes place.

Table 15: Monitoring of Recipients of Reintegration Assistance

Monitoring of Recipients of Reintegration Assistance	
AT	✓ ¹⁸⁶
BE	✓ ¹⁸⁷
BG	✓ ¹⁸⁸
CH	✓ ¹⁸⁹
CY	No answer provided
CZ	x ¹⁹⁰

¹⁸⁶ Internal and external evaluation studies are conducted. Monitoring missions to the region of return are carried out. Telephone monitoring with a random sample of returnees is carried out. IOM stays in contact with relatives remaining in Austria to receive feedback on the project implementation. Monitoring takes place until reintegration assistance is provided (up to 6 months after arrival).

¹⁸⁷ All cases are monitored (except for the Individual Assistance Programme where cases are monitored on demand). Evaluations are carried out after each programme phase (1 - 2 years).

¹⁸⁸ In the Grand Agreement signed between the Migration directorate and IOM there a condition for monitoring the status of returnees after their return.

¹⁸⁹ Cases are monitored on demand.

Monitoring of Recipients of Reintegration Assistance	
DE	✓ ¹⁹¹
DK	x ¹⁹²
EE	✓ ¹⁹³
EL ¹⁹⁴	
ES	✓ ¹⁹⁵
FI	✓
FR	✓ ¹⁹⁶
HU	✓
IE	✓ ¹⁹⁷
IS ¹⁹⁸	
IT	✓ ¹⁹⁹
LI	✓
LT	✓ ²⁰⁰
LU	✓ ²⁰¹
LV	✓ ²⁰²
MT	✓ ²⁰³
NL	✓ ²⁰⁴

¹⁹⁰ Information was provided only for 3 out of 6 projects.

¹⁹¹ While it does vary according to each programme, in general the status of returnees is not monitored systematically. However, monitoring can be done in cases of special interest, e.g. by liaison-officers of Federal Office for Migration and Refugees. For 2011 a first systematic evaluation of the URA programme is in preparation. There is an ongoing internal monitoring concerning the objectives and results of the project.

¹⁹² Some of the programmes have been evaluated *ex-post* and independently by the organisations in charge. However, the Danish law (Aliens Act) does not allow authorities and NGOs to follow up with the individual that has returned to the country.

¹⁹³ Returnees are monitored only under VARRE.

¹⁹⁴ There are no reintegration programmes in Greece.

¹⁹⁵ Monitoring is carried out by the NGOs involved. The beneficiaries of the Accumulated Unemployment Benefit are not monitored.

¹⁹⁶ Source: Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

¹⁹⁷ Activities are monitored at a six-month interval after the initial payment is made.

¹⁹⁸ There are no reintegration programmes in Iceland.

¹⁹⁹ Monitoring of the returnee's reintegration is carried out between three and six months from return.

²⁰⁰ Monitoring of the returnees' reintegration is carried out six months after the delivery of reintegration assistance for two out of the three existing programmes.

²⁰¹ Monitoring of the returnee's reintegration is carried out for six months after their arrival at least twice for IOM projects. Under Caritas run projects returnees are not monitored.

²⁰² By carrying out socio-economic profiling of potential returnees during pre-departure counselling sessions in host country.

²⁰³ Monitoring is carried out both by IOM.

²⁰⁴ All projects implemented since 2009 are monitored by IOM.

Monitoring of Recipients of Reintegration Assistance	
NO	✓ ²⁰⁵
PL	✓ ²⁰⁶
PT	✓
RO	✓ ²⁰⁷
SE	✓
SI	✓
SK	✓
UK	✓ ²⁰⁸

Source: Matrix Insight/ICMPD/ECRE Research

²⁰⁵ Returnees are monitored up to six months after return. Norway provides monitoring for all returnees to Iraq and Afghanistan as well as for victims of trafficking and unaccompanied minors/aged out minors. For all others, monitoring is based on whether the returnee has agreed to be monitored (they receive a cash grant). The current rate of response is very low. Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

²⁰⁶ Monitoring is conducted usually six to eight months after the implementation of reintegration plan (such as business or education) in the form of either an on-site visit conducted by IOM staff in country of origin or (where an on-site visit is not possible) a telephone conversation. Beneficiaries are asked to answer questions about various aspects of the reintegration assistance they received. Then a monitoring questionnaire is submitted to IOM Warsaw. Additionally, IOM Warsaw staff accompanied by representatives of its partner institutions (namely, Border Guard and Office for Foreigners) occasionally visit returnees whose reintegration plans were successful and who obtained in-kind reintegration assistance (e.g. have set up their businesses).

²⁰⁷ Under AVR returnees are monitored, while under ESF they are not.

²⁰⁸ A proportion of all returnees (regardless of their activity) are monitored 6 months after return. Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

3.6 Factors that Affect Interlinking of Pre-Departure & Post-Arrival Reintegration Measures

Existing literature does not provide a specific definition of **'interlinking' pre-departure reintegration measures with post-arrival reintegration measures**. Nevertheless, the concept can be deduced from current practices, and includes the following aspects:

- Provision of reintegration assistance both pre-departure and post-arrival;
- Tailoring of reintegration measures to needs of the individuals and/or the needs of the countries of return;
- Collaboration between actors in EU Member States and those in the countries of return; and
- The extent of monitoring of the progress and success of reintegration measures.

A number of factors that help or hinder the interlinking between different existing reintegration measures were identified, namely:

- **Timelines:** The short time period between the issue of the return decision and the actual departure limits the activities that can be carried out before departure in preparation for return;²⁰⁹
- **Financial Resources:** Limited budget availability necessarily restricts the scope of existing reintegration assistance and consequently dictates the choice to focus on one phase rather than the other. Furthermore, as tailoring would require investing considerable financial and human resources, limited budget can also explain why some countries may choose a 'one-size fits all returnees' model. Evaluating programmes against a set of pre-determined criteria is important in order to identify and address existing weaknesses and challenges which have not led to a sustainable reintegration. Insufficient funding makes the evaluation of reintegration projects difficult as monitoring efforts are restricted to between 6 and 12 months following the arrival in the return country.
- **Availability of Experienced Staff and Partners:** Professionally trained staff with adequate and specialised training (in psycho-social assessment for example) is necessary for identifying and tailoring support around returnee needs. When host country organisations responsible for reintegration assistance have no staff in the field or are unable to relocate their own staff, they build relationships with local partners. At times it can be difficult to find local support organisations with specific expertise in dealing with the multiple dimensions related to reintegration assistance.
- **Returnee Motivation to Leave the Host Country:** Some countries might choose not to provide some type of pre-departure assistance when they believe it might have an adverse effect on the willingness of returnees to leave the host country. Although training received in the host country is designed to shape or strengthen those skills necessary to build a profession and become self-sustained in the country of return²¹⁰, returnees might decide to put these newly acquired skills to the test in the host country.

²⁰⁹ According to Article 7 of the Return Directive (2008/115/EC) A return decision shall provide for an appropriate period for voluntary departure of between seven and thirty days. According to the same article Member States shall extend such period in special circumstances such as the existence of children attending school and the existence of other family and social link.

²¹⁰ See returnees' stories in the countries of return.

- **Complementary and Competing Priorities:** The extent to which interlinking takes place, largely depends on the policy priorities of host and return countries, as well as the mandate of the agencies in charge of reintegration assistance. A mismatch of priorities can occur when return countries might actually encourage migration and re-migration. In fact, remittances constitute a significant part of developing countries' economies. In 2009, remittances accounted for 6.6% of Ghana's GDP and 8% of Sri Lanka's GDP (and as high as 35% in Tajikstan or 22.4% in Moldova). Remittances contribute significantly to economic growth;²¹¹ consequently some countries of return might not want to promote durable return and thus are less inclined to cooperate with EU actors in the field;²¹²

²¹¹ This was stressed by the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Acra, who note that "returning migrants meant not just the possible burden of society supporting them to re-integrate, but a reduction in remittances which had hitherto supported households and in some cases been the mainstay of local economies as was the case in some communities in the BrongAhafo Region". Source:

<http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=213702>.

²¹² The World Bank, Fact Book 2011,

Stats: [http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTDECPROSPECTS/Resources/476882-1157133580628/RemittancesData_Inflows_May10\(Public\).xls](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTDECPROSPECTS/Resources/476882-1157133580628/RemittancesData_Inflows_May10(Public).xls).

4.0 An Inventory of Best Practices

The key objective of the study was **to provide practical guidance to Member States in developing and implementing a coherent reintegration policy and sustainable return** by providing Member States²¹³ with an inventory of best practices, and recommendations on how to create positive synergies between different reintegration measures.

While all countries which implement reintegration programmes praise the success of their system,²¹⁴ **there is a lack of indicators against which to measure success**. To this end, the first step is to identify relevant criteria for measuring coherence and sustainability, or, in other words, “what good looks like”.

‘What good looks like’

As discussed in detail in Section 2.2.1, term “coherence” presents ambiguities as well as contradictions. If we apply the concept of coherence developed by Forster and Stokke (1999) to reintegration, then a **coherent reintegration policy** could be understood as one where the strategies and actions to achieve reintegration do not conflict with the objectives of reintegration. If reintegration objectives are to promote sustainable return then a coherent reintegration policy should implement activities that favour and promote a sustainable return.

There is even less agreement around the definition of **sustainable return**. However, according to a study conducted by HIT Foundation return can be considered sustainable when returnees:²¹⁵

- go and never come back to the individual member state;
- go and never come back to any other member state of the EU;
- leave voluntarily and are ready to start a new life;
- establish a new livelihood in their country and sustain a family;
- make a meaningful contribution to the community they are returning to and are therefore accepted upon return;
- contribute to the economic and social development of the country of return; and
- decide to use legal and official means of migration in the future.

Consequently, **we can consider ‘best practices’ all those activities which directly or indirectly promote a coherent reintegration policy and a sustainable return**. In the next sections we address those practices that reflect the experiences gained in the case study countries.

²¹³ Throughout this study, the term ‘Member States’ denotes the 27 EU Member States and the 4 Schengen Associated States bound by the Directive (Switzerland, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein).

²¹⁴ While many interviewees acknowledged the existence of obstacles and challenges, they ‘all’ praised the success of their reintegration programmes.

²¹⁵ HIT Foundation. 2010. ‘European Cooperation on the sustainable return and reintegration of asylum seekers’.

1. Providing return and reintegration counselling that is comprehensive in scope, up-to-date, provided by qualified practitioners and extended to the family or close circle of the returnee.

Counselling is the backbone of reintegration and the first step towards sustainable reintegration. The case studies suggest that effective counselling exhibits the following characteristics:

Comprehensive in scope - Counselling should inform individuals both about the return process as well as the situation they are likely to find in the country of return (in terms of labour market, education, health care, housing, social concerns and similar issues). Counselling should therefore be holistic and include:

- individual counselling for potential voluntary returnees to their countries of return or to those considering voluntary return and want to gather detailed information about return programmes
- information concerning migration to a third country;
- up-to-date information on return issues and the situation in their countries of return;
- advice on local organizations that could help the returnee after return.

IOM Berlin is reported to address all the above dimensions during its pre-departure counselling service provided through the Centre for Returnee Information and Counselling.²¹⁶

Up-to-date - The provision of accurate and up-to date information about the country of return helps returnees make an informed decision and is crucial for gaining their interest and commitment.²¹⁷ The case studies show that there are a number of good examples to collect up-to-date and disseminate information including:

- Interactive databases: for example the **Adeona Return Knowledge Bank**²¹⁸, set up and managed by the HIT Foundation in the Netherlands until 2008, was an innovative interactive database which provided information and advice on future opportunities in the countries of return and on obstacles that potentially stand in the way of repatriation. Counsellors and asylum seekers could ask online questions concerning individual return issues. Adeona's staff also gave individual advice on how to draw up and implement a future action plan. Adeona's activities have since been integrated into the new Helpdesk set up by the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA).²¹⁹
- Online platforms: in the framework of the **IRriCO II project**, IOM launched a website providing information on return and reintegration opportunities in 20 countries of return. The site had an interactive feature whereby staff in different countries could pose questions and receive answers on different questions. Country sheets on those 20

²¹⁶ http://www.iom.int/germany/en/projects_avr.htm

²¹⁷ This was especially stressed by all IOM representatives interviewed.

²¹⁸ See Dutch case study.

²¹⁹ See <http://hitfoundation.eu/completed-projects/adeona-return-knowledge-bank/>

countries including an overview of the political and economic situation, practical information about health care, education, and various services as well as on business opportunities, are available for download on the website in many languages.²²⁰ Though the IRRICO II project came to an end, all the materials produced are still available and IOM plans to revitalise it 2012 as a component of a larger project on exchange of information related to AVRR within the EU but also in 30 selected countries of origin. The IRRICO website also provides links to additional country reports produced by the **CRI project**²²¹, a similar project coordinated until 2009 by the Flemish Refugee Action. Since 2006 IOM Germany has implemented the **ZIRF-Counselling project** on behalf of the Federal government and the Federal States, which provides individualized, detailed and up-to-date return relevant information to returnees as well as to return counselling/information centres. In order to acquire the necessary information, IOM reverts to its network of more than 280 missions in over 100 countries worldwide. Two kinds of information are provided: The so-called Country Fact Sheets offer general and up-to-date return relevant information for selected countries of return. These Fact Sheets are financed by the German federal government. In addition, detailed information - specific to the life situation of a returnee - can be requested in the form of individual enquiries. This part of the project is financed by the German federal states. The Country Fact Sheets and individual enquiries are collected in the ZIRF database, which is publicly available on the website of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF). Finally, the **Beyond Borders** project has helped to develop two new websites in Afghanistan and Angola. The sites serve to form a digital bridge between young (former) asylum seekers and refugees in the Netherlands, returnees, students and other stakeholders from Afghanistan and Angola, so that a flow of information and contact exchange is established and an international network is formed.²²²

Provided by individuals who have knowledge of both the host country and the country of return - Social workers who have this delicate role must be adequately trained and regularly updated on the conditions returnees will find upon their return. Best practises examples include:

- Counsellors should be qualified for such role: In **Belgium**, the NGO CIRE (Coordination and Initiatives for Refugees and Foreigners) ran a reintegration programme in collaboration with HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) in Ecuador during which counselling was provided pre-departure and was continued by HIAS psychologists in Ecuador who were specifically trained on (forced) migration issues. This psychological support is, according to HIAS²²³, essential in the reintegration process and although the project with CIRE has ended, they continue to provide this support in their other projects. The internal evaluation of CIRE's project noted that the psychological support helped returnees getting started with the technical side of their reintegration project. It

²²⁰ The IRRICO II was a project carried out by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) that aims to provide information for migrants considering returning back to their countries of origin. <http://irrico.belgium.iom.int/>.

²²¹ The CRI project also had a helpdesk where potential returnees and providers could ask questions about 25 countries of origin. Answers were provided by partners and researchers in the countries of origin.

²²² <http://www.maatwerkbijterugkeer.nl/en/organization/beyond-borders-project>

²²³ Interview with HIAS, Return contact persons, 22 August 2011.

was found that returnees first needed to discuss reintegration within their family, their socio-economic situation as well as their emotional state before starting their socio-economic reintegration.²²⁴ The evaluation qualified the psycho-social support as one of the successes of the programme. It was also noted²²⁵ that psycho-social assistance post arrival is important in order to “revalorise” the person, and point them towards the benefits of their return, and help the reintegration in the local community.

- Qualified counsellors should be trained through regular seminars and workshops: In **Hungary** in order to assure assistance at a high level, the Office of Immigration and Nationality(OIN) provides social workers and psychologists with regular trainings and up-to-date information on countries of return. The Documentation Centre of the OIN holds presentations on the current situation of the main countries of return for the social workers and psychologists on a regular basis thus providing updated information for the beneficiaries about the development in the home countries of returnees.²²⁶
- Counsellors should have an acute understanding of the returnee’s situation: In **the Netherlands**, experience gained by the IOM with Native Counsellors has shown that counsellors with migrant backgrounds who are able to think in the migrants’ context and speak the migrants’ language have an added value in reaching the target group and in counselling vulnerable or complex cases. Mouth-to-mouth communication, going to shops and markets, for example, and using Native Counsellor’s personal networks appeared to be the best way to reach potential returnees.²²⁷

Extended to the family or close circle of the returnee - Social capital (i.e. social and economic resources) provided by returnee’s family is a crucial condition for a successful reintegration. However, as a result of long-term separation, family reintegration can be problematic. Therefore, a restoration of family relations should be a part of pre-departure psychosocial counselling assistance. In **Spain**, organisations such as AESCO²²⁸ and ACCEM²²⁹ inform beneficiaries about the difficulties they may face reuniting with their families and provide advice on the best way to deal with the issue. In addition, AESCO’s offices in countries of return offer social support for the whole family unit.

²²⁴ CIRE, *Etude sur le programme d’accompagnement à la réinsertion en Equateur (2006-2008)*.

²²⁵ Interview with the SENAMI, 22 August 2011.

²²⁶ Hungary case study

²²⁷ Email Correspondence between H el ene David (ECRE) and Ana Fonseca (IOM), 14 November 2011. See also Dutch case study.

²²⁸ Interview with AESCO (Voluntary Return Programme) 27/07/2011 Madrid

²²⁹ Interview with ACCEM (International Department) 27/07/2011 Madrid

2. Providing tailored in-kind assistance that is decided in consultation with the returnees.

Financial assistance to help cover basic expenses should be complemented with in-kind assistance where donors keep control over spending to ensure that the financial resources are used cautiously.²³⁰ Best practices suggest that tailored in kind assistance should be **decided in consultation with the returnees**. The “percentage approach” which was implemented by **IOM UK** under different programmes means that everyone can choose how much of their in-kind assistance is allocated to the different reintegration components. The returnee could determine how best to distribute his total allowance between business set-up, excess luggage, housing, education, medical expenses or vocational training. An upper percentage limit was however predetermined for certain categories of assistance (housing and medical assistance) by the programme.²³¹ This was to ensure that a sufficient proportion of the assistance was used to generate an income or to develop skills which would most likely contribute to a more sustainable return. This approach allows returnees to make the assistance more relevant to their needs in their country of return.

3. Raising awareness about available reintegration assistance.

Migrants often ignore the existence of reintegration assistance available in the host country or in the country of return.²³² Furthermore, while most migrants keep in contact with their families, and tend to be informed about main changes in their country, they lack practical²³³ and reliable²³⁴ information on the cost of living, services and job opportunities; let alone information on reintegration assistance. Raising reintegration programme awareness helps optimise reintegration assistance as returnees do not have to spend what little time they have prior to departure collecting information on the assistance available to them. Raising awareness could be through:

Strategic multi-media campaigns in several languages to inform potential beneficiaries of the return and reintegration projects.²³⁵ The campaign launched by the **Italian Network for Voluntary Return (NIRVA)** called “Return to start again”²³⁶ consisted of simultaneously flyers in ten languages, leaflets, video and audio ads in three major cities; Rome Naples and Milan.

²³⁰ While most Member States provide and prefer in-kind assistance over cash, the debate over the advantages of one over the other is still strong between stakeholders.

²³¹ For example, under AVRFC the amount allocated to housing could not exceed 40% of the total amount and so on.

For more details see

<http://www.eelga.gov.uk/documents/Policy%20and%20Priorities/Strategic%20Migration%20Partnership/Asylum%20and%20Refugee%20Integration/AVRFC%20-%20FAQs%20and%20Matrix.pdf>, and <http://www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/IOM-VARRP4ppA4.pdf>

²³² Italy case study interviews.

²³³ Interview with Ecuadorian returnee

²³⁴ Kosovo case study.

²³⁵ Written replies Ministry of Interior, Rome, 30th September 2011.

²³⁶ The Italian name was: “*Ritornare per ricominciare*”.

Online websites in several languages that provide general information about assisted voluntary return and reintegration programmes.

- Fedasil, the **Belgian** Federal Agency for Asylum Seekers, launched in 2010 a trilingual (French, Dutch, English) website²³⁷ targeted to migrants and asylum seekers, which gather information on voluntary return.
- In **Ecuador**, the SENAMI (National Secretariat for the Migrant) runs a website call the “Migrant’s portal”²³⁸. It includes information for potential returnees about support programmes but also about migrants’ organisations and networks, or events for the Ecuadorian community abroad. It also hosts discussion fora.

Radio campaigns: In Ghana, the Research Counselling Foundation for African migrants (RECFAM) provides counselling through radio programmes, to raise awareness about the dangers associated with irregular migration. The program seeks to:²³⁹

- Raise awareness about the dangers associated with irregular migration and therefore reduce if not stop this social problem facing many African societies today.
- Expose the clandestine activities of connection men who often through deceit and fraudulent means collect monies from desperate people with the promise of getting them job in Europe.
- Educate the populace on proper acquisition of genuine travelling documents- passports and visa acquisition.
- Combat human trafficking especially child trafficking within and outside the borders of Ghana.
-

4. Providing vocational or other training before departure or after arrival. Training needs to be tailored and focussed on the development of business skills.²⁴⁰

Very few returnees are likely to have the skills to be self-employed in the country of return and they require special training if they are to develop their potential and not lose the skills that they may have acquired in the host country. Most countries provide some form of vocational training. Nevertheless, the extent to which such training is tailored to the needs of the individual or the needs of the country of return varies. Best practices suggest that tailored vocational training should focus on business development:

- Since 2008, the **Inter-American Development Bank** has been funding a programme of voluntary return, based on business capacity development and aimed at emigrants from Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia and Uruguay who live in Spain. The project is implemented by the Fundacion Crea Empresa in Spain, in collaboration with local

²³⁷ For more details visit: www.voluntaryreturn.be. Also available in French and Dutch.

²³⁸ <http://www.migranteecuadoriano.gov.ec/content/view/30/38/>.

²³⁹ Ghana case study. For more details see <http://www.recfam.org/activities.html>

²⁴⁰ This best practice is inferred from the case studies as well as the “Red Cross Return Initiative: A study on how to support sustainable return in safety and dignity” (Red Cross 2006).

organisations. In **Ecuador**, their partner is the *Fundacion Alternativa*²⁴¹. The goal of the project is to promote the development and strengthening of businesses run by returnees, or potential returnees, with a view to contribute to the economic and social development of their country of return. The project includes capacity building through training and the promotion of investing remittances into business projects that have a transnational component²⁴². To date, *Fundacion Alternativa* has held 15 training series in five provinces for 325 participants. The outcome of the training is the development of a business plan. In 2011, the Foundation partnered with Quito's Economic Promotion Agency, *Conquito*. Together with their Spanish partners, they contributed to the training of local counsellors. The counsellors will monitor the returnees' projects with the goal of ensuring sustainability. The new phase of the project will also include the possibility for returnees who attended training to apply for a loan.

- In 2009 the **Georgian** Employers' Association (GEA) together with the Educational Economic Institute (*Bildungswerk der Wirtschaft GmbH*) launched the project 'Integration of Georgia migrants into the Labour Market'. The project aimed to improve the qualifications of return migrants and support migrants with training and business start-up. One of the biggest frustrations for returnees is not finding work in the area in which they are qualified. Through the project GEA took into consideration the needs of the country together with the skills of the returnees²⁴³, thus creating a more sustainable approach to reintegration. Migrants had the opportunity to improve their skills and learn new skills needed in Georgia. Most of the migrants who applied and completed the training – some in more than one area – managed to find a job in the following months. Out of the 140 migrants who attended the training, 85 were employed afterwards.²⁴⁴

5. Systematic monitoring of returnees through SWOT analyses of the programmes.

Virtus Italia Onlus uses a SWOT analysis²⁴⁵ on the strengths and weaknesses with particular focus on effectiveness and efficiency of reintegration and rehabilitation projects. Other relevant aspects of the evaluation process are the selection procedure of applicants and the sustainability of the project. Moreover, the evaluation process aims to measure the level of the applicants' satisfaction in order to improve the general impact of the project. The improvements are then used in the development of future projects.²⁴⁶

²⁴¹ Information provided by *Fundacion Alternativa*.

²⁴² The programme aims to develop economic links between Spanish and Ecuadorian companies.

²⁴³ The project was also open for IDPs.

²⁴⁴ Interview with GEA, 5th July 2011, Tbilisi.

²⁴⁵ A study undertaken by an organization to identify its internal strengths and weaknesses, as well as its external opportunities and threats

²⁴⁶ Italy Case study

5.0 Recommendations

Section 4.0 presented a number of best practices implemented by different Member States which have proved to favour a **coherent reintegration policy and sustainable return**. In order to improve existing reintegration programmes and to facilitate the adoption of best practices in all Member States a number of recommendations need to be put forward.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Conduct socio-economic profiling of potential returnees during pre-departure counselling sessions in host countries to assess their skills, needs and motivations, coupled with an assessment of the conditions and prospects in the country of return to support the migrant's decision to return.

Recommendation 2: Involve specialised workers to psychologically prepare returnees – vulnerable individuals in particular – prior to departure.

Recommendation 3: Develop an online platform to share information and experience.²⁴⁷

Recommendation 4: Work with family members in parallel to assistance provided to the returnee.²⁴⁸

Recommendation 5: Establish mentoring or visits systems and support the development of a network of reintegration assistance recipients.

Recommendation 6: Inform migrants that reintegration assistance providers are independent from the police or border agencies, and that getting information about voluntary return does not jeopardise an asylum application or put the person at risk of being detained for irregular stay.

Recommendation 7: Extend the provisions of reintegration assistance beyond 12 months.

Recommendation 8: Increase and optimise the financial assistance available for reintegration activities so as to provide more sustainable reintegration and monitoring resources.

Recommendation 9: Increase coordination between EU financial instruments in the field of migration.

Recommendation 10: Strengthen partnerships with and the training of local partners with knowledge of the country of return and who can contribute to the monitoring.^{249,250}

²⁴⁷ A similar recommendation was put forward in the European Return Fund (2008-2013) Community Action Annual Programme 2010.

²⁴⁸ Spanish case study.

²⁴⁹ A similar best practiced can be drawn from the CSES Evaluation of Preparatory Actions 2001-2003 B7-677, which advocates the importance of collaboration and consultation with partners in third countries especially on design and

Recommendation 1: Conduct socio-economic profiling of potential returnees during pre-departure counselling sessions in host countries to assess their skills, needs and motivations, coupled with an assessment of the conditions and prospects in the country of return to support the migrant's decision to return.

This should involve trained return counsellors and cultural mediators. Tailoring will increase the preparedness of returnees which in turns affects their willingness to re-start their life in the country of return and to actively participate in decision-making with regard to their future. Tailoring also means that reintegration project can be adapted and modified after return once the returnee has a better view of his life plan.

Tailoring should also target vulnerable groups and this should be based on a cross-border definition of vulnerable groups.

Tailoring to the needs of returnees is important because:

- It makes them feel that reintegration is not *ad hoc* and they have more chances to succeed (especially vulnerable returnees);
- It creates an element of trust, and favours buy-in in reintegration activities.

Recommendation 2: Involve specialised workers to psychologically prepare returnees – vulnerable individuals in particular – prior to departure.

It is crucial to have trained social workers²⁵¹ that can explain the voluntary return programmes and guide the migrants through the application process. Social workers should know the content of the programmes, be familiar with country of return information and aware of the different providers.

Recommendation 3: Develop an online platform to share information and experience.²⁵²

Given the different objectives behind reintegration programmes across countries and the different mandate of actors involved in return and reintegration (such as security, migration and social policy, development, etc) it would be unrealistic and impractical to propose a unified handbook or manual for reintegration activities. However, the creation of an accessible online tool, where actors involved in reintegration could exchange information and share their manuals and handbooks, would allow other interested parties to learn from other experiences. This

preparation of projects to create synergies between different goals; those of the donors and those of the return countries.

²⁵⁰ The importance of training can be found in the Annual Report of AENEAS programme 2000 where by capacity building of civil society organisations of third countries needs to be more systematically foreseen in the programme's design and project proposal.

²⁵¹ See Belgian and Swiss case studies.

²⁵² A similar recommendation was put forward in the European Return Fund (2008-2013) Community Action Annual Programme 2010.

platform would also speed and increase the amount of information sharing.²⁵³ Some programmes have already opened up their resources for consultation such as NIRVA in Italy which has set up a network and created a referral system. This referral system is available to a selected number of organisations who, following the returnees' interest can then offer the returnee a possibility to return and reintegrate in his country of return.²⁵⁴ For example, the scope of platforms such as the above mentioned IRRiCOII project could be expanded to share experiences and best practices in addition to information on the countries of return. Given the experience gained in the field of reintegration the EMN Network could be well placed to take charge of such endeavours.

Furthermore, by standardising and systematising the basket of available reintegration assistance, both the service providers and the beneficiaries can profit from easily accessible and comprehensible information.

Recommendation 4: Work with family members in parallel to assistance provided to the returnee.²⁵⁵

Working with family members in the country of return in advance of the return can aid returnee reintegration. In some cases, the emigration of a family member is seen by the family or community as an “investment” and return might be perceived as a failure. Psycho-social assistance to both families and returnees can ease the return process and lead to successful reintegration. Visits of the potential returnee to its country of return in preparation for return could also increase information and preparedness.

Recommendation 5: Establish mentoring or visits systems and support the development of a network of reintegration assistance recipients.

The success of return and reintegration is very much dependent on the willingness of individuals to go back and share their experience. In cases where the latter is missing, there is a need to be innovative. One idea would be to offer a service of exchange with former returnees, either asking them to employ young returnees for an internship (financed with reintegration assistance) or to be mentors.²⁵⁶ AVRR programmes could include activities encouraging former returnees to be involved in information, dissemination and evaluation, so that their experience and acquired skills and knowledge could benefit new or potential returnees. Networks between returnees and communities of migrants in the EU could be supported in order to exchange knowledge, skills and build potential export channels for businesses.

²⁵³Hungary country profile.

²⁵⁴Italy case study.

²⁵⁵Spanish case study.

²⁵⁶Switzerland case study.

Recommendation 6: Inform migrants that reintegration assistance providers are independent from the police or border agencies, and that getting information about voluntary return does not jeopardise an asylum application or put the person at risk of being detained for irregular stay.

This also requires strengthening awareness campaign around voluntary return and reintegration activities. Migrants should be made better aware of voluntary return opportunities. Asylum seekers should be informed while their application is still pending and not only after a negative decision. Information campaigns and leaflets are needed to encourage potential returnees to consider the option of return and perhaps make contact on their own initiative at a later stage. While some information on the assisted voluntary return programmes and countries of return is available through some national websites or project websites (example.g. the IRRiCOII project), returnees are not always fully aware of it. Furthermore, the information is limited to a restricted number of languages that may not be spoken by migrants who would seek reintegration assistance.

Recommendation 7: Extend the provisions of reintegration assistance beyond 12 months.

Monitoring is important because it can create information to feed into the pre-departure phase and provide lessons for improvement. Regular monitoring is also important to convey confidence to the returnee that he has not been left alone. Monitoring missions allow service providers to react to the changing needs of migrants over time.

Most programmes monitor returnees between 6 to 12 months after arrival or during the timeline of the project. However, re-building a life in the country of return, and being able to be self-sufficient and sustain a family requires time. Likewise, creating the conditions to make a meaningful contribution to the community, and therefore be accepted upon return, takes years.²⁵⁷ Consequently, **receiving material and/or immaterial support** to achieve these goals over a realistic period of time beyond 12 months increases the likelihood of **sustainable return**.

Recommendation 8: Increase and optimise the financial assistance available for reintegration activities so as to provide more sustainable reintegration and monitoring resources.

Small reintegration packages are currently available for returnees. Limited resources are available for AVRR-related research and monitoring activities, therefore the available data is not always up-to-date. There needs to be enough assistance for the returnee to start a viable

²⁵⁷ AGEF, an organisation based in Germany that specialises in post-return reintegration activities defines return as sustainable if returnees cease to be dependent (financially and socially) on reintegration activities after a period of maximum 10 years. Interview with AGEF, August 2011.

project. Amounts could be based on the country's cost of living rather than one size fits all.²⁵⁸ Assistance could also be optimised by providing 'group reintegration' where individual financial assistance could be aggregated to serve a common project (such as the creation of a small farm, purchase of machinery, etc, that the collective could benefit from).

Recommendation 9: Increase coordination between EU financial instruments in the field of migration.

As show in Appendix 6.7 and 6.8 the EU has been implementing a wide variety of financial instruments which directly or indirectly address migration. The projects implemented under different instruments support a wide range of activities²⁵⁹ linked to the management of migration flows and to the provision of assistance to migrants. Greater coordination between these instruments, for example in relation to application deadlines, would allow organisations to combine different funding sources to provide, among other things, reintegration activities that complement each other. This would allow organisations to have access to more resources at once and increase their efficient and effective use.

Recommendation 10: Strengthen partnerships with and the training of local partners with knowledge of the country of return and who can contribute to the monitoring.²⁶⁰²⁶¹

Networks should be created between the returnees, the local authorities and private sectors in the countries of return. Strengthening partnerships provides motivation to return as it increases the confidence of returnees expects to receive support after their return. Collaboration between actors reflects commitment about the reintegration cause.

The Red Cross in Sweden indicates that in some cases partners might not share the donor's or the EU service provider's vision of reintegration programmes, which can create tensions. This is why many organisations like Italian NGOs *Virtus Italia Onlus* and CEFA, and Spanish ACOBE, ROMINAHUI and CEPAIM opened offices in the countries of return they operate in.²⁶² Nevertheless, as local partners know and better understand the realities on the ground, training local partners could be a viable solution.

²⁵⁸ In Switzerland for example, the specific country programme for Nigeria offers a higher amount of reintegration assistance per case (7000 CHF>1000 CHF upon arrival, 6000 CHF for a small project) given the higher cost of living in Nigeria.

²⁵⁹ The 2006 Thematic Programme Communication commenting on the Preparatory Actions B7-667 indicates that projects had a quite diverge range of goals which limited the coherence and effectiveness of the programme as a whole.

²⁶⁰ A similar best practiced can be drown from the CSES Evaluation of Preparatory Actions 2001-2003 B7-677, which advocates the importance of collaboration and consultation with partners in third countries especially on design and preparation of projects to create synergies between different goals; those of the donors and those of the return countries.

²⁶¹ The importance of training can be found in the Annual Report of AENEAS programme 2000 where by capacity building of civil society organisations of third countries needs to be more systematically foreseen in the programme's design and project proposal.

²⁶² Italian and Spanish case studies.

6.0 Appendices

6.1 Glossaries

6.1.1 Glossary of Terms

AVR: Assisted Voluntary Return.

Country of Return: the country to which a person is returned. This may be their country of origin, of former habitual residence, or to transit countries.²⁶³

Long-Term Post Arrival Activities: includes long-term socioeconomic activities carried out in the country of return.²⁶⁴

Pre-Departure Activities: preparatory activities carried out in the sending country prior to the departure of the returnee.

Reintegration: re-inclusion or re-incorporation of a person into a group or a process, e.g. of a migrant into the society of his/her country of return.²⁶⁵

Returnee (see TCN): a non-EU/EEA (i.e. third-country) national migrant who moves to an EU/EEA either voluntarily or following a return decision.²⁶⁶

Return Decision: administrative or judicial decision or act, stating or declaring the stay of a third-country national to be illegal and imposing or stating an obligation to Return.²⁶⁷

Return Programmes: programmes to support (e.g. financial, organisational, counselling) the return, possibly including reintegration measures, to the returnee by the State or by a third party, for example an international organisation.²⁶⁸

Short-Term Post Arrival Activities: include the reception and accompanying activities in the first months after the return.²⁶⁹

Voluntary Departure: a TCN voluntarily complies with a return decision within a given time period (up to one month) (as per Return Directive)

Voluntary Return: assisted or independent return to the country of return,²⁷⁰ transit or another third country based on the free will of the returnee either without any legal obligation to leave²⁷¹ or under legal obligation.²⁷²

²⁶³ IOM, at <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/about-migration/managing-migration/managing-migration-return-migration/cache/offonce/>

²⁶⁴ IOM, at <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/about-migration/managing-migration/managing-migration-return-migration/cache/offonce/>

²⁶⁵ European Migration Network (EMN), Glossary, Available at <http://emn.intrasoft-intl.com/Glossary/viewTerm.do?startingWith=R&id=249>

²⁶⁶ EMN Glossary.

²⁶⁷ EMN Glossary.

²⁶⁸ EMN Glossary.

²⁶⁹ Tender Specification attached to the invitation to tender No. JLS/2009/RF/CA.1003, p. 3.

6.1.2 Glossary of Acronyms

ANOFM	National Employment Agency (Moldova)
ASTI	Association de Soutien aux Travailleurs Immigrés (Luxembourg)
AVR	Assisted Voluntary Return Programme
AVRR	Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme
CIRE	Coordination and Initiatives for Refugees and Foreigners (Belgium)
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CLAE	Comité de Liaison des Associations d'Étrangers (Luxembourg)
CNRR	National Council for Refugees (Romania)
CoO	Country of Origin
CoR	Country of Return
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
ENAIIP	Educational branch of ACLI (Christian Association of Italian Workers) (Romania)
Fedasil	Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (Belgium)
FOM	Federal Office for Migration (Switzerland)
HIAS	Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
HSE	Health Service Executive (Ireland)
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IRRIICO II	Enhanced and Integrated Approach regarding Information on Return and Reintegration in Countries of Origin.
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JCRC	Job Counselling and Referral Centre (Georgia)
KKC OCA	Kirchliche Kontaktstelle für Flüchtlingsfragen/Office de consultation sur l'asile (Switzerland)
LT	Long-term
OFII	French Office for Immigration and Integration
OIN	Office of Immigration and Nationality (Hungary)
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MJHA	Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs
MoI	Ministry of Interior
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRC	Migration Resource Centres (Georgia)
NCP	National Contact Point
NIDOS	Network of International Development Organisations in Scotland
RECFAM	Research and Counselling Foundation for African Migrants (Ghana)
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (Switzerland)
SOS Malta	Solidarity Overseas Service
SOZE	Society of Citizens Assisting Migrants (Czech Republic)
ST	Short-term
STV	Foundation against Trafficking in Women (Ireland – The Netherlands)
TCN	Third country national
UDI	Norwegian Directorate of Immigration

²⁷⁰ The original IOM definition used the term 'country of origin' rather than the country of return, which we changed for consistency.

²⁷¹ IOM (2004): "Return Migration; policies and Practices in Europe". Geneva.

²⁷² Return Directive.

UN United Nations
UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UKBA UK Border Agency
VOT Victim of Trafficking

6.1.3 Glossary of Reintegration Programmes Acronyms

This glossary only defines those programmes' acronyms used in the country profiles and case studies.

Austria

AVRR-RFCR: Assistance for the Voluntary Return and Reintegration of Returnees to the Russian Federation / the Chechen Republic

ReKoKo: Reintegration in Kosovo – Co-operation with Micro-credit Institutions

RRAVRK: Return and Reintegration Assistance for Voluntary Returnees to Kosovo

VRRAN: Voluntary Return and Reintegration Assistance for Nigerian Nationals

Belgium

ARS: Additional Reintegration Support via the Return Fund

REAB: Return and Emigration of Asylum Seekers

RP: Reintegration Programme offering complementary assistance

Bulgaria

Activity 1: Annual programme 2009/ Activity 1/ IOM

Activity 3: Annual programme 2009/ Activity 3/ IOM

Activity 7: Annual programme 2009/ Activity 7/ Caritas Bulgaria

Cyprus

Action 3.3.1.: Return Fund/Annual Programme 2011 Action 3.3.1. Research study regarding the main professions required in specific countries of origin of potential returnees

Action 3.3.4.: Return Fund/Annual Programme 2009 Action 3.3.4. Research study regarding best practices in the field of voluntary and forced return

Czech Republic

FIRMS: Financial incentives for Returnees in Moravia and Silesia (ENF-2009)

RP MM: Reintegration Project for Moldavian Migrants, Including the Process of Increasing the Awareness of the Possibility of Remittances and Increasing Financial Literacy

RP: Return Programme for Asylum Seekers, Unsuccessful Asylum Seekers and Third-Country Nationals Enjoying a Form of International Protection (ENF-2008)

SMM M: Support to the Migration Management in Moldova with the Emphasis on Labour Migration and Reintegration - Phase III

SMMCA: Support to the Migration Management in Central Asia

SRS GLM: Support to the Reintegration System at the Georgian Labour Market for Population Vulnerable to Migration and Capacity Building for Georgian State Administration

Denmark

AVR CAGP: Assisted Voluntary Return, Cargo Arrangements and Grant Payments for Voluntary Returnees from Denmark to Iraq

AVR I: Integrated Assisted Voluntary Return Programme from Denmark to Iraq

DRC RA: Danish Red Cross return assistance programme for rejected asylum seekers from

Kosovo

IRRM: Information on Return and Reintegration for Iraqi Migrants in Denmark

Estonia

AVRE: Assisted Voluntary Return from Estonia

VARRE: Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme from Estonia

Finland

AVR Kosovo: Facilitating Assisted Voluntary Return to Kosovo through a Sustainable Return Plan

DAVRiF: Developing Assisted Voluntary Return in Finland

DRITA: Comprehensive Support Programme for the Return and Reintegration of Kosovo Albanians in Finland

PAVR: Positive action for Vulnerable Returnees

Germany

Heimatgarten: Supports migrants with the voluntary return into their countries of origin

REAG/GARP: Reintegration and Emigration Programme for Asylum Seekers in Germany/
Government Assisted Repatriation Programme

Solwodi: Solwodi Programmes/ Services

URA II: Return Project Kosovo which means “bridge” in Albanian.

Hungary

CAR: Complex Assistance before Return

HARRP: Hungarian Assisted Return and Re-integration Program

HAVRR: Hungarian Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme

RETURN: Enhancing Mechanisms and Harmonizing Standards in the Field of Voluntary Return of Irregular Migrants in EU Central European Member States

Ireland

RIA: Reception and Integration Agency programme

VARRP: Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme

VINN: VARRP for Irregular Vulnerable Nigerian Nationals in Ireland and the Netherlands

Italy

PARTIR: Programme for Assistance for Voluntary Return from Italy

REMPLOY: Integrated Care in Favour of Immigrant Workers Living in Northern Italy

RIVAN: Assistance Programme for Voluntary Return to North Africa

PARIVUL: Assistance Programme for Voluntary Return of Migrants

REMIDA: Assisted Voluntary Returns to Morocco

RVA: Assisted Voluntary Return (*Ritorno Volontario Assistito*)

Latvia

AVRR: Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration

Luxembourg

AVRR: Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration

Malta

DAR: Comprehensive Return Programme Including Re-Integration Financing Programme

RESTART: Voluntary Return and Sustainable reintegration in the Country of Origin

Netherlands

CRRS: Counselling Return and Reintegration Support

HRT: Return and Reintegration Regulation

REAN: Return and Emigration of Aliens from the Netherlands

UAM-AOM: Return and Reintegration Assistance for Unaccompanied Minor and Aged-Out Minor asylum seekers

Norway

BIP: Business Innovation Programmes

FSR: Financial Support to Return

IRRANA: Information, Return and Reintegration for Afghan Nationals to Afghanistan

IRRINI: Information, Return, and Reintegration for Iraqi Nationals to Iraq

UAM-AOM: Return and Reintegration Assistance for Unaccompanied Minor and Aged-Out Minor asylum seekers

Poland

AVRR-UAS: Assisted Voluntary Returns and Reintegration of Unsuccessful Asylum Seekers

CTR-AVR: Consultancy, Travel, Reintegration - Assistance in Voluntary Return from Poland

VRF: Voluntary Returns of Foreigners Leaving the Territory of the Republic of Poland

VVRA: Voluntary Return and Reintegration Assistance

Portugal

AVRR: Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme

AVRR – ARVoRe: Voluntary Return and Reintegration Assistance

Romania

AVR: Strengthening the assisted voluntary return programme in Romania

AVRR: Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme

ESF Project: Model for transnational cooperation for the return of Romanian workers -ESF project

EVRR: Effective voluntary return and restitution in the origin country

MoU: Memorandum of Understanding between the Romanian Government and IOM

Slovakia

RRA: Return and reintegration assistance to unsuccessful asylum seekers and illegal migrants from Slovakia to Countries of Origin

RRPTP: Return and Reintegration Programme for Trafficked Persons

Slovenia

AVR: Assisted Voluntary Return Programme

Spain

AVRR: Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme

Sweden

ARR Somalia: Assisted Return and Re-integration - Somalia Return

RSS: Re-establishment Support Scheme

United Kingdom

AVRFC: Assisted Voluntary Return for Families and Children

AVRIM: Assisted Voluntary Return for Irregular Migrants

FRS: Facilitated Return Scheme

VARRP: Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programmes

6.2 Methodology of the Study

The study adopted a largely qualitative approach focussing on gathering documentation and feedback around practices from interviews with key stakeholders and other sources.

The project was divided into four distinct phases:

- **Inception Phase:** including clarifying key objectives and finalising the methodological approach;
- **Country Overview:** including compilation of country profiles;
- **Case Studies:** including case study research and analysis;
- **Reporting:** including finalising outstanding research and analysis and preparing final deliverables.

The methodology underlying the research consisted in a number of data collection exercises, namely a number of meetings with the Commission and other relevant stakeholders, detailed country profiles and in-depth case studies. The sections below provide an overview of the methodology adopted and its main components.

6.2.1 Client Meetings and Key Deliverables

In addition to several informal meetings and phone conversations, a total of two formal client meetings were conducted (i.e. kick-off meeting, interim report review meeting).

A total of three reports were submitted, each followed by a review meeting:

- The **inception note** – an operational document – was primarily used by our in-house team to guide research and analysis activities;
- The **interim report** discussed the initial desk research and survey results with view to the comparative overview of reintegration systems across the Member States;
- The draft **final report** provides the comparative overview and examines the case study findings, providing a compendium of best practices and recommendations.

6.2.2 Stakeholders Consultations

A wide range of stakeholders across all Member States have been consulted as part of this study. Please see Appendix 6.6 for a log of contacts.

Initial interviews with 10 relevant European level stakeholders were conducted between February and March 2011. The purpose of these interviews was to generate awareness and buy-in among stakeholders; obtain further information on the proposed methodological tools and other background material for the desk research/evidence review; as well as recommendations for additional persons to interview. (See Appendix 6.6.1 for the interview log.)

Stakeholders were furthermore consulted as part of the **Survey Exercise** and the **Case Studies**. These are discussed in more detail in Sections 6.2.4 and 6.2.56.2.5.

6.2.3 Desk Research

Overall the desk research of secondary data sources has generated useful information especially in relation to **the link between reintegration assistance and voluntary and sustainable return**. The table below summarises the specific objectives of the desk research and the respective outcomes. A list of sources is provided in Appendix 6.9.

Table 16: Desk Research Objectives and Outcomes

Objectives	Outcomes
Examine the relationship between reintegration assistance and voluntary and sustainable return.	The literature displayed a strong relationship between reintegration assistance, 'voluntariness' and 'sustainability' of return.
Investigate the concept of 'interlinking' reintegration measures.	The literature does not directly address Interlinking. The definition was mainly deduced from the country questionnaires and the initial interviews.
Enabling the research team, in agreement with the Commission, to finalise the selection of case study countries and find more information for the case studies.	Because of the valuable information received through the initial interviews, the team was able to come up with a list of possible case study countries based on the information provided.

6.2.4 Comparative Country Overview: Survey

Prior to sending out the questionnaire to all countries, it was **piloted during March and April 2011** with representatives of the following five countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The Member States selected for piloting represent a cross-section of different sizes (by population), geographic locations and length of EU membership. Piloting the country profile template was useful in three ways:

- It enabled the research team to test the practicability of the template design and questions with a small sample of respondents, making the necessary changes before launching the large-scale data collection exercise covering all Member States.
- It enabled the research team to obtain the views of these initial respondents on how much of the information they were able to provide and how much of the information should be collected by other means i.e. desk research.
- It provided a first impression of how easy or difficult it would be to collect relevant data/information, which allowed the research team to make mitigation plans for collecting data/information that was not easily available.

In response to the feedback received by the piloting countries, the questionnaire was modified, finalised and **sent to the 31 national contact points (NCP) of the European Migration**

Network (EMN) and in some cases also to the relevant ministries in early May 2011.²⁷³ NCPs were used as a first point of call, either to complete the questionnaire themselves, or to forward it to the relevant person(s) within their country. Appendix 6.6 contains the list of contacts and Appendix 6.3 contains the survey questionnaire template.

All the country profiles have been received and most have been validated by the respondents. The pending validations are Estonia, France and Spain. With the exception of Cyprus where there is a lot of missing data, the quality of the responses is generally high, with respondents providing detailed information and valuable statistics on reintegration practices. A number of follow up interviews took place with each country to fill gaps, where possible, or clarify unclear points.²⁷⁴

6.2.5 Best Practices: Case Studies

With the aim of providing a list of best practices for Member States to guide future activities in the field of reintegration and sustainable return, the purpose of the case studies was to better understand policies and measures in place to support the reintegration of returnees pre-departure and post-arrival. The analysis sought to gain an insight as to the difficulties which may occur in the process of implementing reintegration measures and to provide illuminating examples of best practices.

The idea was to select countries that have experience in reintegration with regards to the following sample criteria:

- Existing reintegration programmes involving cooperation with countries of return (e.g. bilateral or multilateral);
- Number of people being returned; and
- Geographic location within Europe.

The case study interviews are all complete and most have been fully or partly validated.²⁷⁵

In addition to the case studies, the **Inventory of Best Practices** and the related recommendations draw on the **review of a number of community financial instruments in the area of migration**. An overview of relevant Community funding possibilities in the field on reintegration can be found in annex 6.7 and 6.8. The section points out the major experiences from the following funding mechanisms:

- AENEAS (2004-2006) – Programme for financial and technical assistance to third countries in the area of migration and asylum;

²⁷³ Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway are not EMN members. Therefore the relevant Questionnaires were sent to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

²⁷⁴ The team followed up with Cypriot stakeholders on several occasions. Nonetheless, very limited data was provided.

²⁷⁵ Sweden was validated only by the IRC. The case studies of Kosovo, Sri Lanka and Ghana have not been validated.

- B 7-667 Preparatory Actions (2001-2003) - Cooperation with third countries in the area of migration;
- Return Fund Preparatory Actions (2006/2005) and Solidarity in Action Programme (2007);
- First phase (2000-2004) of the European Refugee Fund.

The experiences are drawn from relevant evaluations including the 2009 Ramboll and Matrix Insight evaluation of the financial instruments for return management²⁷⁶, the 2007 evaluation of preparatory actions B7-667 by the Centre for Strategy and Evaluation Services²⁷⁷ and the 2006 final evaluation of the first phase (2000-2004) of the European Refugee Fund (ERF)²⁷⁸. One major common theme of all evaluations was the perceived lack of cooperation between Member States and third countries. **This and many of the general observations and recommendations made by the evaluations about projects financed by the aforementioned instruments have important implications for reintegration assistance and are thus also reflected in the best practice and recommendation sections of this report.**

²⁷⁶ Ramboll/Matrix Insight (2009). Evaluation of the financial instruments for return. Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/funding/2004_2007/return/docs/fianl_evaluation_return_2009_en.pdf

²⁷⁷ CSES (2007). Evaluation of preparatory actions B7-667. Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/funding/2004_2007/cooperation/docs/evaluation_final_report_en.pdf

²⁷⁸ 2006. European Refugee Fund: Final evaluation of the first phase (2000-2004), and definition of a common assessment framework for the second phase (2005-2010). Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/funding/2004_2007/refugee/docs/evaluation_2006/dg_eval_European_0306_en.pdf

6.3 Survey Questionnaire

Background Information				
Country				
Contact Person				
Organisation				
Email/Phone				
Legal Basis for Reintegration Policy				
Please indicate what are the legal provisions for your country's reintegration policy.				
Please provide a short description of existing best practice guidelines with reference to reintegration measures.				
Reintegration Assistance in Practice				
<i>Reintegration programmes/projects implemented</i>	REAG/GARP	ZIRF Counselling
<i>Time line of the programmes/projects</i>				
Target Group/Eligibility Criteria				
Please describe the Programme/Project target group (e.g. nationality, migration status)				
Number of returnees that benefit from this programme				
Type & Period in which Assistance Provided				
For each type of assistance, please indicate whether you provide it 'pre-departure', 'short-term post arrival' (i.e. 1 to 3 months), 'long-term post arrival' (i.e. over 3 months) and include a short description of the assistance provided:				
<i>Information Dissemination/Counselling</i>				
<i>Legal Assistance</i>				
<i>Cash Incentives (please indicate if 'post-return' or 'reintegration' contributions)</i>				
<i>Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing, driving)</i>				
<i>Financial Support for university/college course</i>				
<i>Support for setting up a small business (provide stock, equipment, tools)</i>				
<i>Travel Assistance/Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination</i>				
<i>Temporary Accommodation</i>				
<i>Medical Assistance</i>				
<i>Other (please describe)</i>				
Organisations Involved (e.g. Government Authority, NGO, Civil society, International Organisation)				
Please specify who is the programme leader				
Other partners involved?				
Budget				
<i>Total (per project)</i>				
<i>% EU Funds</i>				
<i>% National Funds</i>				
<i>% Other (please describe)</i>				
Challenges & Opportunities				
Please describe any current challenges and future opportunities of the programme (e.g. at development and implementation stages).				
What are the strengths and weaknesses of the programme?				
Cooperation between Sending/Return Countries				
Does this programme include cooperation between sending/return countries? Please elaborate (e.g. who is involved, what form of cooperation takes place, etc.)				
Please specify when this cooperation takes place:				
<i>Pre-Departure</i>				
<i>Short-Term Post Arrival (i.e. 1 to 3 months)</i>				
<i>Long-Term Post Arrival (i.e. over 3 months)</i>				
Reintegration Assistance & Sustainable Return				
Please describe any mechanisms you have in place to support sustainable return:				
<i>Do you monitor/evaluate the status of returnees? Please elaborate</i>				
<i>For how long?</i>				
Does the programme take into consideration development policies in the country of return?				
Is the programme regularly assessed in terms of the effectiveness of the reintegration assistance provided?				
Is the programme regularly assessed in terms of any other of its objectives? How do the results feed back into (new) programmes?				
Conclusion				
In your opinion and overall what do you think has been working really well/not so well? What would you do differently next time?				
If no pre-departure reintegration measures/programmes are in place, please explain why and describe any plans you might have to put pre-departure activities into place.				
If no post-arrival reintegration measures/programmes are in place, please explain why and describe any plans you might have to put pre-departure activities into place.				

6.4 Country Profiles²⁷⁹

²⁷⁹ For a definition of the acronyms please refer to the Glossary in the beginning of the study.

6.4.1 Country Profile - Austria

Section I: Overview of Reintegration Assistance Policy in the National Context

	Reintegration Measures
Legal Basis	At present there is no legal basis for reintegration policies. ²⁸⁰ Some of the amendments to the Alien laws (Asylum Act, Aliens 'Police Act, Settlement and Residence Act, Aliens' Employment Act) have come into force on the 1st May and 1st July 2011. Some provisions will enter into force on 1st December 2011.

Section II: Providers and Recipients of the Reintegration Assistance

Reintegration programmes/ projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/ projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
RRAVRK	IOM Vienna	Various ²⁸¹	2008-2011	Returnees to Kosovo ²⁸²	Over 320
VRRAN	IOM Vienna	Various ²⁸³	2008-2010	Returnees to Nigeria ²⁸⁴	Over 120
AVRR-RFCR	IOM Vienna	Various ²⁸⁵	2009-2010	Returnees to Russian Federation/The Chechen Republic ²⁸⁶	Over 70

²⁸⁰ Kratzmann/ Petzl/ Temesvári: Programmes and Strategies in Austria fostering Assisted Return to and Re-integration in third countries. Vienna 2010, p. 33.

²⁸¹ Federal Ministry of the Interior, Federal Provinces of Lower Austria, Tirol and Carinthia, Caritas, Verein Menschenrechte, European Homecare, Provincial Refugee Unit of Carinthia, Kosovar Embassy in Austria. In Kosovo: IOM Pristina, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of the Interior, Regional Vocational Training Centres, Municipal Return Offices, UN working group.

²⁸² That return from the three Austrian provinces (Lower Austria, Tirol, Carinthia) co-funding the project and who are: (unsuccessful) asylum seekers; recognised refugees; persons granted subsidiary protection receiving basic welfare support; or irregular migrants.

²⁸³ In Austria: Federal Ministry of the Interior, Caritas, Verein Menschenrechte, European Homecare, Provincial Refugee Unit of Carinthia, Nigerian Embassy, NANCA (National Association of Nigerian Community Austria), LEFÖ (Beratung, Bildung und Begleitung für Migrantinnen), Exit, Nigerian Embassy in Austria In Nigeria, IOM Lagos, SMEDAN (Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria), Alternative Managers, NAPTIP (The National Agency for Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters), Monu&Monu (Media Agency).

²⁸⁴ Who are (unsuccessful) asylum seekers; recognised refugees; persons granted subsidiary protection; or irregular migrants.

²⁸⁵ In Austria: Federal Ministry of the Interior, Verein Menschenrechte Österreich, Caritas, European Homecare, Provincial Refugee Unit of Carinthia, UNHCR, Embassy of the Russian Federation in Austria, in the Russian Federation: IOM Moscow, Local NGO Vesta, Chechen Chamber of Commerce.

²⁸⁶ (Unsuccessful) asylum seekers; recognised refugees; persons granted subsidiary protection; or irregular migrants.

Reintegration programmes/ projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/ projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
ReKoKo	ICMPD	Various ²⁸⁷	2010-2011	Returnees to Kosovo ²⁸⁸	Up to 30

Section III: Types of Reintegration Assistance Provided

	RRAVRK	VRRAN	AVRR-RFCR	ReKoKo
Information Dissemination/Counselling ²⁸⁹	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure
Legal Assistance ²⁹⁰	Pre-departure and post-arrival	Pre-departure and post-arrival	Pre-departure and post-arrival	Post-arrival
Cash Incentives ²⁹¹	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure and post-arrival ²⁹²	No
Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing, driving) ²⁹³	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival ²⁹⁴
Financial Support for University/College Course ²⁹⁵	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	No ²⁹⁶
Support for Setting up a Small Business (provide	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	No ²⁹⁸

²⁸⁷ In Austria: Federal Ministry of the Interior (Verein Menschenrechte Oesterreich); Caritas Vienna, Styria; Platform Microfinance. At Kosovo: Ministry of Interior; municipal offices; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Health.

²⁸⁸ That return from the two Austrian provinces (Vienna and Styria) to Kosovo including: (rejected) asylum seekers; recognised refugees; persons granted subsidiary protection receiving basic welfare support; or irregular migrants.

²⁸⁹ This includes networking meetings with all relevant actors and stakeholders; organisation of the 'International Workshop for Return Counsellors' to share information and experience; vocational guidance and business skills assessment before return; establishment of telephone contact between already reintegrated returnees and future returnees, etc.

²⁹⁰ Depending on individual needs of returnees.

²⁹¹ At the request of the return counselling organisation, payment of the reinstallation grant of up to € 370/person by IOM staff at the airport (means provided by Austrian MoI within the General AVR Programme)

²⁹² At the request of the return counselling organisation, payment of the reinstallation grant of up to € 370/person by IOM staff at the airport (means provided by Austrian MoI within the General AVR Programme); € 500 post-departure cash support.

²⁹³ For IOM projects this lasts up to 6 months upon return.

²⁹⁴ Beneficiaries can receive tailor-made educational and vocational training based on the market demand and their prior work experience; prior education; particular interests; and personal abilities and skills. Children can get access to language courses and cultural education to support their integration into the society and to improve their school performance.

²⁹⁵ For IOM projects up to 6 months upon return; depending on skills, qualifications and interest of project beneficiaries, they can avail themselves of educational assistance i.e. to cover partially or fully university/college fees to enable the project beneficiary to attend university-college; support for kindergarten fees, language course fees for children is also available.

²⁹⁶ If needed and financially feasible this could be financed via the project.

	RRAVRK	VRRAN	AVRR-RFCR	ReKoKo
stock, equipment, tools) ²⁹⁷				
Travel Assistance/Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Temporary Accommodation ²⁹⁹	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Medical Assistance ³⁰⁰	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other (please describe)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for people with special needs/ vulnerable groups • Support in applying for micro- and small credits for business start-ups • Facilitation of access to micro-credits with reduced interest loans • Support for the establishment of small agricultural clusters with collecting centres • Efforts to establish cooperation with private companies in Kosovo in order to offer job placements for returnees with fitting qualifications and skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support of people with special needs / vulnerable groups • Efforts to establish cooperation with private companies in Nigeria in order to offer job placements • Professional job counselling and skills assessment 	Support of people with special needs / vulnerable groups	Provision of micro credits to set-up small businesses and job placement mainly within Austrian companies

Section IV: Interlinking Reintegration Assistance

	RRAVRK	VRRAN	AVRR-RFCR	ReKoKo
Programme Includes both Pre-departure and Post Arrival Measures?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Measures Tailored Around the Needs of Returnees	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cooperation Takes Place Between Sending/Return Countries	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
The status of Returnees is Monitored/Evaluated ³⁰¹	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Programme takes into Consideration Development Policies in the Country of Return	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

²⁹⁶ Advice and training on business idea, development and set-up can be provided.

²⁹⁷ For IOM projects up to 6 months upon return, in-kind reintegration assistance can be used.

²⁹⁹ It is offered for all projects if needed.

³⁰⁰ For IOM projects, up to 6 months after return.

³⁰¹ Up to 6 months after arrival.

6.4.2 Country Profile - Belgium

Section I: Overview of Reintegration Assistance Policy in the National Context

	Reintegration Measures
Legal Basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Assisted Voluntary Returns: law governing the Public Centre for Social Assistance (CPAS)³⁰² Agency in charge and timeframe for assistance: law on the reception of asylum seekers³⁰³

Section II: Providers and Recipients of the Reintegration Assistance

Reintegration programmes/ projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/ projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
REAB ³⁰⁴	Fedasil	IOM and Other NGOs ³⁰⁵	Since 1984	(Rejected) asylum seekers and irregular migrants ³⁰⁶	About 3,000 per year ³⁰⁷
RP	Fedasil	IOM, Caritas Belgium	Since 2006	(Rejected) asylum seekers and irregular migrants ³⁰⁸	About 1,000 per year ³⁰⁹
ARS	Fedasil	IOM, Caritas Belgium	Since 2010	Rejected) asylum seekers and irregular migrants	About 400 per year

Section III: Types of Reintegration Assistance Provided

	REAB	RP	ARS
Information Dissemination/Counselling	Pre-departure	Pre-departure and post-arrival	Pre-departure and post-arrival

³⁰² Organic law governing the Public Centre for Social Assistance (CPAS) of 8 July 1976, article 57(2). Paragraph 2.2 states that persons who have asked for return assistance to IOM are entitled to receive benefits from CPAS.

³⁰³ Law of 12 January 2007 on the reception of asylum seekers, Article 7(4) fixes deadlines for assistance and indicates that the Belgian agency Fedasil is in charge of ensuring access to AVR programme.

³⁰⁴ This is the Belgian standard AVR scheme. The Belgian AVR approach is a three step programme. The REAB component is the basis, providing logistical assistance. The reintegration assistance is meant to cover the cost of initial reinstallation. The complementary RF-assistance aims at investing in the feasibility and durability of return. Also note that **the RP and ARS programmes are complementary to REAB.**

³⁰⁵ More than 30 social organisations (counselling and referrals).

³⁰⁶ No re-entry ban after departure, but returnees must sign declaration that they are bound to reimburse flight costs if they return within a period of 5 years.

³⁰⁷ 2,957 in 2010.

³⁰⁸ Access to assistance for irregular migrants limited to persons who received order to leave the territory or who have spent at least 12 months in Belgium.

³⁰⁹ 961 in 2010.

	REAB	RP	ARS
Legal Assistance	No	Post-arrival ³¹⁰	No
Cash Incentives	Pre-departure ³¹¹	No	No
Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing, driving)	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	No
Financial Support for University/College Course	Post-arrival ³¹²	Post-arrival ³¹³	No
Support for Setting up a Small Business (provide stock, equipment, tools)	Post-arrival ³¹⁴	Post-arrival	Pre-departure and post-arrival ³¹⁵
Travel Assistance/Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination	Yes ³¹⁶	No	No
Temporary Accommodation	Yes ³¹⁷	Yes ³¹⁸	No
Medical Assistance	Yes ³¹⁹	Yes ³²⁰	Yes ³²¹
Other (please describe)	If necessary: medical (or other) escort can be provided for returnee.	After arrival: Local partners provide individual social assistance	Job search assistance: cover costs relating to the acquisition of information on employment opportunities, for instance, through employment agencies.

Section IV: Interlinking Reintegration Assistance

	REAB	RP	ARS
Programme Includes both Pre-departure and Post Arrival Measures?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Measures Tailored Around the Needs of Returnees	Yes	Yes	Yes

³¹⁰ Reintegration partners can provide referral to relevant legal counselling / family tracing. Costs paid by reintegration assistance

³¹¹ €250 per adult, €125 per minor paid in cash before boarding.

Source:

<http://avrr.belgium.iom.int/en/about-reab/what-is-reab/what-is-reintegration-assistance/types-of-assistance.html>

³¹³ Covers education fees for children

Source:

<http://avrr.belgium.iom.int/en/about-reab/what-is-reab/what-is-reintegration-assistance/types-of-assistance.html>

³¹⁵ Before departure it includes professional counselling. After arrival, in collaboration with local partner organisations, it includes professional assistance as well as business counselling in all important areas of the country.

³¹⁶ Travel provided to final place of destination.

³¹⁷ Source: <http://irrico.belgium.iom.int/iom-offices/iom-belgium-rue-montoyer-40-brussels.html>

³¹⁸ Financial assistance.

³¹⁹ Source: <http://avrr.belgium.iom.int/en/about-reab/what-is-reab/what-is-reintegration-assistance/types-of-assistance.html>

³²⁰ Including referral to health care and psychological counselling, direct medical assistance, access to medicine.

³²¹ Post-arrival: Reimbursement of all medical costs for a period of 6 months.

	REAB	RP	ARS
Cooperation Takes Place Between Sending/Return Countries	No	Yes ³²²	Yes ³²³
The status of Returnees is Monitored/Evaluated ³²⁴	Yes ³²⁵	Yes ³²⁶	Yes ³²⁷
Programme takes into Consideration Development Policies in the Country of Return	No	No	No

³²² On an ad hoc basis (in certain countries and on certain topics).

³²³ On an ad hoc basis (in certain countries and on certain topics).

³²⁴ Up to a period of 12 months.

³²⁵ Source: <http://avrr.belgium.iom.int/en/for-partners/what-can-the-reab-programme-offer/what-is-reintegration.html>

³²⁶ Up to a period of 12 months.

³²⁷ Up to a period of 12 months.

6.4.3 Country Profile – Bulgaria

Section I: Overview of Reintegration Assistance Policy in the National Context

Reintegration Measures	
Legal Basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Strategy in the sphere of migration, refugee and integration (2011-2020).

Section II: Providers and Recipients of the Reintegration Assistance³²⁸

Reintegration programmes/projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
Annual programme 2009/ Activity 1/ IOM	Migration Directorate of MOI; IOM		The term of the implementation of the project is 4,5 months. ³²⁹	Third-country nationals ³³⁰	50
Annual programme 2009/ Activity 3/ IOM	Migration Directorate of MOI; IOM		The term of the implementation of the project is 6 months. The activities have to be finished by 30th of June 2011	Vulnerable Third-country nationals ³³¹	25
Annual programme 2009/ Activity 7/ Caritas Bulgaria	Migration Directorate of MOI; Caritas		The activities have to be finished by 30th of June 2011	Third-country nationals ³³²	10

Section III: Types of Reintegration Assistance Provided

	Activity 1	Activity 3	Activity 7
Information Dissemination/Counselling	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure
Legal Assistance	No	No	Yes
Cash Incentives	Post-arrival ³³³	Post-arrival	Post-arrival
Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing, driving)		Post-arrival	

³²⁸ The projects in this country profile are reintegration measures envisaged only in the European Return Fund which the Migration Directorate implements. There are also other programmes and projects at the national level in this area implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, IOM and CARITAS. In the next Annual programme under the Return Fund there will also be some reintegration projects part of the National Strategy (2011-2020).

³²⁹ The activities were completed by 30 June 2011.

³³⁰ TCNs who have no legal status to stay in Bulgaria and want to return to their countries of origin voluntarily.

³³¹ Target group is vulnerable TNCs staying illegally in Bulgaria.

³³² Target group: TCNs who still do not have a final negative answer about their application for asylum and protection in the Republic of Bulgaria; all TCNs who have some specific type of protection under Directive 2004/83/EO or temporary protection under Directive 2001/55/EO and who are willing to return if they do not have a new citizenship or are in the territory of Bulgaria; and illegally staying TCNs.

³³³ Where appropriate

	Activity 1	Activity 3	Activity 7
Financial Support for University/College Course		Post-arrival ³³⁴	
Support for Setting up a Small Business (provide stock, equipment, tools)		Post-arrival	
Travel Assistance/Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination	Yes	Yes	Yes
Temporary Accommodation		Yes	
Medical Assistance ³³⁵	Yes	Yes ³³⁶	Yes
Other (please describe)			

Section IV: Interlinking Reintegration Assistance

	Activity 1	Activity 3	Activity 7
Programme Includes both Pre-departure and Post Arrival Measures?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Measures Tailored Around the Needs of Returnees	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cooperation Takes Place Between Sending/Return Countries	Yes	Yes	Yes
The status of Returnees is Monitored/Evaluated	Yes	Yes	Yes
Programme takes into Consideration Development Policies in the Country of Return	Yes	Yes	Yes

³³⁴ IOM within this project provides education for children

³³⁵ Depends on individual cases

³³⁶ Obligatory measure

6.4.4 Country Profile – Cyprus ³³⁷

Reintegration Measures	
Legal Basis	The reintegration policy is shaped within the actions implemented through the European Return Fund.

Section II: Providers and Recipients of the Reintegration Assistance

Reintegration programmes/projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
Action 3.3.4.	Private Stakeholders			Third country nationals	
Action 3.3.1.					

Section III: Types of Reintegration Assistance Provided

	Action 3.3.4.	Action 3.3.1.
Information Dissemination/Counselling	Pre-departure ³³⁸	
Legal Assistance		
Cash Incentives		
Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing, driving)		
Financial Support for University/College Course		
Support for Setting up a Small Business (provide stock, equipment, tools)		
Travel Assistance/Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination		
Temporary Accommodation		
Medical Assistance		
Other (please describe)		

Section IV: Interlinking Reintegration Assistance

	Action 3.3.4.	Action 3.3.1.
Programme Includes both Pre-departure and Post-arrival Measures?		
Measures Tailored Around the Needs of Returnees		
Cooperation Takes Place Between Sending/Return Countries		
Cooperation between sending/Return countries takes place in terms of sharing funding/knowledge/skills		
The status of Returnees is Monitored/Evaluated		
Programme takes into Consideration Development Policies in the Country of Return		

³³⁷ The team attempted several contacts with the Cypriot authorities but very little information was provided.

³³⁸ Publication of an informational guide providing fundamental information regarding the current situation in the country of return of potential returnees (under implementation).

6.4.5 Country Profile – Czech Republic

Section I: Overview of Reintegration Assistance Policy in the National Context

Reintegration Measures	
Legal Basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no special legal basis related to the reintegration policy as such in the Czech Republic. The reintegration policy of the Czech Republic follows the legal basis of AVR which is done by two special acts ruling residence of foreigners in the territory of the Czech Republic³³⁹

Section II: Providers and Recipients of the Reintegration Assistance

Reintegration programmes/ projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/ projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
RP	Asylum Facility Administration of Mol of the Czech Republic	IOM Prague	2009	Third country nationals ³⁴⁰	25 ³⁴¹
RP MM	IOM Prague	IOM Chisinau; national employment agency of the Moldavian Ministry of Economy	2009 - 2010	Moldavian nationals ³⁴²	12 ³⁴³
FIRMS	SOZE	None	2011	Third country nationals ³⁴⁴	3
SMMCA ³⁴⁵	IOM Prague	Local IOM offices and responsible	2009	Governmental experts ³⁴⁶	

³³⁹ Act No. 326/1999 Coll., provision 123a of this act, and the asylum seeking procedure, Act No. 325/1999 Coll., provision 54a of this act). These provisions give illegal migrants and asylum seekers possibility to apply for reimbursement of costs associated with the return to their countries of origin. The legislative basis of AVR is, in the field of reintegration, is supplemented by the Decision No 575/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Return Fund for the period 2008 to 2013.

³⁴⁰ Asylum seekers, unsuccessful asylum seekers and third-country nationals enjoying a form of international protection.

³⁴¹ Of the 53 returnees, 25 received reintegration assistance (in the form of transport allowance).

³⁴² Asylum seekers, unsuccessful asylum seekers, third country nationals who do not meet or no longer meet conditions for residence permit.

³⁴³ 35 returnees were returned and had an option to ask for reintegration and 12 of them were interested in the reintegration and received reintegration assistance.

³⁴⁴ Asylum seekers, unsuccessful asylum seekers, third-country nationals enjoying a form of international protection, third country nationals who do not meet or no longer meet conditions for residence permit

³⁴⁵ The overall objective of this Project was to enhance modern migration management in the Central Asia facilitating the flow of legal migration and control over illegal migration and promoting the reintegration mechanisms. Support to reintegration mechanisms through Active policy of employment and vocational education.

³⁴⁶ From Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Reintegration programmes/ projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/ projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
		local governmental agencies			
SRS GLM	IOM Prague	Georgian IOM; Migration Resource Centres and Job Counselling and Referral Centre	2009 - 2010	Georgian nationals ³⁴⁷	N/A
SMM M Phase III	IOM Prague	Local mission of IOM and National Employment Agency	2010	Moldavian nationals ³⁴⁸	N/A

Section III: Types of Reintegration Assistance Provided

	RP	RP MM	FIRMS	SMMCA ³⁴⁹	SRS GLM ³⁵⁰	SMM M Phase III ³⁵¹
Information Dissemination/Counselling	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure			
Legal Assistance	No	No	Yes			
Cash Incentives	Yes ³⁵²	No	Yes ³⁵³			
Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing, driving)	No	Post-arrival	No			
Financial Support for University/College Course	No	Post-arrival	No			
Support for Setting up a Small Business (provide stock, equipment, tools)	No	Post-arrival	No			

³⁴⁷ Employees of Migration Resource Centres (MRC) and Job Counselling and Referral Centre (JCRC).

³⁴⁸ Employees of National Employment Agency (ANOFM) and its regional offices

³⁴⁹ The project supported establishment of job counselling and referral system which could serve as a basis for long-term post arrival reintegration in terms of reintegration at the local labour market, start up of business and social services.

³⁵⁰ The project supported establishment of job counselling and referral system which could serve as a basis for long-term post-arrival reintegration in terms of reintegration at the local labour market, start up of business and social services.

³⁵¹ The project supported establishment of job counselling and referral system which could serve as a basis for long-term post-arrival reintegration in terms of reintegration at the local labour market, start up of business and social services.

³⁵² Up to 600 CZK (approximately €24) according to the distance from the airport in the country of return to the place of residence.

³⁵³ Possibility of obtaining a contribution of up to 15,000 CZK (approximately €600) per adult.

	RP	RP MM	FIRMS	SMMCA ³⁴⁹	SRS GLM ³⁵⁰	SMM M Phase III ³⁵¹
Travel Assistance/Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination	Pre-departure and post-arrival	Pre-departure and Post-Arrival	Pre-departure and post-arrival			
Temporary Accommodation	No	Post-arrival	No			
Medical Assistance	No	Post-arrival	No			
Other (please describe)						

Section IV: Interlinking Reintegration Assistance

	RP	RP MM	FIRMS	SMMCA	SRS GLM	SMM M Phase III
Programme Includes both Pre-departure and Post Arrival Measures?	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes
Measures Tailored Around the Needs of Returnees	No	Yes	No			
Cooperation Takes Place Between Sending/Return Countries	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
The status of Returnees is Monitored/Evaluated	No	No	No			
Programme takes into Consideration Development Policies in the Country of Return	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

6.4.6 Country Profile – Denmark

Section I: Overview of Reintegration Assistance Policy in the National Context

Reintegration Measures	
Legal Basis	The Danish Aliens Act, which in 2007 underwent amendments with regards to unsuccessful asylum seekers receiving economic and reintegration assistance provided by IOM.

Section II: Providers and Recipients of the Reintegration Assistance³⁵⁴

Reintegration programmes/ projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes /projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
Reintegration Allowance	Danish Immigration Service and IOM	Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs	2011	Unaccompanied minors and victims of human trafficking	26 ³⁵⁵
DRC RA	Danish Refugee Council	Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs; Danish Refugee Council	2006 - 2008	Rejected asylum seekers from Kosovo	69
AVR I	Care4You; Mesopotamia n Advisory Team	Various ³⁵⁶	2005	Voluntary returnees to Iraq	41
AVR CAGP	IOM	Various ³⁵⁷	2007-2008	Voluntary returnees to Iraq	12
Afghanistan Programme	IOM	Various ³⁵⁸	2004 - 2005	Rejected asylum seekers from Afghanistan	47

³⁵⁴ In Denmark there are 6 projects with a reintegration measure; 5 of them are described in the tables. The sixth project is Information on Return and Reintegration for Iraqi Migrants in Denmark (IRRIM), which was implemented between 2007 and 2008 and specialised in pre-departure counselling.

³⁵⁵ 23 victims of trafficking; and 3 unaccompanied minors.

³⁵⁶ Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs, Danish Red Cross, Danish Refugee Council

³⁵⁷ Danish Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs; the Danish Immigration Service (DIS); the Danish Red Cross and Care4You.

³⁵⁸ Danish Immigration Service; Danish Refugee Council and the Danish Red Cross.

Section III: Types of Reintegration Assistance Provided

	Reintegration allowance	DRC RA	AVR I	AVR CAGP	Afghanistan Programme
Information Dissemination/ Counselling	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure
Legal Assistance	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	No		
Cash Incentives	Post-arrival		Pre-departure	Pre-departure, post-arrival ³⁵⁹	Post-arrival ³⁶⁰
Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing, driving)	Post-arrival	Post-arrival ³⁶¹	No	Pre-departure, Post-arrival ³⁶²	Post-arrival ³⁶³
Financial Support for University/College Course	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	No		Post-arrival ³⁶⁴
Support for Setting up a Small Business (provide stock, equipment, tools)	Post-arrival	Post-arrival ³⁶⁵	No	Pre-departure, Post-arrival ³⁶⁶	Post-arrival ³⁶⁷
Travel Assistance/Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination	Post-arrival	Yes	Yes ³⁶⁸	Yes	Yes
Temporary Accommodation	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	No	Yes	Yes ³⁶⁹
Medical Assistance	Pre-departure and post-arrival	Yes	No	Yes	
Other (please describe)		Post-arrival support in accessing local authorities			Transportation of returnees cargo boxes

³⁵⁹ E-mail correspondence with Danish Immigration Service

³⁶⁰ Source: http://iom.fi/files/AVR%20DK-AFG/s%20your%20decision_brochure_ENG.pdf

³⁶¹ Offer of job orientation training in order to identify the best employment solution for individual returnees, subsequent assistance with job placements or job training positions within companies or small businesses around Kosovo. Source: Evaluation of the Kosovo Programme 2011, p.25, <http://flygtning.dk/viden-fakta/publikationer/>

³⁶² E-mail correspondence with Danish Immigration Service

³⁶³ Source: http://iom.fi/files/AVR%20DK-AFG/s%20your%20decision_brochure_ENG.pdf

³⁶⁴ Source: http://iom.fi/files/AVR%20DK-AFG/s%20your%20decision_brochure_ENG.pdf

³⁶⁵ Offer of start-up grants, Source: Evaluation of the Kosovo Programme 2011, p.26, <http://flygtning.dk/viden-fakta/publikationer/>

³⁶⁶ E-mail correspondence with Danish Immigration Service

³⁶⁷ Source: http://iom.fi/files/AVR%20DK-AFG/s%20your%20decision_brochure_ENG.pdf

³⁶⁸ Source: http://iom.fi/files/AVR%20DK-IQ/Integrated%20Assisted%20Voluntary%20Return%20Programme%20DK-IQ_ENG.pdf

³⁶⁹ To those who take part in educational or vocational training, source: http://iom.fi/files/AVR%20DK-AFG/s%20your%20decision_brochure_ENG.pdf

Section IV: Interlinking Reintegration Assistance

	Reintegration allowance	DRC RA	AVR I	AVR CAGP	Afghanistan Programme
Programme Includes both Pre-departure and Post Arrival Measures?	Yes	Yes	No		Yes
Measures Tailored Around the Needs of Returnees	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cooperation Takes Place Between Sending/Return Countries	No	No			Yes
The status of Returnees is Monitored/Evaluated ³⁷⁰	No	No	No	No	No
Programme takes into Consideration Development Policies in the Country of Return	No	No	n/a	No	No

³⁷⁰ The programmes are evaluated but the returnees are not monitored.

6.4.7 Country Profile – Estonia

Section I: Overview of Reintegration Assistance Policy in the National Context

Reintegration Measures	
Legal Basis	No information was provided.

Section II: Providers and Recipients of the Reintegration Assistance

Reintegration programmes/ projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/ projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
VARRE	IOM		Since January 2010	Illegally staying TCN and asylum seekers ³⁷¹	12 ³⁷²
AVRE	Estonian Migration Foundation		May 2009 - December 2009	Illegally staying TCN and asylum seekers ³⁷³	10

Section III: Types of Reintegration Assistance Provided

	VARRE ³⁷⁴	AVRE
Information Dissemination/Counselling	Pre-departure and short-term post arrival	Pre-departure
Legal Assistance	No	No
Cash Incentives	No	No
Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing, driving)	Post-arrival	No
Financial Support for University/College Course	Post-arrival	No
Support for Setting up a Small Business (provide stock, equipment, tools)	Yes	No
Travel Assistance/Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination	Yes	Yes ³⁷⁵
Temporary Accommodation		No
Medical Assistance	Pre-departure	No
Other (please describe)		Support of costs related to moving, travel and first needs in the country of return (food, housing)

³⁷¹ Illegally staying TNCs including those whose visa or residence permit has expired, asylum seekers, persons benefiting from international protection, rejected asylum seekers.

³⁷² January 2010 to June 2011.

³⁷³ Illegally staying TNCs including those whose visa or residence permit has expired, asylum seekers, persons benefiting from international protection, rejected asylum seekers.

³⁷⁴ Based on information available on IOM Tallinn's website: <http://www.iom.ee/varre/services-and-benefits>

³⁷⁵ Travel and preparation of document assistance.

Section IV: Interlinking Reintegration Assistance

	VARRE ³⁷⁶	AVRE
Programme Includes both Pre-departure and Post Arrival Measures?	Yes	Yes
Measures Tailored Around the Needs of Returnees	Yes	Yes
Cooperation Takes Place Between Sending/Return Countries	Yes ³⁷⁷	No
The status of Returnees is Monitored/Evaluated	Yes	No
Programme takes into Consideration Development Policies in the Country of Return	Not available	No

³⁷⁶ Based on information available on IOM Tallinn's website: <http://www.iom.ee/varre/services-and-benefits>

³⁷⁷ Between IOM offices.

6.4.8 Country Profile – Finland

Section I: Overview of Reintegration Assistance Policy in the National Context

Reintegration Measures	
Legal Basis	There is no general legal framework for reintegration or voluntary return. A mention of voluntary return was inserted in Finnish legislation on 1 April 2011. ³⁷⁸

Section II: Providers and Recipients of the Reintegration Assistance³⁷⁹

Reintegration programmes/projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programme s/projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
AVR Kosovo	Better Life Worldwide Association, Turku Polytechnic and Daisy Ladies	Various ³⁸⁰	2009	Kosovo nationals from vulnerable groups	
Novi Krov ³⁸¹	Finnish Bosnian Association	Various ³⁸²		Bosnian nationals	10 refugee families
DRITA I, II, III	IOM	Various ³⁸³	2000-2002	Voluntary returnees from Kosovo ³⁸⁴	24
PAVR	Legal Affairs Unit of the Ministry of	Unspecified Finnish Refugee	2009-June 2011	Kosovo and Bosnian returnees/	40

³⁷⁸ Now Aliens Act § 147a.

³⁷⁹ Finland implemented more than 17 Reintegration Assistance Programmes since 1997. These are: Facilitating Assisted Voluntary return to Kosovo through a Sustainable Return Plan; GLEDAM; DOMOVINI; Novi Krov (house repairing project); Somalia Today- unaccompanied minors familiarising the fatherland; The Nordic Return Project for Elderly Bosnians; IOM Project for return and reintegration for those who have received negative asylum decision I; IOM Project for return and reintegration for those who have received negative asylum decision II; IOM Project for furthering voluntary return and re-integration of asylum seekers (RAFIN III Programme); IOM return for Educated Afghans Project; DRITA I; DRITA II; DRITA III; Positive action for vulnerable returnees; Developing Assisted Voluntary Return in Finland (DAVRiF), Phase I; Developing Assisted Voluntary Return in Finland (DAVRiF), Phase II; Developing Assisted Voluntary Return in Finland (DAVRiF), Phase III. Summary of 5 projects is provided in this country profile.

³⁸⁰ The Regional Employment and Economic Development Centre, Finnish Immigration Service, Turku Municipality and reception centre, International centre of the Finnish Defence Forces, *Bashkimi* (Albanian Association).

³⁸¹ House repairing project.

³⁸² Finn Church Aid (FCA), IOM, Bosnia Herzegovina Society, Finnish municipalities

³⁸³ Ministry of Labour, Employment and Commerce Centre of *Uusimaa*, *Folkhälsan*, Liria (Kosovar Association), Finnish Refugee Reception Centres and municipalities.

³⁸⁴ Special support for vulnerable groups.

Reintegration programmes/projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programme s/projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
	Interior	Associations and local civil society		vulnerable groups ³⁸⁵	
DAVRiF I, II, III	IOM	Various ³⁸⁶	2010-2012	Third country nationals ³⁸⁷	345 ³⁸⁸

Section III: Types of Reintegration Assistance Provided

	AVR Kosovo	Novi Krov	DRITA I, II, III	PAVR	DAVRiF I, II, III
Information Dissemination/Counselling	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure
Legal Assistance	Yes	Yes			
Cash Incentives		Yes	Yes ³⁸⁹	Yes ³⁹⁰	Yes ³⁹¹
Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing, driving)	Pre-departure ³⁹²	Pre-departure	Pre-departure ³⁹³		May be provided for selected returnees
Financial Support for University/College Course					May be provided for selected returnees
Support for Setting up a Small Business (provide stock, equipment, tools)					May be provided for selected returnees
Travel Assistance/Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination					Provided

³⁸⁵ Vulnerable returnees are considered to be single women, unaccompanied minors, single parent families, disabled, persons with physical illnesses or mental health problems, elderly persons, LGBT persons, members of ethnic minorities (the Roma people for example), victims of human trafficking etc. Source: EMN Assisted Return Study.

³⁸⁶ Finnish Immigration Service, Immigration Police, Helsinki-Vantaa Border Guards, Joutseno & Oulu, Ministry of Interior PEPP Project, Ministry of Interior Return Fund Coordinator

³⁸⁷ Asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection, victims of trafficking, certain groups of persons with expired residence status.

³⁸⁸ The total expected number of beneficiaries over the three years is about 900.

³⁸⁹ 1 business grant; 2 employment assistance grants (€2,270 each).

³⁹⁰ €1,000-€2,000 per person.

³⁹¹ Reintegration support granted as cash varies generally between €200 -1,500 for eligible returnees. In addition, 5 returnees can alternatively receive in-kind reintegration support. Both cash and in-kind support are based on the reintegration plan, given by the returnee.

³⁹² Workshop activities.

³⁹³ 24 courses during pre-departure phase; 1 mental training course for vulnerable groups aimed at long-term occupational reintegration.

	AVR Kosovo	Novi Krov	DRITA I, II, III	PAVR	DAVRIF I, II, III
Temporary Accommodation			Yes		May be provided during travel
Medical Assistance			Yes		May be provided ³⁹⁴
Other (please describe)					

Section IV: Interlinking Reintegration Assistance

	AVR Kosovo	Novi Krov	DRITA I, II, III	PAVR	DAVRIF I, II, III
Programme Includes both Pre-departure and Post Arrival Measures?	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
Measures Tailored Around the Needs of Returnees			Yes		Yes
Cooperation Takes Place Between Sending/Return Countries	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
The status of Returnees is Monitored/Evaluated		Yes ³⁹⁵	Yes	Yes	Yes / under development
Programme takes into Consideration Development Policies in the Country of Return			Yes		Yes

³⁹⁴ Mostly in relation to travel (escort arrangements etc) and immediately upon return envisaged at this stage.

³⁹⁵ Follow-up arranged by Finnish partners.

6.4.9 Country Profile – France

Section I: Overview of Reintegration Assistance Policy in the National Context

Reintegration Measures	
Legal Basis	Article L 5223.1 of the Labour Act states that the OFII (French Office for Integration and Immigration) participates in all actions related to the return and reintegration of third country nationals in their home country).

Section II: Providers and Recipients of the Reintegration Assistance

Reintegration programmes/ projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/ projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
Pre-departure Voluntary Return Programme	OFII	IOM ³⁹⁶ , local service providers	Since 1991	Third country nationals	4016 persons in 2010
Post-arrival Reintegration Programme	OFII	IOM ³⁹⁷ , local service providers	Since 1980	Third country nationals having resided in France for at least 3 months	1383 cases ³⁹⁸ in 2010
IOM Departure Counselling Pas de Calais (Calais Global Project) ³⁹⁹	IOM	UK Returns and Reintegration Fund, UKBA	Since 2009	Undocumented migrants currently stranded in and around the city of Calais	145 migrants effectively assisted with reintegration assistance in 2009-2010
Reintegration implemented by Secours Catholique - Caritas	Secours Catholique - Caritas		Since 2009	No criteria	11 families since 2009

³⁹⁶ In countries where OFII does not have a local representation.

³⁹⁷ In countries where OFII does not have a local representation.

³⁹⁸ In 957 cases, the post-arrival assistance was provided by IOM.

³⁹⁹ Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

Section III: Types of Reintegration Assistance Provided

	Pre-departure Voluntary Return Programme (OFII)	Post-arrival Reintegration Programme (OFII)	IOM Departure Counselling Pas de Calais ⁴⁰⁰		Reintegration implemented by Secours Catholique-Caritas
Information Dissemination/ Counselling	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
Legal Assistance		Yes			Yes
Cash Incentives	Yes	No	Yes		Yes
Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing, driving)	No	Long-term post-arrival	Yes		Yes
Financial Support for University/College Course	No	No	No		No
Support for Setting up a Small Business (provide stock, equipment, tools) ⁴⁰¹	No	Long-term post-arrival	Yes ⁴⁰²		Yes
Travel Assistance/Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination	Yes	Yes			Yes
Temporary Accommodation	Yes	Pre-departure and short-term post-arrival	No		Yes
Medical Assistance	No	No	No		Yes
Other (please describe)		Social assistance for families: post-arrival			Assistance tailored according to beneficiaries' needs

⁴⁰⁰ In cooperation with UK Border Agency and French Office of Immigration and Integration (OFII).

⁴⁰¹ The reintegration programme is only intended for business creation activities.

⁴⁰² In-kind reintegration assistance will be provided by IOM on a case by case basis in countries of return

Section IV: Interlinking Reintegration Assistance

	Pre-departure Voluntary Return Programme (OFII)	Post-arrival Reintegration Programme (OFII)	IOM Departure Counselling Pas de Calais	IOM Vulnerable migrants pre-departure assistance	Reintegration implemented by Secours Catholique
Programme Includes both Pre-departure and Post Arrival Measures?	Pre-departure only	Yes ⁴⁰³	Yes		Yes
Measures Tailored Around the Needs of Returnees	No	Yes ⁴⁰⁴	Yes ⁴⁰⁵		Yes
Cooperation Takes Place Between Sending/Return Countries	No	Yes ⁴⁰⁶	Yes		Yes
The status of Returnees is Monitored/Evaluated	No	Yes ⁴⁰⁷	Yes ⁴⁰⁸		Yes
Programme takes into Consideration Development Policies in the Country of Return	No	Yes ⁴⁰⁹	No		Yes

⁴⁰³ While a priori OFII does not provide pre-departure assistance as a part of reintegration programme, it is contemplated in the voluntary return programme. Given that most of the reintegration assistance beneficiaries participate in the voluntary return programme, they also benefit from pre-departure assistance. Other organisations (IOM, *Secours Catholique*) do provide pre-departure assistance as part of reintegration assistance.

⁴⁰⁴ Reintegration programmes run by OFII include a one-size-fits-all model which targets business creation, tailored to the needs of the future entrepreneur. IOM and *Secours Catholique* provide reintegration tailored to individual needs.

⁴⁰⁵ Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

⁴⁰⁶ Cooperation takes place in the framework of bilateral agreements signed by France with certain countries (Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Benin, Burkina Faso, Gabon, Mauritius, Senegal and Tunisia).

⁴⁰⁷ One year follow-up.

⁴⁰⁸ Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

⁴⁰⁹ Within the framework of the solidarity development policy.

6.4.10 Country Profile – Germany

Section I: Overview of Reintegration Assistance Policy in the National Context

Reintegration Measures	
Legal Basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return Assistance Act of 1983 Programmes in the Federal States are mostly regulated by ordinances, ministerial decrees or administrative directives.

Section II: Providers and Recipients of the Reintegration Assistance⁴¹⁰

Reintegration programmes/projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
REAG and GARP ⁴¹¹	Federal Office for Migration and Refugees and the Federal States	Various ⁴¹²	Since 1979	(Rejected) asylum seekers, recognised refugees, war and civil war refugees, victims of forced prostitution or trafficking and other foreigners ⁴¹³	7,587 ⁴¹⁴
URA II	Federal Office for Migration and Refugees	Authorities of Federal States ⁴¹⁵	2009 - 2011	Returnees from Kosovo	710 ⁴¹⁶
Heimatgarten Programmes/ Services	Arbeiterwohlfahrt (AWO) <i>Bremerhaven</i> ⁴¹⁷	AWO International e.V.	Since 1998	Persons with special protection needs ⁴¹⁸	

⁴¹⁰ There are a number of reintegration projects in Germany. Amongst these are: REAG (Reintegration and Emigration Programme for Asylum Seekers in Germany) and GARP (Government Assisted Repatriation Programme); URA II; URA; IntegPlan; Return to employment in Afghanistan; Return to employment in Iraq; Heimatgarten (various programmes/services); Solwodi (support organisation running various programmes/services); and Returning Specialists (Programm "Rückkehrende Fachkräfte"), which only provides assistance to persons with relevant qualifications for the development of their home country (i.e. university degrees, usually obtained in Germany).

⁴¹¹ REAG (Reintegration and Emigration Programme for Asylum Seekers in Germany) and GARP (Government Assisted Repatriation Programme) started as separate programmes but later were merged into the REAG/GARP Programme.

⁴¹² IOM, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Federal Office for Migration and Refugees and the responsible Ministries of the 16 Federal States as well as numerous local authorities and NGOs throughout Germany and UNHCR.

⁴¹³ http://www.iom.int/germany/en/projects_avr.htm#REAGGARP

⁴¹⁴ Between 2009 and 2010; for the last seven years it provided 36,921 persons the opportunity for returning to their home countries.

⁴¹⁵ Federal States of Baden-Wuerttemberg, Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia, Saxony-Anhalt

⁴¹⁶ In 2010

⁴¹⁷ Source: http://www.heimatgarten.de/index.php?article_id=1&clang=1

⁴¹⁸ From the West Balkan states, the CIS, Northern Iraq and Turkey including the elderly, disabled, traumatised and unaccompanied minor refugees.

Reintegration programmes/ projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/ projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
Solwodi Programmes/ Services	Solwodi	Unspecified local NGOs	Since 1992 ⁴¹⁹	Female returnees ⁴²⁰	Unknown ⁴²¹
Returning Specialists ⁴²²	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development	Centre for Migration and Development	Since 1980 ⁴²³	Returning graduates and specialists	701 ⁴²⁴

Section III: Types of Reintegration Assistance Provided

	REAG/GARP	URA II	Heimatgarten	Solwodi	Returning Specialists
Information Dissemination/Counselling	Pre-departure	Pre-departure and post-arrival	Pre-departure and post-arrival	Pre-departure	Pre-departure
Legal Assistance	Possible ⁴²⁵	No			
Cash Incentives	Pre-departure ⁴²⁶	Pre-departure ⁴²⁷	Provided	Post-arrival ⁴²⁸	Provided
Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing, driving)	Possible ⁴²⁹	Post-arrival ⁴³⁰	Pre-departure and post-arrival ⁴³¹	Post-arrival ⁴³²	

⁴¹⁹ Source: <http://www.solwodi.de/?id=99&L=1>

⁴²⁰ From developing countries and Central/Eastern European Countries

⁴²¹ In 2009 there were 1,464 migrants that contacted the programme but the number does not reflect the actual returnees.

⁴²² Rückkehrende Fachkräfte

⁴²³ Source: <http://www.cimonline.de/documents/CIM-Flyer-prf-en.pdf>

⁴²⁴ In 2008

⁴²⁵ REAG/ GARP programme, provides start-up cash for returnees to specific countries of origin which may be utilized at the discretion of the returnee for any of the mentioned purposes.

⁴²⁶ REAG Financial Aid includes a fuel contribution of €250 (only in the case of transportation by car) and a travel aid (€200 for adults; €100 for children up to 12 years). GARP-Start-up payments include €300, €400 or €750 per adult and €150, €200 or €375 per minor (amount depends on country of return).

⁴²⁷ Travel allowance of up to €10; bridge money of up to €50; medical treatment subsidies of up to €75; monthly subsidy to cover rent of up to €100 for six months; absorption of costs for furnishing of up to €600 for voluntary returnees, or of up to €300 for forced returnees.

⁴²⁸ Source: <http://www.solwodi.de/507.0.html?&L=1>

⁴²⁹ REAG/ GARP programme, provides start-up cash for returnees to specific countries of origin which may be utilized at the discretion of the returnee for any of the mentioned purposes.

⁴³⁰ Up to €120.

⁴³¹ Source: http://www.heimatgarten.de/index.php?article_id=27&clang=1

⁴³² Up to 1 year, source: <http://www.solwodi.de/507.0.html?&L=1>

	REAG/GARP	URA II	Heimatgarten	Solwodi	Returning Specialists
Financial Support for University/College Course	Possible ⁴³³	Post-arrival		Post-arrival ⁴³⁴	
Support for Setting up a Small Business (provide stock, equipment, tools)	Pre-departure	Post-arrival	Pre-departure and post-arrival ⁴³⁵	Post-arrival ⁴³⁶	
Travel Assistance/Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination	Pre-departure ⁴³⁷	Pre-departure	Yes ⁴³⁸	Yes	Yes ⁴³⁹
Temporary Accommodation	Possible ⁴⁴⁰	Post-arrival			
Medical Assistance	Possible ⁴⁴¹	Yes	Yes ⁴⁴²		
Other (please describe)	Possible ⁴⁴³	May offer help to a small number of locals through various activities.			

Section IV: Interlinking Reintegration Assistance

	REAG/GARP	URA II	Heimatgarten	Solwodi	Returning Specialists
Programme Includes both Pre-departure and Post Arrival Measures?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Measures Tailored Around the Needs of Returnees		Yes	Yes	Yes	

⁴³³ REAG/ GARP programme, provides start-up cash for returnees to specific countries of origin which may be utilized at the discretion of the returnee for any of the mentioned purposes.

⁴³⁴ Up to 1 year, source: <http://www.solwodi.de/507.0.html?&L=1>

⁴³⁵ Source: http://www.heimatgarten.de/index.php?article_id=31&clang=1

⁴³⁶ In co-operation with a local NGO a micro-credit can be granted to help set up a business. 70 percent of the sum is given as an interest-free loan and 30 percent as a grant. The interest-free loan is repayable to the local NGO who then uses the money for their own women's projects. The period of repayment is agreed on an individual basis. Source: <http://www.solwodi.de/507.0.html?&L=1>

⁴³⁷ Can be covered through the pocket money and start-up grants. €250 is offered for fuel (only if travelling by car); €200 for adults and €100 for children up to 12 years for travel aid.

⁴³⁸ Source: http://www.heimatgarten.de/index.php?article_id=22&clang=1

⁴³⁹ Source: <http://www.cimonline.de/documents/CIM-Flyer-prf-en.pdf>

⁴⁴⁰ REAG/ GARP programme, which provides start-up cash for returnees to specific countries of origin which may be utilized at the discretion of the returnee for any of the mentioned purposes.

⁴⁴¹ REAG/ GARP programme, which provides start-up cash for returnees to specific countries of origin which may be utilized at the discretion of the returnee for any of the mentioned purposes.

⁴⁴² Source: http://www.heimatgarten.de/index.php?article_id=21&clang=1

⁴⁴³ REAG/ GARP programme, provides start-up cash for returnees to specific countries of origin which may be utilized at the discretion of the returnee for any of the mentioned purposes.

	REAG/GARP	URA II	Heimatgarten	Solwodi	Returning Specialists
Cooperation Takes Place Between Sending/Return Countries	No	Yes ⁴⁴⁴	Yes		
The status of Returnees is Monitored/Evaluated	No ⁴⁴⁵		Yes	Yes ⁴⁴⁶	
Programme takes into Consideration Development Policies in the Country of Return	Yes	Yes			Yes

6.4.11 Country Profile – Greece

There are no Reintegration Programmes in Greece though Assisted Voluntary Returns are possible through IOM. The **Ministry of Citizen Protection** is to issue a call for tenders for reintegration programmes in the second half of 2011.

⁴⁴⁴ Cooperation with NGO's is case-related and depends on the needs of the returnees concerned. This takes place in specific pre-departure cases as it is mostly visible during short-term post-arrival stages. There is also close cooperation with the Department of Citizenship, Asylum and Migration (DCAM) in Kosovo.

⁴⁴⁵ Cases of special interest are exceptions.

⁴⁴⁶ At least 3 years after return, source: <http://www.solwodi.de/507.0.html?&L=1>

6.4.12 Country Profile – Hungary

Section I: Overview of Reintegration Assistance Policy in the National Context

	Reintegration Measures
Legal Basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act II of 2007 on the Admission and Right of Residence of Third-Country Nationals and its amendments. Government Decree 114/2007 (V. 24.) on the Implementation of Act II of 2007 on the Admission and Right of Residence of Third-Country Nationals and its amendments. Programmes co-financed by the European Return Fund are implemented according to the 2007/575/EC of 23 May 2007, establishing the European Return Fund for the period 2008 to 2013 as part of the General Programme 'Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows'.

Section II: Providers and Recipients of the Reintegration Assistance

Reintegration programmes/projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
RETURN I, II, III ⁴⁴⁷	IOM	OIN	2006 – 2010	Third-Country Nationals ⁴⁴⁸	447 ⁴⁴⁹
HARRP I-II-III	IOM	OIN	2009 – 2010	Third-Country Nationals ⁴⁵⁰	602 ⁴⁵¹
HAVRR 2011	IOM	OIN	2011	Third-Country Nationals ⁴⁵²	Ongoing project
CAR I, II, III	OIN	None	2009 - 2011	Third-Country Nationals ⁴⁵³	830

Section III: Types of Reintegration Assistance Provided

⁴⁴⁷ In full partnership with the Ministries of Interior of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia and (in phase III) Romania and Bulgaria. Source: http://www.iom.hu/index.php/projects/browse-all.html#enhance_harmonize_AVR

⁴⁴⁸ Third-country nationals who have an order to leave Source: <http://www.iom.cz/aktivita/voluntary-returns-and-reintegration/older-programs-of-voluntary-returns-and-reintegration-assistance/enhancing-mechanisms-and-harmonizing-standards-in-the-field-of-voluntary-return-of-irregular-migrants-in-eu-central-european-member-states-return-preparatory-action-2005>

⁴⁴⁹ Phase I: Kosovo, Serbia (105 returnees), Mongolia (12), Vietnam, Nigeria (6), Moldova (5) and Albania (4); Phase II: Serbia (84), Mongolia (8), Albania (3), Malaysia (3), Croatia (2), Iraq (2); Phase III: Kosovo (UNSCR 1244) (146), Moldova (8), Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) (8), Mongolia (6), and Vietnam (3).

⁴⁵⁰ Asylum seekers, refugees, beneficiaries of subsidiary protection, beneficiaries of temporary protection, and third country nationals who do not or no longer fulfil the conditions for entry and/or stay rules in Hungary.

⁴⁵¹ Phase I: 90; Phase II: 80; Phase III: 432

⁴⁵² Asylum seekers, beneficiaries of international protection ;third-country nationals who do not or no longer fulfil the conditions for entry and/or stay in Hungary

⁴⁵³ See previous footnote.

	RETURN I, II, III	HARRP I, II, III	HAVRR 2011	CAR I, II, III
Information Dissemination/ Counselling ⁴⁵⁴	Pre-departure and post-arrival	Pre-departure and post-arrival	Pre-departure and post- arrival	Pre-departure
Legal Assistance	No	No	No	No
Cash Incentives	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	No
Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing, driving) ⁴⁵⁵	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Pre-departure ⁴⁵⁶
Financial Support for University/College Course	No	No	No	No
Support for Setting up a Small Business (provide stock, equipment, tools) ⁴⁵⁷	Post- arrival	Post- arrival	Post- arrival	No
Travel Assistance/Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Temporary Accommodation	No	No	No	No
Medical Assistance	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Pre-departure ⁴⁵⁸
Other (please describe)				From June 2011, a special nursery service is provided for the children of beneficiaries before return.

Section IV: Interlinking Reintegration Assistance

	RETURN I, II, III	HARRP I, II, III	HAVRR 2011	CAR I, II, III
Programme Includes both Pre-departure and Post- arrival Measures?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Measures Tailored Around the Needs of Returnees	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cooperation Takes Place Between Sending/Return	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

⁴⁵⁴ Pre-departure consultation is provided personally for each returnees or returnee families according.

⁴⁵⁵ Vocational training or further education is provided to a small number of successful applicants with the aim of achieving a qualification that would enable the returnee to take up employment in the country of return. (This type of financial support is provided post-arrival before the end of the given project.)

⁴⁵⁶ 200-hour vocational training (hairdressing, painter courses) is provided for some 30 beneficiaries per year as a pre-departure support with the aim of achieving a qualification that would enable the returnee to take up employment in the country of return.

⁴⁵⁷ Grants for setting up small businesses are provided to a small number of successful applicants. Business plans are selected for funding based on the assessment of the IOM office in the host country and in the country of return. Reintegration assistance is provided before the end of the given project.

⁴⁵⁸ Dentist and gynaecologist services provided beyond the basic medical services.

	RETURN I, II, III	HARRP I, II, III	HAVRR 2011	CAR I, II, III
Countries				
The status of Returnees is Monitored/Evaluated ⁴⁵⁹	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Programme takes into Consideration Development Policies in the Country of Return	No	No	No	Yes

⁴⁵⁹ For IOM projects this is done occasionally.

6.4.13 Country Profile – Iceland

Few asylum seekers arrive annually, and consequently there are no reintegration measures. A reintegration programme may be put on the agenda in the near future.

6.4.14 Country Profile – Ireland

Section I: Overview of Reintegration Assistance Policy in the National Context

Reintegration Measures	
Legal Basis	There is no legal framework governing assisted return in the Irish domestic legislation.

Section II: Providers and Recipients of the Reintegration Assistance

Reintegration programmes/ projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/ projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
VINN ⁴⁶⁰	IOM	Various ⁴⁶¹	2006 - 2008	Vulnerable Nigerian nationals ⁴⁶²	38
RIA	Department of Justice and Equality		Since 2004	Destitute nationals of EU-12	2,807 ⁴⁶³
VARRP ⁴⁶⁴	IOM	Various ⁴⁶⁵	Since 2001	Asylum seekers ⁴⁶⁶	2,000 ⁴⁶⁷

Section III: Types of Reintegration Assistance Provided

	VINN	RIA	VARRP
Information Dissemination/Counselling	Pre-departure	No	Pre-departure
Legal Assistance		No	Yes ⁴⁶⁸
Cash Incentives	No ⁴⁶⁹	No ⁴⁷⁰	No
Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing,	Post-arrival	No	Post-arrival

⁴⁶⁰ This programme run in cooperation with the Netherlands.

⁴⁶¹ IOM Netherlands, Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (Repatriation Unit), Department of Justice, and Equality, HSE Team for Separated Children, NIDOS, STV (Foundation against Women Trafficking), other unspecified NGOs.

⁴⁶² Vulnerable Nigerian nationals living in Ireland and the Netherlands in an irregular situation.

⁴⁶³ Between the years 2004 and August 2009.

⁴⁶⁴ This is an assisted return programme rather than a reintegration programme.

⁴⁶⁵ Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (Repatriation Unit), Department of Justice and Equality.

⁴⁶⁶ Asylum seekers and irregular migrants from non-EU countries who wish to return home voluntarily but do not have the means, including the necessary documentation, to do so. Since March 2009 the programmes are open to all asylum applicants and only those 'vulnerable' irregular migrants who fulfil eligibility criteria.

⁴⁶⁷ Between 2000 and 2008.

⁴⁶⁸ Migrants are referred to legal services which can be arranged when necessary.

⁴⁶⁹ Assistance provided in-kind.

⁴⁷⁰ Travel is covered

	VINN	RIA	VARRP
driving)			
Financial Support for University/College Course	Post-arrival	No	Post-arrival
Support for Setting up a Small Business (provide stock, equipment, tools)	Post-arrival	No	Post-arrival
Travel Assistance/Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination	Yes	No	Yes
Temporary Accommodation	Pre-departure and post-arrival ⁴⁷¹	Pre-departure	Pre-departure
Medical Assistance	Yes	Pre-departure	No
Other (please describe)	School fees for children can also be covered under the grant in certain circumstances, or childcare costs which will enable a parent to attend a training course.		School fees for children can also be covered under the grant in certain circumstances, or childcare costs which will enable a parent to attend a training course.

Section IV: Interlinking Reintegration Assistance

	VINN	RIA	VARRP
Programme Includes both Pre-departure and Post-Arrival Measures?	Yes	No ⁴⁷²	Yes
Measures Tailored Around the Needs of Returnees			Yes ⁴⁷³
Cooperation Takes Place Between Sending/Return Countries	Yes		Yes
The status of Returnees is Monitored/Evaluated	Yes ⁴⁷⁴		Yes ⁴⁷⁵
Programme takes into Consideration Development Policies in the Country of Return			

⁴⁷¹ Specifically suited for the most vulnerable cases.

⁴⁷² Pre-departure only.

⁴⁷³ Upon return, suitable reintegration activities are chosen by migrants, IOM local offices and/or other local partners.

⁴⁷⁴ Done through the completion of a questionnaire, that is conducted by IOM staff and was redesigned in 2009.

⁴⁷⁵ Activities are monitored at 6 month intervals after payment is made.

6.4.15 Country Profile – Italy

Section I: Overview of Reintegration Assistance Policy in the National Context

	Reintegration Measures
Legal Basis	In harmony with EU asylum and immigration policy, Italy implemented several Directives following the implementation of a European Return Policy. Directive 2008/115/EC was fully implemented in June 2011. Voluntary return was encouraged in spite of forced return even before the full implementation of the cited directive. ⁴⁷⁶ . With this development rejected person will also have the right to leave by voluntary return and thus also make use of reintegration assistance.

Section II: Providers and Recipients of the Reintegration Assistance

Reintegration programmes/projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
PARTIR I,II,III	IOM	None	2009 - 2011	Third country nationals ⁴⁷⁷	over 400
Odisseo ⁴⁷⁸	Virtus Italia Onlus	ENGIM	2010 - 2011	Unaccompanied minors and young Albanians ⁴⁷⁹	25
Ulisse	Virtus Italia Onlus		2008	Romanian nationals ⁴⁸⁰	36
REMPLOY ⁴⁸¹	IOM		2011	Migrant workers ⁴⁸²	100

⁴⁷⁶ Italy carried out information sessions Racine I-II (2008-2008) and the information campaign NIRVA I,II,III (2008-2009-2010).

⁴⁷⁷ Asylum seekers and rejected asylum seekers; migrants which have been granted international protection (subsidiary or humanitarian protection); victims of trafficking, migrants which have been granted a temporary residence permit; “humanitarian cases” that is handicapped, elderly, sick migrants, women with children, etc... Migrants potentially at risk to become irregular (holding a temporary permit for working or medical reasons, others).

⁴⁷⁸ Financed by the European Return Fund in 2009 and 2010.

⁴⁷⁹ Non-accompanied people who arrived in Italy when under age and are now aged 18 or more and young Albanians aged between 18 to 25.

⁴⁸⁰ Between 17-25 years – Romanians legally in Italy who are facing difficulties integrating

⁴⁸¹ Financed by the European Return Fund in 2010 and 2011. All returnees received a subsidised reintegration allowance between € 1.500 and € 3.400.

⁴⁸² with a residence permit awaiting employment or without having the possibility to renew their work permit coming from four different regions in the North of Italy: Lombardia, Piemonte, Veneto, Emilia-Romagna

Reintegration programmes/projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
RIVAN I, II ⁴⁸³	IOM		2011	Nationals from North Africa who agree to return voluntarily ⁴⁸⁴	160
PARIVUL ⁴⁸⁵	IOM		2011	Vulnerable third countries nationals	80 ⁴⁸⁶
RVA ⁴⁸⁷	IOM Rome		2011	Third country nationals coming from Libya who agree to return voluntarily ⁴⁸⁸	600
REMIDA ⁴⁸⁹	European Committee for Education and Agriculture	COOPAS, DiaLogos, Overseas, ASP Cesenza and CEFAI	2011	Moroccan nationals with a residence permit ⁴⁹⁰	50

Section III: Types of Reintegration Assistance Provided

	PARTIR I, II	Odisseo	Ulisse	REMPLOY	RIVAN I, II	PARIVUL	RVA	REMIDA
Information Dissemination/ Counselling	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure
Legal Assistance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cash Incentives ⁴⁹¹	Pre-departure ⁴⁹²	No	No	Pre-departure	Pre-departure ⁴⁹³	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	

⁴⁸³ Financed by the European Return Fund AP 2010 and 2011.

⁴⁸⁴ All returnees received a subsidised reintegration allowance of €200.

⁴⁸⁵ Financed by the European Return Fund AP 2010.

⁴⁸⁶ 1 individual with reintegration allowance.

⁴⁸⁷ "Ritorno Volontario Assistito" – financed by the Italian Civil Protection (Prime Minister's office).

⁴⁸⁸ All returnees received a subsidised reintegration allowance of €200.

⁴⁸⁹ Financed by the European Return Fund AP 2010 and 2011.

⁴⁹⁰ The project is focusing on Moroccan citizens from the provinces of Bologna, Forli-Cesena and Modena

⁴⁹¹ Cash incentives are provided to the returnees when they are on the plane to their destination, so that they are not able to buy goods and services in Italy anymore.

⁴⁹² €400 (as a lump sum for initial accommodation); until 3000 euro per family as regard the reintegration programs.

⁴⁹³ €400 (as a lump sum for initial accommodation); until 3000 euro per family as regard the reintegration programs.

	PARTIR I, II	Odisseo	Ulisse	REMPLOY	RIVAN I, II	PARIVUL	RVA	REMIDA
Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing, driving)	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post arrival	No	No	No	Yes
Financial Support for University/ College Course	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	No	No	No	No
Support for Setting up a Small Business (provide stock, equipment, tools)	Post-arrival	Post-arrival ⁴⁹⁴	Post-arrival ⁴⁹⁵	Post-arrival	No	No	No	No
Travel Assistance/Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination	Pre-departure and upon arrival	Pre-departure and short-term post arrival	Pre-departure and short-term post arrival	Pre-departure and upon arrival	Pre-departure	Pre-departure and short-term post arrival	Yes	Pre-departure and short-term post arrival
Temporary Accommodation	Pre-departure ⁴⁹⁶	Post-arrival ⁴⁹⁷	Post-arrival ⁴⁹⁸	Pre-departure ⁴⁹⁹	Pre-departure ⁵⁰⁰	Pre-departure	Pre-departure ⁵⁰¹	No
Medical Assistance	Pre-departure and Post-arrival	No ⁵⁰²	No ⁵⁰³	Pre-departure and Post-arrival	No	No		No

⁴⁹⁴ Individual micro-projects for social, training, professional and lodging reintegration. Those micro-projects are implemented for all the beneficiaries. Each individual micro-project is tailored to the profile, needs and demands of the beneficiaries, the main goal being that of accommodating (should they not want or be able to be accommodated in their families of origin), training and professionally reintegrating them, so as to make them economically independent and willing to solve the causes of their departure.

⁴⁹⁵ Individual micro-projects for social, training, professional and lodging reintegration. Those micro-projects are implemented for all the beneficiaries. Each individual micro-project is tailored to the profile, needs and demands of the beneficiaries. The main goal is securing accommodation (should they not want or be able to secure in their families of origin), training and professionally reintegrating them, so as to make them economically independent and willing to solve the causes of their departure.

⁴⁹⁶ Provide a lump sum for initial accommodation.

⁴⁹⁷ Maximum 2 weeks accommodation after arrival.

⁴⁹⁸ Maximum 2 weeks accommodation after arrival.

⁴⁹⁹ To spend up to one night in Rome.

⁵⁰⁰ To spend up to one night in Rome.

⁵⁰¹ To spend up to one night in Rome.

⁵⁰² No medical assistance is provided but during the stay in Italy the medical assistance is granted by the National Health System.

⁵⁰³ No medical assistance is provided but during the stay in Italy the medical assistance is granted by the National Health System.

	PARTIR I, II	Odisseo	Ulisse	REMPLOY	RIVAN I, II	PARIVUL	RVA	REMIDA
Other (please describe)		Family support	Family support					

Section IV: Interlinking Reintegration Assistance

	PARTIR I, II	Odisseo	Ulisse	REMPLOY	RIVAN I, II	PARIVUL	REMIDA	RVA
Programme Includes both Pre-departure and Post Arrival Measures	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Measures Tailored Around the Needs of Returnees	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cooperation Takes Place Between Sending/Return Countries	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Cooperation between sending/Return countries takes place in terms of sharing funding/knowledge/skills	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
The status of Returnees is Monitored/Evaluated	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Programme takes into Consideration Development Policies in the Country of Return	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No

6.4.16 Country Profile – Latvia

Section I: Overview of Reintegration Assistance Policy in the National Context

Reintegration Measures	
Legal Basis	A new Immigration law that will among others define the framework for reintegration policy is currently being discussed in the Parliament.

Section II: Providers and Recipients of the Reintegration Assistance

Reintegration programmes/projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
AVRR	IOM	None	2009-2011	Third country nationals with no legal basis for residing in Latvia	19

Section III: Types of Reintegration Assistance Provided

	AVRR
Information Dissemination/Counselling	Pre-departure
Legal Assistance	Pre-departure
Cash Incentives	Pre-departure/post-arrival ⁵⁰⁴
Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing, driving)	Available ⁵⁰⁵
Financial Support for University/College Course	Available ⁵⁰⁶
Support for Setting up a Small Business (provide stock, equipment, tools)	Post-arrival
Travel Assistance/Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination	Yes
Temporary Accommodation	Post-arrival
Medical Assistance	Post-arrival
Other (please describe)	

Section IV: Interlinking Reintegration Assistance

	AVRR
Programme Includes both Pre-departure and Post Arrival Measures?	Yes
Measures Tailored Around the Needs of Returnees	Yes ⁵⁰⁷
Cooperation Takes Place Between Sending/Return Countries	Yes ⁵⁰⁸

⁵⁰⁴ IOM Riga provides €200-400 in cash.

⁵⁰⁵ Available but no one applied for this assistance

⁵⁰⁶ Available but no one applied for this assistance

⁵⁰⁷ Socio-economic profiling of the returnee and assessment of the conditions and prospects in the country of return.

⁵⁰⁸ Between IOM offices in sending and receiving countries.

	AVRR
The status of Returnees is Monitored/Evaluated	Yes ⁵⁰⁹
Programme takes into Consideration Development Policies in the Country of Return	Yes ⁵¹⁰

⁵⁰⁹ Socio-economic profiling of potential returnees during pre-departure counselling sessions in host countries to assess their needs and motivations, coupled by an assessment of the conditions and prospects in the country of return to support the migrant's decision to return.

⁵¹⁰ Reintegration assistance should not only be directed at the returnees themselves, but also considers the needs of the community affected by the return process.

6.4.17 Country Profile – Lichtenstein

Section I: Overview of Reintegration Assistance Policy in the National Context

	Reintegration Measures
Legal Basis	Aliens Act LR 152.20 and Refugee Act LR 152.31

Section II: Providers and Recipients of the Reintegration Assistance

Reintegration programmes/projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
Reintegration assistance	Foreigners and Passport Office (APA)	IOM, CARITAS, NGOs		Asylum seekers	

Section III: Types of Reintegration Assistance Provided

	Reintegration Assistance
Information Dissemination/Counselling	Possible
Legal Assistance	Yes ⁵¹¹
Cash Incentives	Yes
Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing, driving)	Yes
Financial Support for University/College Course	Yes
Support for Setting up a Small Business (provide stock, equipment, tools)	Yes
Travel Assistance/Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination	Yes ⁵¹²
Temporary Accommodation	Yes ⁵¹³
Medical Assistance	Yes
Other (please describe)	Yes ⁵¹⁴

Section IV: Interlinking Reintegration Assistance

	Reintegration Assistance
Programme Includes both Pre-departure and Post-arrival Measures?	Yes ⁵¹⁵
Measures Tailored Around the Needs of Returnees	Case tailored support
Cooperation Takes Place Between Sending/Return Countries	Yes

⁵¹¹ If it is requested by the returnee.

⁵¹² In almost all cases this is the minimum support given.

⁵¹³ If necessary, as provided and foreseen in the Refugee Act.

⁵¹⁴ Depending on the individual case.

⁵¹⁵ Mostly pre-departure measures, as post-arrival measures are arranged by local partners.

	Reintegration Assistance
The status of Returnees is Monitored/Evaluated	Yes ⁵¹⁶
Programme takes into Consideration Development Policies in the Country of Return	Yes ⁵¹⁷

⁵¹⁶ This is delivered by local partners, especially if it is requested by the returnee or in cases where financial support for setting up small business was provided.

⁵¹⁷ If it is in the returnees' interest, Liechtenstein uses its contacts within the bounds of its possibilities; especially in countries Liechtenstein is active with official returnee-projects (e.g. Armenia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Kosovo).

6.4.18 Country Profile – Lithuania

Section I: Overview of Reintegration Assistance Policy in the National Context

Reintegration Measures	
Legal Basis	The Law on the Legal Status of Aliens of the Republic of Lithuania ⁵¹⁸ regulates the entry, stay, departure and expulsion of foreigners. However, it contains no legal provisions regarding reintegration policy.

Section II: Providers and Recipients of the Reintegration Assistance

Reintegration programmes/ projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/ projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
Reintegration - A New Opportunity in Homeland (pilot project)	IOM	None	December 2009 - June 2010	(Rejected) asylum seekers, beneficiaries of international protection, irregularly staying third country nationals ⁵¹⁹	2
Reintegration in Countries of Origin	IOM	None	July 2010 - June 2011	(Rejected) asylum seekers, beneficiaries of international protection, irregularly staying third country nationals ⁵¹⁹	6
Reintegration/ Towards Sustainable Return	IOM	None	Started in July 2011	(Rejected) asylum seekers, beneficiaries of international protection, irregularly staying third country nationals ⁵¹⁹	No completed cases so far

Section III: Types of Reintegration Assistance Provided

	All programmes
Information Dissemination/Counselling	Pre-departure and post-arrival
Legal Assistance	Pre-departure or post-arrival ⁵²⁰
Cash Incentives	Pre-departure ⁵²¹
Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing, driving)	Post-arrival ⁵²²

⁵¹⁸ Official Gazette 2004, No. 73-2539.

⁵¹⁹ It is however limited to those having received IOM Vilnius voluntary return assistance, and excludes third country nationals subject to forced return.

⁵²⁰ depending on individual needs.

⁵²¹ €200 per person (€100 for children), offered to all AVR returnees.

⁵²² Up to 4 months, depending on individual needs.

	All programmes
Financial Support for University/College Course	Post-arrival ⁵²³
Support for Setting up a Small Business (provide stock, equipment, tools)	Post-arrival ⁵²⁴
Travel Assistance/Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination	Pre-departure and post-arrival
Temporary Accommodation	Pre-departure and post-arrival ⁵²⁵
Medical Assistance	Pre-departure and post-arrival ⁵²⁶
Other (please describe)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • job placements/apprenticeships • education, childcare • other forms of assistance depending on individual needs

Section IV: Interlinking Reintegration Assistance

	Reintegration - A New Opportunity in Homeland	Reintegration in Countries of Origin	Reintegration: Towards Sustainable Return
Programme Includes both Pre-departure and Post Arrival Measures?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Measures Tailored Around the Needs of Returnees	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cooperation Takes Place Between Sending/Return Countries	Yes ⁵²⁷	Yes ⁵²⁸	Yes ⁵²⁹
The status of Returnees is Monitored/Evaluated	Yes ⁵³⁰	Yes ⁵³¹	Yes ⁵³²
Programme takes into Consideration Development Policies in the Country of Return	No ⁵³³	No ⁵³³	No ⁵³³

⁵²³ Depending on individual needs, tuition fees in public educational institutions can be covered, learning materials and equipment purchased, etc.

⁵²⁴ In-kind support based on a business plan elaborated with the returnee.

⁵²⁵ Provided post arrival only to those returning to post-conflict environments or returnees in particularly difficult circumstances.

⁵²⁶ Necessary treatment can be covered, medications purchased, etc.

⁵²⁷ Cooperation takes place between IOM offices.

⁵²⁸ Cooperation takes place between IOM offices.

⁵²⁹ The status of beneficiaries of reintegration assistance under this project was monitored/evaluated in the framework of the subsequent reintegration project. Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

⁵³⁰ Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

⁵³¹ 6 months.

⁵³² 6 months.

⁵³³ Due to the limited scope of the programme.

6.4.19 Country Profile – Luxembourg

Section I: Overview of Reintegration Assistance Policy in the National Context

Reintegration Measures	
Legal Basis	A Law issued on May 2006 related to asylum rights and to complementary forms of protection.

Section II: Providers and Recipients of the Reintegration Assistance

Reintegration programmes/projects implemented	Programme Leader	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
AVRR	IOM	Various ⁵³⁴	Since 2008	(Rejected) asylum seekers	120
CARITAS project in Berane, Montenegro	Caritas	Local NGO, MFA Luxembourg	2000-2004	Nationals of Montenegro	41 ⁵³⁵

Section III: Types of Reintegration Assistance Provided

	AVRR ⁵³⁶	CARITAS project Montenegro
Information Dissemination/Counselling	Pre-departure ⁵³⁷	Pre-departure ⁵³⁸
Legal Assistance	Long-term post-arrival ⁵³⁹	Post-arrival ⁵⁴⁰
Cash Incentives	Pre-departure ⁵⁴¹	No ⁵⁴²
Financial Support for Vocational	Post-arrival ⁵⁴³	Post-arrival ⁵⁴⁴

⁵³⁴ Red Cross, CARITAS, CLAE, ASTI, and the Ministry of Family.

⁵³⁵ 181 local benefitted as well, source: http://www.reintegration.net/europa/malle/luxemburg_caritas.htm

⁵³⁶ Post arrival assistance may not exceed in total €4,600 consisting of general post arrival reintegration assistance up to €2,000 (legal, temporary accommodation, course etc.) and support for setting up a business (up to €2,000) and support for vulnerable case (up to €600)

⁵³⁷ Information sessions towards actors in contact with potential beneficiaries and towards beneficiaries to inform on the existence and the content of the programme.

⁵³⁸ Information sessions, collection of individual information, translation of different documents as well as school certificates, school integration planning, etc. Visit of each returnee and developing of individual tailor-cut, reintegration projects.

⁵³⁹ Legal/administrative assistance is possible for up to 6 months in the country of return. This assistance can be provide up to €2,000.

⁵⁴⁰ Translation, school integration and general legal advice.

⁵⁴¹ Cash incentive up to a maximum of €600 for an adult and €300 for each child.

⁵⁴² The returnees received from the Ministry of Family some assistance in cash.

⁵⁴³ Possible vocational training assistance foreseen in the country of return, this assistance can be provided within six months up to a maximum of €2,000.

⁵⁴⁴ Special attention was paid to school reintegration of young returnees. Additional language courses and other courses were organised.

	AVRR ⁵³⁶	CARITAS project Montenegro
Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing, driving)		
Financial Support for University/College Course	Post-arrival ⁵⁴⁵	Post-arrival ⁵⁴⁶
Support for Setting up a Small Business (provide stock, equipment, tools)	Post-arrival ⁵⁴⁷	Post-arrival ⁵⁴⁸
Travel Assistance/Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination	Post-arrival ⁵⁴⁹	Limited ⁵⁵⁰
Temporary Accommodation	Post-arrival ⁵⁵¹	Post-arrival ⁵⁵²
Medical Assistance	Post-arrival ⁵⁵³	Post-arrival ⁵⁵⁴
Other (please describe)		The office was in permanent contact with returnees and assured that no returnee was left alone and or was living in extreme poverty. Most returnees returned with sufficient means to restart their activity without external support.

Section IV: Interlinking Reintegration Assistance

	AVRR	CARITAS project Montenegro
Programme Includes both Pre-departure and Post Arrival Measures?	Yes	Yes
Measures Tailored Around the Needs of Returnees	Yes	Yes
Cooperation Takes Place Between Sending/Return Countries	Yes ⁵⁵⁵	Yes ⁵⁵⁶

⁵⁴⁵ Possible support for university/college courses, this assistance can be provided within six months up to a maximum of €2,000.

⁵⁴⁶ Scholarship for individual cases up to € 80 per month.

⁵⁴⁷ Possible post arrival (six months) assistance for setting up a business up to €2,000.

⁵⁴⁸ Micro credits with low interest rate, grants to start businesses.

⁵⁴⁹ Assistance for secondary transportation in country of return to final destination (up to an amount of €50).

⁵⁵⁰ Only some support of larger items. Otherwise it was not necessary as Ministry of Family provided some budget for the transport of baggage.

⁵⁵¹ Possible post arrival assistance (six months) for temporary accommodation up to €2,000

⁵⁵² Reconstruction of destroyed houses up to €4,000.

⁵⁵³ Possible post arrival assistance (six months) for vulnerable cases up to €600.

⁵⁵⁴ Individual assistance in exceptional cases.

⁵⁵⁵ IOM in return country is informed on the return date and will assist the migrant at the airport if necessary. IOM Brussels informs IOM in return country on the reintegration scheme that the migrant wishes to implement once returned. IOM in return country submits the reintegration plan of the migrant upon approval to IOM Brussels.

⁵⁵⁶ There was a coordination office in Luxembourg, where the returnees were prepared for their return. Return projects were drafted in Luxemburg and elaborated and put into place upon return in Montenegro in close collaboration with the office in Luxemburg.

	AVRR	CARITAS project Montenegro
The status of Returnees is Monitored/Evaluated	Yes, ⁵⁵⁷	No
Programme takes into Consideration Development Policies in the Country of Return	Yes ⁵⁵⁸	n/a

⁵⁵⁷ Monitoring of the returnees up to six months after their arrival. The mission in return countries visits the returnees or makes contact with them to assess the success of the reintegration scheme at least twice after their arrival.

⁵⁵⁸ But to a limited extent.

6.4.20 Country Profile – Malta

Section I: Overview of Reintegration Assistance Policy in the National Context

Reintegration Measures	
Legal Basis	There is no legal basis for reintegration assistance. ⁵⁵⁹

Section II: Providers and Recipients of the Reintegration Assistance

Reintegration programmes/ projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/ projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
RESTART I, II	Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs	IOM Malta	11/2008 - 06/2011	(Rejected) asylum seekers, beneficiaries of international protection, irregularly staying third country nationals ⁵⁶⁰	79 ⁵⁶¹
DAR I, II	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	ICMPD, SOS Malta, Med Italy	04/2008 - 01/2009 02/2009-05/2009	(Rejected) asylum seekers ⁵⁶²	170

Section III: Types of Reintegration Assistance Provided

	RESTART I, II	DAR I, II
Information Dissemination/Counselling	Pre-departure	Pre-departure
Legal Assistance ⁵⁶³	No information provided	No information provided
Cash Incentives	Pre-departure ⁵⁶⁴	Pre-departure ⁵⁶⁵
Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing,	Post-arrival	Pre-departure

⁵⁵⁹ The Immigration Act (Immigration ACT Cap 217 Article 14 paragraph (3).) which is the basis of the Maltese Immigration Legislation, only makes an indirect reference to voluntary return (not assisted). It states that the provisions of the act relating to the issuance of a removal order, allowing for a person to be held in custody pending deportation, do not “affect the obligation of any person who does not fulfil or who no longer fulfils the conditions of entry, residence or free movement to leave Malta voluntarily without delay”. It is therefore possible to imply that the law assumes that a person, whose legal stay in Malta has come to an end, should make his own arrangements to leave.

⁵⁶⁰ See <http://irrico.belgium.iom.int/iom-offices/iom-malta.html>.

⁵⁶¹ Until May 2011.

⁵⁶² From Sub-Saharan African countries of origin.

⁵⁶³ The office of the Third Country Nationals at the MJHA provides legal assistance to asylum seekers who appeal on the decision taken by the Refugee Commissioner with regard to their application.

⁵⁶⁴ Reinstallation allowance of €200.

⁵⁶⁵ Direct financial assistance was provided in accordance with a concrete reintegration/business setup plan for the individual case (€5,000).

	RESTART I, II	DAR I, II
driving)		
Financial Support for University/College Course	No	No
Support for Setting up a Small Business (provide stock, equipment, tools)	Pre-departure planning and post-arrival assistance	Post-arrival
Travel Assistance/Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination	Pre-departure and post-arrival	Pre-departure
Temporary Accommodation	Yes ⁵⁶⁶	Post-arrival
Medical Assistance	Yes ⁵⁶⁷	Yes
Other (please describe)	None	None

Section IV: Interlinking Reintegration Assistance

	RESTART I, II	DAR I, II
Programme Includes both Pre-departure and Post Arrival Measures?	Yes	Yes
Measures Tailored Around the Needs of Returnees	Yes	Yes
Cooperation Takes Place Between Sending/Return Countries	Yes	Yes
The status of Returnees is Monitored/Evaluated	Yes	Yes ⁵⁶⁸
Programme takes into Consideration Development Policies in the Country of Return	Yes ⁵⁶⁹	Yes ⁵⁷⁰

⁵⁶⁶ Provided when the returnee has to continue the journey within the country of return. On one occasion, accommodation was provided to a mother and child.

⁵⁶⁷ Provided when it is needed and for the Medical cases a special care is done to the pre-departure and post -arrival to ensure the continuity of the medical treatment

⁵⁶⁸ 2 members of the DAR team (return counsellor and cultural mediator) maintained contacts (during the implementation period of the project) with the vast majority of returnees after their arrival via telephone and/or email.

⁵⁶⁹ Through monitoring.

⁵⁷⁰ The programme emphasised the empowerment of returnees to build up sustainable livelihoods after return. Thus, substantive pre-departure counselling and training and (also financial) reintegration support contributed indirectly to the development of home communities.

6.4.21 Country Profile – Netherlands

Section I: Overview of Reintegration Assistance Policy in the National Context

	Reintegration Measures ⁵⁷¹
Legal Basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return Memorandum of 21 November 2003 and Illegal Aliens Memorandum of 24 April 2004 'International migration and development 2008' Memorandum, a follow-up to the 2004 Memorandum on 'Development and Migration'. The Remigration Act defines which third country nationals with an asylum residence permit, which relatives and which lawfully residing third country nationals qualify for reintegration assistance

Section II: Providers and Recipients of the Reintegration Assistance⁵⁷²

Reintegration programmes/projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
REAN	IOM	Various ⁵⁷³	Since 1991	(Rejected) asylum seekers who still or no longer legally reside in the Netherlands, migrants in an irregular situation and migrants who have applied for a residence permit on regular grounds.	11,822 (2006-2010)
HRT	IOM	Various ⁵⁷⁴	Since 2006	Asylum Seekers ⁵⁷⁵	2,679 (2007-2010)

⁵⁷¹ Also REAN agreement, updated in 2006, between the Dutch government and IOM.

⁵⁷² In the Netherlands 15 projects were found containing reintegration elements. These are: Return and Emigration of Aliens from the Netherlands (REAN), Reintegration Project Return (HRPT), Return and Reintegration Regulation (HRT), CRRS (Counselling Return and Reintegration Support), Reception and Reintegration of Afghan Nationals to Afghanistan, Reintegration assistance to Sierra Leonean migrants returned from the Netherlands, Return Migration and Health II, Return Migration and Health III, Randstad Return Initiative, Return Initiative 'Irregular Migrants' (RIIM), AVR NC Assisted Voluntary Return by Native Counsellors, AVRR Iraq, Assisted Voluntary Return from Detention (AVRD I + II), Counselling, Return and Reintegration of (ex) Unaccompanied Minor Migrants (UAM). This Country Profile includes the information related to the most important five (in terms of budget, number of beneficiaries and period covered).

⁵⁷³ Organizations such as the Repatriation and Departure Service, the Central Agency for Reception of asylum seekers, the Dutch Refugee Council, the Immigration and Naturalisation Service, the Alien Police, NGO's, Embassies, Migrant and Diaspora Organizations, etc.

⁵⁷⁴ Organizations such as the Repatriation and Departure Service, the Central Agency for Reception of asylum seekers, the Dutch Refugee Council, the Immigration and Naturalisation Service, the Alien Police, NGO's, Embassies, Migrant and Diaspora Organizations, etc.

⁵⁷⁵ Those who meet the REAN and HRT requirements except the nationals of Georgia, source: IOM Netherlands.

<http://www.iom->

Reintegration programmes/projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes /projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
UAM	IOM		2008 - 2011	Unaccompanied minors	176 (until 2010)
Reintegration Afghanistan	IOM Afghanistan	Various ⁵⁷⁶	2009 - 2011	Afghan asylum seekers	32
CRRS	IOM Netherlands	Various ⁵⁷⁷	2010 - 2011	Asylum Seekers ⁵⁷⁸	57 Georgian returnees

Section III: Types of Reintegration Assistance Provided

	REAN	HRT	UAM	Reintegration Afghanistan	CRRS
Information Dissemination/ Counselling ⁵⁷⁹	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure, post-arrival	Pre-departure, post arrival	Pre-departure, post-arrival
Legal Assistance ⁵⁸⁰	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cash Incentives	Upon departure ⁵⁸¹	Upon departure ⁵⁸²	Pre-departure, post arrival ⁵⁸³	Post-arrival ⁵⁸⁴	
Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing, driving) ⁵⁸⁵			Post-arrival	Short/long-term post-arrival	Short-term post-arrival
Financial Support for University/College Course ⁵⁸⁶			Post-arrival	Short/long-term post-arrival	Short-term post-arrival
Support for Setting up a Small Business (provide stock, equipment, tools) ⁵⁸⁷			Post-arrival	Short/long-term post-arrival	Short-term post-arrival

nederland.nl/english/Programmes/Return_Reintegration/Reintegration_Projects/Return_and_Reintegration_Regulation/Annex_1_Countries_with_visa_requirements_excluded_from_HRT

⁵⁷⁶ Government of Afghanistan - Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation, and NGOs.

⁵⁷⁷ Platform on sustainable return, IOM missions.

⁵⁷⁸ From: Angola, Armenia, Colombia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania or Uganda.

⁵⁷⁹ Pre-departure information on the return process, Information meetings for migrants. Use of posters, information sheets, DVD's, power point presentations, newsletters, advertisements, etc.

⁵⁸⁰ Referral to relevant organisations.

⁵⁸¹ Via debit card: €500 per adult, €100 per underage child or limited amount: €200 adult and €40 per child

⁵⁸² Via debit card: €1,750 per adult; €880 per underage child, source: IOM Netherlands http://www.iom-nederland.nl/english/Programmes/Return_Reintegration/Reintegration_Projects/Return_and_Reintegration_Regulation

⁵⁸³ €1,750 cash (given on debit card pre-departure) OR €2,500 flexible cash/in-kind (max. €500 on debit card and €2,000 for reintegration in countries of return.

⁵⁸⁴ €800.

⁵⁸⁵ UAM: €2,500 flexible cash/in-kind; CRRS: up to €1,750 in-kind; RA: up to €3,000 in-kind.

⁵⁸⁶ UAM: €2,500 flexible cash/in-kind; CRRS: up to €1,750 in-kind; RA: up to €3,000 in-kind.

⁵⁸⁷ UAM: €2,500 flexible cash/in-kind; CRRS: up to €1,750 in-kind; RA: up to €3,000 in-kind.

	REAN	HRT	UAM	Reintegration Afghanistan	CRRS
Travel Assistance/Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination ⁵⁸⁸	Pre-departure, post-arrival	No	Post-arrival	Post-arrival ⁵⁸⁹	Post-arrival
Temporary Accommodation			Yes ⁵⁹⁰	Yes ⁵⁹¹	
Medical Assistance ⁵⁹²	Pre-departure, short-term post-arrival	Pre-departure, short-term post-arrival	Pre-departure, short-term post-arrival	Post-arrival ⁵⁹³	Pre-departure, short-term post-arrival
Other (please describe)	Extra short/long-term reintegration support is also offered to Victims of Trafficking and unaccompanied minors	Extra short/long-term reintegration support is also offered to Victims of Trafficking and unaccompanied minors	Restoring contact with family if necessary (family tracing)	Additional services (by IOM Kabul) upon their arrival in Kabul: Identification of returnees and guidance through the immigration and customs process; Information on mine-awareness.	

Section IV: Interlinking Reintegration Assistance

	REAN	HRT	UAM	Reintegration Afghanistan	CRRS
Programme Includes both Pre-departure and Post Arrival Measures?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Measures Tailored Around the Needs of Returnees	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

⁵⁸⁸ Assistance at Schipol Airport during the departure and during transit and arrival when applicable.

⁵⁸⁹ Onward transportation when requested to returnees' final destination.

⁵⁹⁰ Can be financed from reintegration grant if not available in countries of return.

⁵⁹¹ Temporary accommodation in Kabul with full board for up to 14 days, if requested.

⁵⁹² Pre-departure includes research of medical care in countries of return, assistance during travel (special transport, escort) and short-term post arrival: limited budget for medical expenditures, referral to medical institutions, reintegration assistance for migrants with a chronic indication.

⁵⁹³ Medical consultation / treatment at IOM Kabul airport clinic, where one doctor is present for each planned arrival.

	REAN	HRT	UAM	Reintegration Afghanistan	CRRS
Cooperation Takes Place Between Sending/Return Countries	Yes ⁵⁹⁴	Yes	Yes ⁵⁹⁵	Yes ⁵⁹⁶	Yes ⁵⁹⁷
The status of Returnees is Monitored/Evaluated		No		Yes ⁵⁹⁸	Yes ⁵⁹⁹
Programme takes into Consideration Development Policies in the Country of Return	No	No		Yes	Yes

⁵⁹⁴ IOM in the Netherlands cooperates with diplomatic representations (travel doc) and IOM missions in countries of return.

⁵⁹⁵ IOM in the Netherlands cooperates with missions in countries of return.

⁵⁹⁶ Government of Afghanistan - Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR), national and international NGOs. Liaison between IOM NL and IOM mission in Afghanistan

⁵⁹⁷ NL based organisations, united in the Platform on sustainable return. Liaison between IOM NL and IOM missions in 9 countries of origin.

⁵⁹⁸ Approved and implemented projects (including training) will be monitored by IOM staff 6 and 12 months into the individual reintegration assistance.

⁵⁹⁹ During 3 months.

6.4.22 Country Profile – Norway

Section I: Overview of Reintegration Assistance Policy in the National Context

Reintegration Measures	
Legal Basis	No legal basis underlines reintegration assistance in Norway.

Section II: Providers and Recipients of the Reintegration Assistance

Reintegration programmes/ projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/ projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
BIP ⁶⁰⁰	BIP		Since 1997 ⁶⁰¹	Returnees to North Iraq	200
IRRANA	IOM Norway	UDI	Since 2006 ⁶⁰²	Unsuccessful asylum seekers and recognised refugees from Afghanistan ⁶⁰³	44
IRRINI	IOM Norway	UDI, BIP	Since 2008 ⁶⁰⁴	Unsuccessful asylum seekers and recognised refugees from Iraq ⁶⁰⁵	495
FSR	IOM Norway	UDI	Since September 2009	Unsuccessful asylum seekers from all countries, except Afghanistan and Iraq	1,779 (until Oct 2011)
UAM-AOM	IOM Norway	Various ⁶⁰⁶	Since April 2011	Unaccompanied minor asylum seekers and	3

⁶⁰⁰ BIP (Business Innovation Programmes) is an organisation which implements a number of programmes with reintegration elements.

⁶⁰¹ Source: <http://www.bips.no/index.html>

⁶⁰² Source: <http://www.udi.no/Norwegian-Directorate-of-Immigration/Central-topics/Return-and-repatriation/Return-and-reintegration-programmes-/Afghanistan-IRRANA/>

⁶⁰³ Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

⁶⁰⁴ Source: <http://www.udi.no/Norwegian-Directorate-of-Immigration/Central-topics/Return-and-repatriation/Return-and-reintegration-programmes-/Iraq-IRRINI/>

⁶⁰⁵ Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

⁶⁰⁶ Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Children, equality and social inclusion, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, the Directorate of Immigration, the legal guardians of the UAMs, and through close cooperation with Hvalstad and Mysebu transit centres for newly arriving unaccompanied minors to Norway. Source: http://www.iom.no/uam/uam_pa_frame.html

Reintegration programmes/projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
				'aged-out' minors of all nationalities ⁶⁰⁷	

Section III: Types of Reintegration Assistance Provided

	BIP	IRRANA	IRRINI	FSR ⁶⁰⁸	UAM-AOM
Information Dissemination/Counselling	Pre-departure and post-arrival	Pre-departure and post-arrival	Pre-departure and post-arrival	Pre-departure	Pre-departure and post-arrival
Legal Assistance	No	No	No	No	No
Cash Incentives	Post-arrival	Post-arrival ⁶⁰⁹	Post-arrival ⁶¹⁰	Post-arrival	Post-arrival
Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing, driving)		Might be offered as post-arrival	Might be offered as post-arrival		
Financial Support for University/College Course		Post-arrival	Post-arrival		Post-arrival
Support for Setting up a Small Business (provide stock, equipment, tools)		Post-arrival	Post-arrival		
Travel Assistance/Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination ⁶¹¹		Yes	Yes		Yes
Temporary Accommodation		Post-arrival ⁶¹²	Limited ⁶¹³		Yes ⁶¹⁴

⁶⁰⁷ All nationalities accepted under IOM's Voluntary Assisted Return Programme (VARP). See

http://www.iom.no/uam/uam_pa_defin.html

⁶⁰⁸ This programme focuses only on providing financial assistance upon arrival in the amount of NOK 10,000 (approximately €1300), NOK 15,000 (approximately €2000) or NOK 20,000 (approximately €2500). NOK 20,000 (approximately €2500) is offered to persons who apply for voluntary return within the deadline of assigned departure date. This includes also persons that apply before they have been given a deadline for departure. Persons who apply within 2 months after departure deadline receive NOK 15,000 (approximately €2000). Persons who apply later then this receive NOK 10,000 (approximately €1300). Cash support is to be used by the returnee to facilitate his/her reinsertion in the local community.

⁶⁰⁹ NOK 10,000 (approximately €1300) in cash.

⁶¹⁰ \$1,800 (approximately €1300) in cash. Since September 2011, IRRINI support is in USD. Source: Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

⁶¹¹ By IOM.

⁶¹² In Kabul only.

⁶¹³ The housing allowance is up to NOK 20,000 (approximately €2500) per household. The support scheme is on offer to a limited number of returnees who face particular difficulty in re-establish their lives due to housing problems. Source: <http://www.utlendingsdirektoratet.no/Norwegian-Directorate-of-Immigration/Central-topics/Return-and-repatriation/Return-and-reintegration-programmes-/Iraq-IRRINI/>

⁶¹⁴ Source: Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

	BIP	IRRANA	IRRINI	FSR ⁶⁰⁸	UAM-AOM
Medical Assistance	Some basic needs	Some basic needs	Some basic needs ⁶¹⁵		Some basic needs
Other (please describe)					

Section IV: Interlinking Reintegration Assistance

	BIP	IRRANA	IRRINI	FSR	UAM-AOM
Programme Includes both Pre-departure and Post Arrival Measures?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Measures Tailored Around the Needs of Returnees ⁶¹⁶	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
Cooperation Takes Place Between Sending/Return Countries		Yes ⁶¹⁷	Yes ⁶¹⁸	Yes ⁶¹⁹	Yes ⁶²⁰
The status of Returnees is Monitored/Evaluated		Yes ⁶²¹	Yes ⁶²²	Yes ⁶²³	Yes ⁶²⁴
Programme takes into Consideration Development Policies in the Country of Return					

⁶¹⁵ Pre-departure vaccinations provided, source:

http://www.utlendingsdirektoratet.no/upload/Retur/Informasjonsark_IRRINI_Engelsk.pdf

⁶¹⁶ Source: <http://www.iom.no/projects.htm> and <http://www.bips.no/index.html>

⁶¹⁷ There is a MoU between the Government of Afghanistan and Norway that regulates voluntary and forced return. The negotiations regarding the MoU takes place between MFA of Norway and MFA of Afghanistan. There is only a MoU that regulates return. There is no other cooperation connected to individual returns.

⁶¹⁸ Source: Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

⁶¹⁹ In order to give cash grant. Source: Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

⁶²⁰ Source: Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

⁶²¹ As a part of the implementation of IRRANA and IRRINI, IOM follows up returnees in these programs up to 6 months after return as a follow up of the reintegration. Final instalment is given late in the reintegration process, up to 6 months after the reintegration project started.

⁶²² As a part of the implementation of IRRANA and IRRINI, IOM follows up returnees in these programs up to 6 months after return as a follow up of the reintegration. Final instalment is given late in the reintegration process, up to 6 months after the reintegration project started.

⁶²³ Interest and response rate is, however, low. Source: Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

⁶²⁴ Source: Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

6.4.23 Country Profile – Poland

Section I: Overview of Reintegration Assistance Policy in the National Context

	Reintegration Measures
Legal Basis	The legal basis for reintegration policy is Article 4 section 2 of the Agreement between the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration of the Republic of Poland and the International Organization for Migration on the co-operation in the field of voluntary returns of aliens leaving the territory of the Republic of Poland signed in Warsaw 12 th July 2005. That article sets out that IOM can provide foreigners (Programme beneficiaries) with reintegration assistance in the form of financial benefits paid out to them in their countries of return. IOM projects co-financed under financial support of European Funds.

Section II: Providers and Recipients of the Reintegration Assistance

Reintegration programmes/projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
Pilot Project	IOM	Office for Foreigners and Border Guard ⁶²⁵	2004 - 2005	(Unsuccessful) asylum seekers ⁶²⁶	60
VRRA	IOM and the Ministry of the Interior and Administration ⁶²⁷ (Office for Foreigners and Border Guard)		2009 - 2010	Asylum seekers ⁶²⁸	168
VRF	IOM	Office for Foreigners and Border Guard	2006 - 2010	(Unsuccessful) asylum seekers, Irregularly staying Third-country nationals	1,623
AVRR-UAS Phase I, II	IOM	Office for Foreigners and Border Guard	2006 - 2008	Unsuccessful asylum seekers ⁶²⁹	237
CTR-AVR	IOM	Office for Foreigners and Border	2008-2011	Unsuccessful Asylum seekers	1700

⁶²⁵ Both institutions are in the structure of the Ministry of Interior and Administration

⁶²⁶ Dedicated for unsuccessful asylum or refugee status seekers, migrants who have not received temporary protection & those who have abandoned their claim

⁶²⁷ Based on Agreement between IOM and the Ministry of the Interior and Administration.

⁶²⁸ Who withdraw their asylum applications to return and to reintegrate in their countries of origin

⁶²⁹ Special emphasis on vulnerable groups

Reintegration programmes/projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
		Guard			

Section III: Types of Reintegration Assistance Provided

	Pilot project	VRRR	VRF	AVRR-UAS Phases I, II	CTR-AVR
Information Dissemination/Counselling ⁶³⁰	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure
Legal Assistance	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure
Cash Incentives	Yes ⁶³¹	Yes ⁶³²	Yes ⁶³³	Pre-departure ⁶³⁴	Pre-departure ⁶³⁵
Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing, driving)	No	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival ⁶³⁶
Financial Support for University/College Course	No	No	No	No	No
Support for Setting up a Small Business (provide stock, equipment, tools)	No	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival ⁶³⁷
Travel Assistance/ Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Temporary Accommodation	No	Post-arrival	Pre-departure/ Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival
Medical Assistance	Pre-departure	Pre-departure/ Post-arrival	Pre-departure/ Post-arrival	Pre-departure/ Post-arrival	Pre-departure/ Post-arrival
Other (please describe)					All returning unaccompanied minors and returnees with severe medical conditions were

⁶³⁰ Information materials (leaflets and posters) in various languages disseminated in the reception centres for asylum seekers and to NGOs; counselling and information to potential returnees before (? Seems like it is given before return) return (about their current status in Poland, the opportunities and conditions of return and reintegration assistance).

⁶³¹ €250

⁶³² In-kind reintegration grant of PLN 6,500 (approximately €1500)

⁶³³ Returnees received an equivalent of PLN 15 (approximately €4) per person and per each travel day

⁶³⁴ One-off reintegration benefit of €200, the foreigners received an additional equivalent of PLN 15 (approx. €4) per person and per each travel day

⁶³⁵ PLN 350 (approximately €81)

⁶³⁶ One educational grant was provided to a returnee in Georgia with regards to IT training.

⁶³⁷ 17 business plans were implemented in Georgia and Russia (i.e. animal farms, a greenhouse or beauty salon).

	Pilot project	VRRR	VRF	AVRR-UAS Phases I, II	CTR-AVR
					provided with the additional reintegration grant of PLN 4000

Section IV: Interlinking Reintegration Assistance

	Pilot project	VRRR	VRF	AVRR-UAS Phase I, II	CTR-AVR
Programme Includes both Pre-departure and Post-arrival Measures?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Measures Tailored Around the Needs of Returnees and/or her Country of Origins	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cooperation Takes Place Between Sending/Return Countries ⁶³⁸	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
The status of Returnees is Monitored/Evaluated ⁶³⁹	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Programme takes into Consideration Development Policies in the Country of Return	No	No	No	No	No

⁶³⁸ During the preparation of travel documents in pre-departure phases and the implementation of business plans in short-term and long-term post arrival phases.

⁶³⁹ Monitoring is usually conducted 6-8 months after the implementation of the reintegration plan (such as business or education) in the form of either an on-site visit conducted by IOM staff in country of origin a telephone conversation. A monitoring questionnaire is then submitted to IOM Warsaw. IOM Warsaw staff accompanied by representatives of its partner institutions (namely, Border Guard and Office for Foreigners) occasionally visit returnees whose reintegration plans were successful and who obtained in-kind reintegration assistance (e.g. have set up their businesses).

6.4.24 Country Profile – Portugal

Section I: Overview of Reintegration Assistance Policy in the National Context

Reintegration Measures	
Legal Basis	There is no legal basis regarding reintegration policy in Portugal. This procedure is stated in the Protocol signed between IOM and the Government of Portugal in 2001. However, voluntary return policy is included in the legal framework for foreigners in Portugal. ⁶⁴⁰

Section II: Providers and Recipients of the Reintegration Assistance

Reintegration programmes/ projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/ projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
AVRR	IOM	Yes	2009-2010	Third country nationals	41 ⁶⁴¹
ARVoRe I, II and III	IOM	Yes	2010-2013	Third country nationals	61 ⁶⁴²

Section III: Types of Reintegration Assistance Provided⁶⁴³

Name of Project	AVRR	AVRR – ARVoRe I, II
Information Dissemination/Counselling	Pre-departure	Pre-departure
Legal Assistance	Not provided	Not provided
Cash Incentives	Post-arrival	Post-arrival
Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing, driving)	Post-arrival	Post-arrival
Financial Support for University/College Course	Not provided	Not provided
Support for Setting up a Small Business (provide stock, equipment, tools)	Pre-departure and/or Post-arrival	Pre-departure and/or Post-arrival
Travel Assistance/Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination	Not provided	Not provided
Temporary Accommodation	Not provided	Nor provided
Medical Assistance ⁶⁴⁴	Possible under specific circumstances	Possible under specific circumstances

⁶⁴⁰ Law N° 23/2007.

⁶⁴¹ 38 to Brazil; 2 to Angola and 1 to Bangladesh.

⁶⁴² Total of 61: 51 to Brazil; 5 to Sao Tome and Principe; 2 to Angola; 1 to Senegal; 1 to Nigeria and 1 to Ghana (for the period 2010-2011). For the 2011-2013 period (until November 2011), only 16 returnees, all Brazilian, have received support but the project foresees the support of at least 120 beneficiaries: 60 in each one year and a half implementation phase. Source: Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

⁶⁴³ Source: Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

⁶⁴⁴ Depends on individual cases.

Name of Project	AVRR	AVRR – ARVoRe I, II
Other (please describe)	Extremely vulnerable situations (medical cases; pregnant woman; UAMs; Victims of Trafficking, etc.) could benefit from reintegration support	Extremely vulnerable persons (medical cases; pregnant woman; UAMs; Victims of Trafficking, etc.) could benefit from reintegration support

Section IV: Interlinking Reintegration Assistance

Name of Project	AVRR	AVRR – ARVoRe I, II
Programme Includes both Pre-departure and Post Arrival Measures?	Yes	Yes
Measures Tailored Around the Needs of Returnees	Yes	Yes
Cooperation Takes Place Between Sending/Return Countries	Yes	Yes
The status of Returnees is Monitored/Evaluated	Yes	Yes, only beneficiaries of reintegration assistance
Programme takes into Consideration Development Policies in the Country of Return	Under development	Under development

6.4.25 Country Profile – Romania

Section I: Overview of Reintegration Assistance Policy in the National Context

Reintegration Measures	
Legal Basis	At present there is no legal basis for Reintegration Policies

Section II: Providers and Recipients of the Reintegration Assistance

Reintegration programmes/ projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/ projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
EVRR	Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR)		2010-2011	(Rejected) asylum seekers, Irregular migrants.	92 ⁶⁴⁵
AVR	IOM	Asociatia Serviciul Apel (NGO)	2010-2011	(Rejected) asylum seekers, beneficiaries of international protection, and irregular third country nationals	272 ⁶⁴⁶
AVRR	IOM	Asociatia Serviciul Apel (NGO)	2011-2012	(Rejected) asylum seekers, beneficiaries of international protection, and irregular third country nationals	45 (expected) ⁶⁴⁷
ESF Project	National Agency for Employment	ENAIP - Italy	June 2009- November 2011		

⁶⁴⁵ 92 persons received counselling out of which 72 were actually assisted to return to their country of return. Although all the migrants assisted were informed and counselled on the reintegration component and the possibility to receive a reintegration grant to start up a small business in the country of return, only 4 of them filled in the application forms, out of whom 3 withdrew their application prior to their departure, while 1 migrant once arrived in his home country. During the counselling sessions the vast majority of the migrants stated that they are not interested in reintegration grant since they would not received it all in cash.

⁶⁴⁶ Of which 255 migrants were informed and counselled under AVR. 17 were beneficiaries of vocational training pre-departure.

⁶⁴⁷ The following results are expected: 45 beneficiaries of reintegration grants in the countries of return, 45 beneficiaries of vocational training pre-departure, 150 beneficiaries of voluntarily return assistance, and 300 beneficiaries of counselling under AVRR.

Section III: Types of Reintegration Assistance Provided

	EVRR	AVRR	AVR	ESF project
Information Dissemination/Counselling	Pre- departure and post arrival	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	No
Legal Assistance	Pre- departure and post-arrival	Pre-departure		No
Cash Incentives	Pre- departure	Pre-departure		No
Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing, driving)		Pre-departure and post-arrival	Pre-departure	No
Financial Support for University/College Course				No
Support for Setting up a Small Business (provide stock, equipment, tools)	Pre-departure and post-arrival.	Post-arrival		No
Travel Assistance/Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination	Pre-departure and post-arrival	Pre-departure and post-arrival		No
Temporary Accommodation	Pre-departure			No
Medical Assistance	During the return	Pre-departure and post-arrival		No
Other (please describe)	Assistance to receive a passport/temporary travel document/laissez-passer was provided to those who needed it.	Pre-departure		

Section IV: Interlinking Reintegration Assistance

	EVRR	AVRR	AVR	ESF project
Programme includes both Pre-departure and Post Arrival Measures?	Yes ⁶⁴⁸	Yes		No
Measures Tailored Around the Needs of Returnees and/or her Country of Origins	No	Yes		No
Cooperation Takes Place Between Sending/Return Countries	No ⁶⁴⁹	Yes		No
The status of Returnees is Monitored/Evaluated	No ⁶⁵⁰	Yes ⁶⁵¹		No
Programme takes into Consideration Development Policies in the Country of Return	No	Yes		Yes

⁶⁴⁸ The programme foresees measures pre-departure and post-return, however, no returnee has made use of the post-arrival assistance in practice.

⁶⁴⁹ Cooperation takes place between the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) team and an NGO in the country of return.

⁶⁵⁰ Monitoring conducted by the NGO partner in the country of return and monitoring visits organised by CNRR and representatives of Romanian Immigration Office (RIO).

⁶⁵¹ 45 migrants, out of 150 migrants assisted to return voluntarily to their countries of origin, will be monitored during the implementation period of the project.

6.4.26 Country Profile – Slovakia

Section I: Overview of Reintegration Assistance Policy in the National Context

Reintegration Measures	
Legal Basis	There are no specific legal provisions related to reintegration of third country nationals in the country of return.

Section II: Providers and Recipients of the Reintegration Assistance

Reintegration programmes/projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
RRTP ⁶⁵²	IOM	Various ⁶⁵³	2010	Trafficked persons ⁶⁵⁴	16 ⁶⁵⁵
RRA ⁶⁵⁶	IOM	Various ⁶⁵⁷	2011-2012 (Phase III)	(Rejected) asylum seekers, irregular migrants, migrants under subsidiary protection	33 ⁶⁵⁸

Section III: Types of Reintegration Assistance Provided

	RRTP	RRA
Information Dissemination/Counselling	Pre-departure/post-arrival	Pre-departure
Legal Assistance	Post-arrival ⁶⁵⁹	Pre-departure/post-arrival ⁶⁶⁰
Cash Incentives	Post-arrival	Pre-departure ⁶⁶¹
Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing, driving)	Post-arrival	Post-arrival
Financial Support for University/College Course		Post-arrival
Support for Setting up a Small Business (provide stock, equipment, tools)	Post-arrival	Post-arrival

⁶⁵² Note that the project is implemented in Slovakia; Slovakia is both the country of return and the host country.

⁶⁵³ Ministry of Interior, Organised crime police office (MoI) and NGOs.

⁶⁵⁴ Of Slovak or foreign origin.

⁶⁵⁵ Since the beginning of the programme in 2006 60 VOT have benefited from the Return and reintegration programme for Trafficked persons.

⁶⁵⁶ Provision of reintegration assistance is subject to a selection process.

⁶⁵⁷ Border and Alien Police (MoI), Migration Office (MoI), Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

⁶⁵⁸ These are figures for 2010. The projects seeks to assist beneficiaries in 2011.

⁶⁵⁹ If necessary, a lawyer can be contracted to assist the beneficiary during legal proceedings

⁶⁶⁰ Provided by various NGOs, IOM not directly involved. In ST and LT phase provided within the framework of reintegration assistance in countries of return.

⁶⁶¹ €140 financial allowance provided upon departure to countries of return. Designed to cover immediate costs arising to returnees after return.

	RRPTP	RRA
Travel Assistance/Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination	Yes ⁶⁶²	Yes
Temporary Accommodation	Pre-departure and Post-arrival	Post-arrival
Medical Assistance	Post-arrival ⁶⁶³	Post-arrival
Other (please describe)	Job insertion assistance, social work – short-term and long-term	Job search/job placement. ⁶⁶⁴

Section IV: Interlinking Reintegration Assistance

	RRPTP	RRA
Programme Includes both Pre-departure and Post-arrival Measures?	Yes	Yes
Measures Tailored Around the Needs of Returnees	Yes	Yes
Cooperation Takes Place Between Sending/Return Countries		Yes ⁶⁶⁵
The status of Returnees is Monitored/Evaluated	Yes ⁶⁶⁶	Yes
Programme takes into Consideration Development Policies in the Country of Return	Yes ⁶⁶⁷	Yes

⁶⁶² Complete arranging of the travel: counselling, purchase of travel tickets, procurement of travel documents if needed and/or transit visas, in case of child victims of trafficking and/or non *sui juris* victims of trafficking provision of travel assistance by a professional.

⁶⁶³ General medical check-up, gynaecological check-up, tests for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases including treatment; psychological and psychiatric check-up, long-term individual therapeutic care.

⁶⁶⁴ Designed to assist the returnees with search for job by assessing their profile, assisting them with elaboration of CV, referral to employers, etc. Job placement enables returnees to gain necessary on-the-job experience by working for an employer while being subsidised by means of wage supplements as a part of their reintegration assistance.

⁶⁶⁵ Sending countries participate in the programme mainly by issuing travel documents to returnees.

⁶⁶⁶ The beneficiaries of reintegration assistance are monitored regularly while in Programme - according to their individual needs, for 6 months. After this period they are free to contact the National Anti-trafficking Helpline for receiving the information or counselling.

⁶⁶⁷ The project's beneficiaries are Slovak nationals returning to Slovakia. The Programme is designed for foreigners also, but there weren't any registered yet. In case of foreign victims of trafficking, local NGOs or the IOM mission in country of return would support the reintegration process.

6.4.27 Country Profile – Slovenia

Section I: Overview of Reintegration Assistance Policy in the National Context

Reintegration Measures	
Legal Basis	No specific legislation addresses reintegration assistance. Only voluntary return is addressed as part of the 1999 Aliens Act. ⁶⁶⁸

Section II: Providers and Recipients of the Reintegration Assistance

Reintegration programmes/projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
AVR	Ministry of the Interior, Police	IOM	2009–2012	Third country nationals with an order to leave	21 (ongoing project)

Section III: Types of Reintegration Assistance Provided

	AVR
Information Dissemination/Counselling	Pre-departure
Legal Assistance	No
Cash Incentives	Pre-departure
Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing, driving)	No
Financial Support for University/College Course	Post-arrival
Support for Setting up a Small Business (provide stock, equipment, tools)	Post-arrival
Travel Assistance/Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination	No
Temporary Accommodation	No
Medical Assistance	No
Other (please describe)	No

Section IV: Interlinking Reintegration Assistance

	AVR
Programme Includes both Pre-departure and Post Arrival Measures?	Yes
Measures Tailored Around the Needs of Returnees	Yes
Cooperation Takes Place Between Sending/Return Countries	No
The status of Returnees is Monitored/Evaluated	Yes ⁶⁶⁹
Programme takes into Consideration Development Policies in the Country of Return	No

⁶⁶⁸ Aliens Act of 1999 amended in 2002 Article 50, paragraph 2.

⁶⁶⁹ The evaluation is done through IOM.

6.4.28 Country Profile – Spain

Section I: Overview of Reintegration Assistance Policy in the National Context

	Reintegration Measures
Legal Basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2008 Royal Legislative Decree⁶⁷⁰ on accumulated or advanced payment of unemployment benefit for non-EU foreign workers who return voluntarily to their countries of origin. The Alien Law governed reintegration activities until 2011.⁶⁷¹ The 2011 Royal decree,⁶⁷² approving the Organic Law Regulation 4 / 2000 on the rights and freedoms of foreigners in Spain and their social integration, after the amendments made by Act 2 / 2009.

Section II: Providers and Recipients of the Reintegration Assistance

Reintegration programmes/projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
Plan for Voluntary Return: Accumulated Unemployment Benefit	Government public administration	IOM, NGOs	Since 2008	Unemployed legally staying third country nationals ⁶⁷³	13.111 (2009-30 April 2011) and 6.556 families
AVRR	Government public administration	IOM, NGOs	Since 2003	Legally or illegally staying third country nationals ⁶⁷⁴	134 (2010- April 2011)
Humanitarian Programme for Immigrants in a Vulnerable Situation	Government public administration	IOM, NGOs	Since 2003	Legally or illegally staying third country nationals ⁶⁷⁵	6.975 (2009-April 2011)

⁶⁷⁰ Royal Legislative Decree 4 / 2008 of 19 September.

⁶⁷¹ Organic Law 4/2000 of January 2000 on the rights and freedoms of foreign nationals in Spain and their social integration (last amended in 2003).

⁶⁷² Royal Decree 557/2011 of 20 of April 2011.

⁶⁷³ They have to be from one of the 20 countries that have bilateral agreements with Spain in Social Security matters (Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, United States, Russia, Philippines, Morocco, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela); be registered as unemployed and be in a situation of legal unemployment; have a right to unemployment benefits; agree not to return to Spain within 3 years for residence or work purpose and agree to leave within 30 days.

⁶⁷⁴ They need to be eligible for one of the voluntary return programmes; to be registered (but not necessary be in a legal situation); to have resided more than 6 months in Spain; to agree not to return to Spain within 3 years for residence or work purpose.

⁶⁷⁵ Need to be registered (but not necessary be in a legal situation); be in a situation of vulnerability; to have resided more than 6 months in Spain; to agree not to return to Spain within 3 years for residence or work purpose. The programme has 3 regional components: PREVIE (for migrants residing anywhere in Spain), PREVICAT (migrants residing in Catalonia), PREVICAV (migrants residing in the Autonomous Community of Madrid).

Section III: Types of Reintegration Assistance Provided

	Plan for Voluntary return: Accumulated Unemployment Benefit	Assisted voluntary return and reintegration	Humanitarian Programme for Immigrants in a Vulnerable Situation
Information Dissemination/Counselling	Pre-departure	Pre-departure and post-arrival ⁶⁷⁶	Pre-departure ⁶⁷⁷
Legal Assistance	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cash Incentives	Pre-departure and short-term post arrival ⁶⁷⁸	Yes ⁶⁷⁹	Yes ⁶⁸⁰
Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing, driving)	No	Pre-departure and post-arrival	No
Financial Support for University/College Course	No		No
Support for Setting up a Small Business (provide stock, equipment, tools)	No	Pre-departure and post-arrival ⁶⁸¹	No
Travel Assistance/Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination	Yes ⁶⁸²	Yes ⁶⁸³	Yes ⁶⁸⁴
Temporary Accommodation		Pre departure	Pre departure
Medical Assistance	Yes ⁶⁸⁵	Yes ⁶⁸⁶	Yes ⁶⁸⁷
Other (please describe)			

⁶⁷⁶ Information on formalities related to the return and other assistance; psychological counselling; guidance and training for setting up a business; training on the legal and employment frameworks in the country of return; post-return counselling.

⁶⁷⁷ Information on formalities related to the return and other assistance; definition of an integration route in collaboration with the returnee.

⁶⁷⁸ Payment in advance of unemployment benefits (40% in Spain, 60% after return).

⁶⁷⁹ € 400 of reintegration support per person, up to €1600 per family.

⁶⁸⁰ €400 of reintegration support per person, up to €1600 per family.

⁶⁸¹ Financial help of €1500 up to a max of € 5000 to start the project.

⁶⁸² Upon request.

⁶⁸³ Upon request.

⁶⁸⁴ Upon request.

⁶⁸⁵ If necessary.

⁶⁸⁶ If necessary.

⁶⁸⁷ If necessary.

Section IV: Interlinking Reintegration Assistance

	Plan for Voluntary return: Accumulated Unemployment Benefit	Assisted voluntary return and reintegration	Humanitarian Programme for Immigrants in a Vulnerable Situation
Programme Includes both Pre-departure and Post Arrival Measures?	Yes	Yes	No ⁶⁸⁸
Measures Tailored Around the Needs of Returnees	No	Yes	Yes
Cooperation Takes Place Between Sending/Return Countries	No	Yes ⁶⁸⁹	No
The status of Returnees is Monitored/Evaluated	No	Yes ⁶⁹⁰	In some cases ⁶⁹¹
Programme takes into Consideration Development Policies in the Country of Return	No	Yes	No

⁶⁸⁸ Only pre-departure.

⁶⁸⁹ Between reintegration partners.

⁶⁹⁰ For 6 months to 2 years depending on the implementer (IOM/ NGOs).

⁶⁹¹ Depending on the implementing NGO.

6.4.29 Country Profile – Sweden

Section I: Overview of Reintegration Assistance Policy in the National Context

	Reintegration Measures
Legal Basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisted Return is regulated by the Aliens Act (SFS 2005:716). Re-establishment grants can be given on the basis of the Ordinance on Re-establishment Support for Certain Aliens, Statute 2007: 640. Fundamental statutes related to enforcement of return/removal decisions are found in chapter 12 of the Aliens Act and in Government Bill 1997/98:173.

Section II: Providers and Recipients of the Reintegration Assistance⁶⁹²

Reintegration programmes/projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes /projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
ARR Somalia	Government Authority	Various ⁶⁹³	2004 - 2005 ⁶⁹⁴	Rejected Somali asylum seekers	
Returning Afghans	Government authority	IOM	2009 - 2001	Afghan nationals ⁶⁹⁵	Approx. 70
RSS	Government Authority and IOM	Swedish Migration Board	2007 - 2011	Third country nationals ⁶⁹⁶	1,428 ⁶⁹⁷
IRAQ project	Government Authority	IOM	2010	Asylum seekers	Approx. 400
Serbia Project I, II	Government Authority	Groupa 484 and Praxis	2009 - 2010	Roma ethnicity (I) and all returnees (II) to Serbia	Approx. 620

⁶⁹² In addition to these projects the Swedish Red Cross (SRC) is currently implementing Third Level Reintegration Assistance open to rejected asylum seekers from Iraq, Serbia and Kosovo, as well as Second Level Reintegration Assistance open to rejected asylum seekers from Afghanistan, Armenia, Macedonia, Russia, Syria and Lebanon.

⁶⁹³ Swedish Migration Board; Somali Diaspora associations in Sweden; Non-governmental organisations working with Somali migrants; Partner organisations in Kenya and Somalia.

⁶⁹⁴ <http://iom.fi/content/view/28/8>

⁶⁹⁵ Irregular migrants or asylum seekers.

⁶⁹⁶ To Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Gaza Strip, Africa, Yemen, Kosovo, Russian Federation Republics of Dagestan, Ingushetia and Chechnya.

⁶⁹⁷ In 2010.

Section III: Types of Reintegration Assistance Provided

	ARR Somalia	Returning Afghans	RSS	IRAQ project	Serbia Project I, II
Information Dissemination/Counselling		Pre-departure and post- arrival		Pre- departure	Pre- departure and post- arrival
Legal Assistance					Post-arrival
Cash Incentives			Provided ⁶⁹⁸		
Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing, driving)	Provided	Post-arrival		Post-arrival	
Financial Support for University/College Course					
Support for Setting up a Small Business (provide stock, equipment, tools)	Provided	Post-arrival		Post-arrival	
Travel Assistance/Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination		Yes			
Temporary Accommodation		Yes			
Medical Assistance		Yes			
Other (please describe)					

Section IV: Interlinking Reintegration Assistance

	ARR Somalia	Returning Afghans	RSS	IRAQ project	Serbia (Projects I, II)
Programme Includes both Pre-departure and Post Arrival Measures?		Yes		Yes	Yes
Measures Tailored Around the Needs of Returnees					
Cooperation Takes Place Between Sending/Return Countries		No	No	No	No
The status of Returnees is Monitored/Evaluated		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Programme takes into Consideration Development Policies in the Country of Return		No		No ⁶⁹⁹	No ⁷⁰⁰

⁶⁹⁸ Grants: SEK 30,000 per adult, SEK 15,000 per minor, SEK 75,000 per family.

⁶⁹⁹ Future projects will.

⁷⁰⁰ Future projects will.

6.4.30 Country Profile – Switzerland

Section I: Overview of Reintegration Assistance Policy in the National Context

Reintegration Measures	
Legal Basis	Return Assistance is governed by the Asylum Act, ⁷⁰¹ Asylum order 2 ⁷⁰² and the Swiss Alien Act art. ⁷⁰³

Section II: Providers and Recipients of the Reintegration Assistance

Reintegration programmes/ projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved ⁷⁰⁴	Time line of the programmes/ projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries ⁷⁰⁵
Individual Return Assistance	Federal Office for Migration (FOM), IOM	Various	Since 1997 ⁷⁰⁶	All asylum seekers and recognised refugees ⁷⁰⁷	1,000 per year
Iraq Programme	FOM, IOM	Various	2003 - 2012	Iraqi asylum seekers and recognised refugees	125 per year
Nigeria Programme	FOM, IOM	Various	2005 - 2011	Nigerian asylum seekers and recognised refugees	126 per year
Georgia Programme	FOM, IOM	Various	2006 - 2011	Georgian asylum seekers and recognised refugees	50 per year
Guinea-Conakry Programme	FOM, IOM	Various	2009 - 2011	Guinean asylum seekers and recognised refugees	16 per year

⁷⁰¹ Article 93.

⁷⁰² Articles 62-78.

⁷⁰³ Article 60.

⁷⁰⁴ Includes other NGO's, International Organizations, Federal/ Cantonal Authorities, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Return Counselling Service and La Fondation Suisse du SSI (FSSSI), source: <http://www.bfm.admin.ch/content/dam/data/bfm/broschuere-bfm-e.pdf> and Case Study interviews conducted as part of this study.

⁷⁰⁵ Numbers represent the value between 2008 – 2010, except in Nigeria (2005-2010) and Guinea-Conakry (2009-2010) programmes

⁷⁰⁶ Source: Switzerland Case Study Interview Notes

⁷⁰⁷ Except those eligible for country specific programmes

Section III: Types of Reintegration Assistance Provided

	Individual Return Assistance	Georgia Programme	Iraq Programme	Nigeria Programme	Guinea-Conakry Programme
Information Dissemination/ Counselling	Pre-departure and post-arrival				
Legal Assistance ⁷⁰⁸	No	No	No	No	No
Cash Incentives	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure
Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing, driving)	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival
Financial Support for University/College Course	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival
Support for Setting up a Small Business (provide stock, equipment, tools) ⁷⁰⁹	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival
Travel Assistance/Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival
Temporary Accommodation	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival
Medical Assistance	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival
Other (please describe)					

Section IV: Interlinking Reintegration Assistance

	Individual Return Assistance	Georgia Programme	Iraq Programme	Nigeria Programme	Guinea-Conakry Programme
Programme Includes both Pre-departure and Post Arrival Measures?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Measures Tailored Around the Needs of Returnees	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cooperation Takes Place Between Sending/Return Countries	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

⁷⁰⁸ Legal assistance is granted during the asylum procedure but not as part of the return assistance.

⁷⁰⁹ Participants can choose only one between financial support for training course or financial support for schooling or financial support for setting up businesses. The support is not complementary. The amounts are fixed. Business plan is formulated in Switzerland and then implementation in the country of return.

	Individual Return Assistance	Georgia Programme	Iraq Programme	Nigeria Programme	Guinea-Conakry Programme
The status of Returnees is Monitored/Evaluated	Yes ⁷¹⁰	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Programme takes into Consideration Development Policies in the Country of Return ⁷¹¹		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

⁷¹⁰ Cases monitored on demand.

⁷¹¹ Structural Aid

6.4.31 Country Profile – United Kingdom

Section I: Overview of Reintegration Assistance Policy in the National Context

Reintegration Measures	
Legal Basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The legal basis for voluntary return (or voluntary departure) is Section 58 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002. Section 59 of the Act further permits the Secretary of State to participate in international projects, including those aimed at assisting or ensuring the return of migrants.

Section II: Providers and Recipients of the Reintegration Assistance

Reintegration programmes/ projects implemented	Programme Leader(s)	Other Partners Involved	Time line of the programmes/ projects	Eligibility	Estimated Beneficiaries
VARRP	UKBA	IOM; Refugee Action ⁷¹²	Since 1999	(Rejected) asylum seekers ⁷¹³	4,000 (2007-2009) ⁷¹⁴
AVRFC	UKBA	IOM; Refugee Action	Since 2010 ⁷¹⁵	Non-EEA families and children (under 18) ⁷¹⁶	193 (Apr-Jun 2010)
FRS	UKBA	IOM	Piloted in 2006	Non-EEA foreign national who have served a custodial sentence	7,000+ (Sept 06 – Nov 11) ⁷¹⁷
AVRIM	UKBA	IOM; Refugee Action	Started in 2004 ⁷¹⁸	Irregular migrants ⁷¹⁹	

Section III: Types of Reintegration Assistance Provided

	VARRP	AVRFC	FRS	AVRIM
Information	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure	Pre-departure and

⁷¹² IOM was the service provider for Return and Reintegration Assistance between 1999 and March 2011. Refugee Action is the new contractor since April 2011.

⁷¹³ The VARRP is open to asylum seekers of any nationality, whose asylum claim is under one of the following criteria: waiting for a decision from Border and Immigration Agency, refused by the Border and Immigration Agency, appealing against the asylum decision and those given ELR (Exceptional Leave to Remain).

⁷¹⁴ IOM. 2009. IOM UK's Reintegration Assistance to Returnees under VARRP's New Approach (2007-2009)

⁷¹⁵ Source: Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

⁷¹⁶ Those who want to return permanently to their countries of origin, whether they have ever claimed asylum or have not.

⁷¹⁷ Source: Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

⁷¹⁸ Source: Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

⁷¹⁹ This includes people who might have been smuggled or trafficked into the UK or who have overstayed their visas.

	VARRP	AVRFC	FRS	AVRIM
Dissemination/Counselling	and post-arrival	and post-arrival	and post-arrival	post-arrival
Legal Assistance ⁷²⁰	No	No	No	No
Cash Incentives	Relocation cash grant paid on departure	Relocation cash grant paid on departure	Post-arrival	No
Financial Support for Vocational Training Courses (e.g. computing, hairdressing, driving) ⁷²¹	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival*
Financial Support for University/College Course ⁷²²	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival ⁷²³	Post-arrival*
Support for Setting up a Small Business (provide stock, equipment, tools) ⁷²⁴	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival ⁷²⁵	Post-arrival*
Travel Assistance/Secondary Transportation in Country of Return to Final Destination ⁷²⁶	Pre-departure and post-arrival	Pre-departure and post-arrival	Financial support given can be used to assist with cost of travel.	Pre-departure and post-arrival*
Temporary Accommodation ⁷²⁷	Post-arrival	Post-arrival	Post-arrival ⁷²⁸	Post-arrival*
Medical Assistance ⁷²⁹	During travel* and post-arrival	During travel* and post-arrival	Financial support given can be used to pay for medical costs.	During travel and post-arrival*
Other (please describe)	Post-arrival child care assistance. Post arrival assistance to pay for equipment, tools, travel etc for apprenticeships/j	Post-arrival child care assistance. Post arrival assistance to pay for equipment, tools, travel etc for apprenticeships/j	Finance given can be used by the FNP to purchase items to aid their reintegration. The IOM are	Post-arrival child care assistance. Post arrival assistance to pay for equipment, tools, travel etc for apprenticeships/job placements*

⁷²⁰ While according to Article 13 of the Return Directive TCNs shall have the possibility to obtain legal advice, the UK opted out of the Directive.

⁷²¹ Generally this assistance has been used to help pay for fees, equipment and books.

⁷²² Generally this assistance has been used to help to pay school fees for children at government and state schools and to help pay for uniforms, equipment and books. Likewise, adults can be given financial assistance for education at colleges and universities.

⁷²³ Specifically to pay for education

⁷²⁴ Generally this assistance has been used to help pay for stock, equipment, tools, rent etc. Furthermore while this assistance is provided post-arrival, some information related to business and planning can be provided pre-departure.

⁷²⁵ For this Programme Financial support can be used to set up a business or buy into an existing business.

⁷²⁶ Pre-departure travel to interviews/departure airport etc; international flight; post-arrival: onward domestic travel to final destination in Country of Return

⁷²⁷ Generally this assistance has been used to help for rent, rebuilding or extension.

⁷²⁸ Financial support given under this programme can be used to assist with cost of accommodation.

⁷²⁹ Generally this assistance has been used to help pay for medicines, medical equipment etc.

	VARRP	AVRFC	FRS	AVRIM
	job placements	job placements	able to provide advice and support.	

* Only for specified vulnerable cases

Section IV: Interlinking Reintegration Assistance

	VARRP	AVRFC	FRS	AVRIM
Programme Includes both Pre-departure and Post Arrival Measures?	Yes	Yes	Yes ⁷³⁰	Yes*
Measures Tailored Around the Needs of Returnees ⁷³¹	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes*
Cooperation Takes Place Between Sending/Return Countries ⁷³²	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes*
The status of Returnees is Monitored/Evaluated	Yes ⁷³³	Yes	Yes	Yes*
Programme takes into Consideration Development Policies in the Country of Return	No	No	No	No

* Only for specified vulnerable cases

⁷³⁰ Post arrival only since 1 July 2010. Source: Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

⁷³¹ IOM offices in Countries of Return help provide more detailed information on conditions in the country of return and provide counselling to returnees who were not sure which reintegration activity would best suit their needs.

⁷³² IOM collaborated with local authorities and NGOs in Countries of Return

⁷³³ Returnees that are assisted through training initiatives are evaluated at the end of their training to see whether (a) the training was adequate, (b) whether further training is needed and (c) whether the training helped them acquire a job.

6.5 Case Studies

6.5.1 Case Studies: European Countries

6.5.1.1 Belgium

Introduction and Background

This case study has been compiled using desk research, the country profile questionnaire as well as interviews with the main actors responsible for and actively involved in reintegration activities in Belgium. The actors involved are IOM⁷³⁴, Fedasil⁷³⁵, Caritas⁷³⁶ and a network of Belgian social organisations that collaborate with IOM.

Reintegration Assistance in Practice

The **legal basis** for assisted voluntary return can be found in the law governing the Public Centre for Social Assistance (CPAS)⁷³⁷. Paragraph 2.2 states that persons who have asked for return assistance to IOM are entitled to receive benefits from CPAS. Article 7(4) of the law of 12 January 1997 on the reception of asylum seekers fixes deadlines for assistance. It also indicates that the Belgian agency, Fedasil, is in charge of ensuring access to the AVR programme. On 5 November 2009, the Secretary of State for migration and asylum policy presented his General Note to the Federal Parliament, making assisted voluntary return a priority for the government.

There are currently three reintegration programmes in Belgium: **REAB** (Return and Emigration of Asylum Seekers), the **Reintegration Programme** offering **complementary assistance** of €700 per person (henceforth 'RP'), and **Additional Reintegration Support** via the **Return Fund** (hereafter 'ARS') of €1500 per person that aims to support the set-up of micro-businesses. REAB has been running since 1984 and is essentially a logistics AVR programme without much focus on reintegration. RP and ARS are more recent and offer assistance based on the assessed needs of each individual. The table below provides an overview of these three programmes.

Table 17: Overview of Reintegration Assistance in Belgium

	REAB	RP	ARS
Launched in	1984	2006	2010
Eligibility	(Rejected) asylum seekers, irregular migrants	(Rejected) asylum seekers, irregular migrants*	(Rejected) asylum seekers, irregular migrants*

* €1500 assistance given to those who have not requested asylum and have been living in Belgium for the past 12 months.⁷³⁸

⁷³⁴ Interview with IOM, Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR), 05/09/2011.

⁷³⁵ Interview with Fedasil, 06/09/2011.

⁷³⁶ Interview with Caritas Belgium, 07/09/2011.

⁷³⁷ Loi organique sur les centres publics pour l'aide sociale CPAS, of 8 July 1976, article 57(2).

⁷³⁸ Interview with Caritas Belgium, 07/09/2011.

Providers and Beneficiaries

Fedasil is the federal government agency that manages the funding and coordination of all three programmes. IOM is the organisation in charge of the implementation of all programmes. REAB is implemented in partnership with 30 local social organisations, whereas RP and ARS are implemented in partnership with Caritas. There is a network of 61 REAB partners that includes NGOs, local authorities (some cities and communes), governmental structures for reception of asylum seekers (Fedasil) and Red Cross reception centres.

IOM and partners use various IOM manuals for return and reintegration practices.⁷³⁹ Two Belgian NGOs that are part of the network, CIRE and Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen, have also prepared a global manual on Voluntary Return (December 2010) of asylum seekers.

In Belgium, AVR and reintegration are considered to be an instrument of social support rather than an instrument of migration management. This essentially means that the purpose of reintegration policy is to help persons obliged to return through social support and assistance in order to make the experience as easy and humane as possible. It is not about encouraging people to leave the country, and this was a shared feeling by all three interviewees. AVR and reintegration policy do not seek to increase the number of return by offering incentives, they aim to help and this is also why they invest in monitoring.⁷⁴⁰

Vulnerable groups, such as victims of human trafficking, pregnant women, single parents (father or mother returning alone with their child/children), elderly persons (from 50 years on), minors, unaccompanied minors, and migrants with health problems receive specialised assistance for the return and reintegration.

Roughly, **3,000** persons benefit every year from the REAB, **1,000** from the RP and **400** from the ARS. Out of the 2,957 that returned voluntarily in 2010, **961** persons (or 1 in 3) benefited from complementary reintegration assistance under the RP and/or ARS.⁷⁴¹ The main nationalities in 2010 were Brazil, Ukraine, Kosovo, Macedonia and Russia.

The REAB budget is €5,000,000 per year and this is funded entirely by national funds. The RP programme has a budget of €1,000,000 per year and is also funded entirely by national funds, while the ARS has a budget of 80,000 and is covered by the Return Fund and Fedasil (co-funding of 50%).

⁷³⁹ IOM, (2010), 'Practical Guide on Information Provision regarding Return and Reintegration in Countries of Origin'; IOM and Fedasil, (2010), 'Review of procedures on handling Assisted Voluntary Returns of Medical Cases from Selected European Union Member States; best practices and recommendations'; IOM (2007), 'Guidelines on Return and Reintegration of Vulnerable Cases, with specific emphasis on medical cases'; IOM Brussels (2008), 'Guidelines on escorts accompanying vulnerable cases benefiting from the REAB programme'.

⁷⁴⁰ Interview with Fedasil, 06/09/2011.

⁷⁴¹ Of these 961 people, 659 were supported through the IOM and 302 through Caritas. Fedasil, Retour volontaire depuis la Belgique, Aperçu Annuelle 2010, http://www.voluntaryreturn.be/bijlagen/cijfers/annexe4_retour_apercu_annuel_2010.pdf.

IOM has 6 staff members in Brussels working on return and reintegration. Fedasil has 3 staff members in the return and reintegration team and a network of return counsellors present in the reception centres. In addition, social workers are trained to become the interface between the persons wishing to return and the services offered to support the return and reintegration process.

Types of Reintegration Assistance

AVR is an important component of social policy towards asylum seekers and other categories of migrants. Information on voluntary return and reintegration assistance is provided during the asylum procedure, individually by case workers as well as through leaflets and other media. Since 2006, Fedasil has invested substantially in the creation of a network of professionals for counselling and referral, since the social workers who are in daily contact with asylum seekers and irregular migrants have a key role to play; introducing the AVR topic to the people and providing **accurate information** and **reassurance**.

Reintegration assistance is defined on the basis of an assessment of the person's individual needs assessment (see below on tailoring).

All three programmes provide information during the pre-departure and post-arrival phases. Travel assistance is provided by the REAB not only for the travel to the country of origin, but also in the country of origin until the final destination. If need be, the REAB also provides medical escort. Referral to legal counselling and family tracing can be provided under the RP Programme. The ARS also provides professional counselling **before departure**. Assistance for vocational training courses such as for example computing, hairdressing, plumbing is provided prior to departure under the RP programme.

Upon arrival, Fedasil foresees €700 for each person under the RP Programme. This amount can be used to cover expenses upon arrival or the set-up of a business, or any other expenses. Additionally, €1,500 is available to persons with a plan to set up a business (under the ARS) after consultation and preparation of a business idea. This can also be professional equipment and tools. Both types of assistance are provided in-kind, through direct payments to reintegration partners (local IOM missions/Caritas partners) *after* the returnee has arrived in the country of origin.⁷⁴²

The amount for minors has now also increased to €700 per minor, plus €700 for each of the parents (who are usually in the country of origin) to enhance support for the whole family. The ARS offers business counselling through local partner organisations in the country of origin to accompany the business set up. It also provides job search assistance, for example information and fees for employment agencies that provide such information.

Assistance is also provided for costs relating to accommodation and rent (RP programme). As far as medical costs are concerned, the RP provides referral to healthcare and psychological

⁷⁴² Interview with Fedasil, Return and Reintegration team, 06/09/2011.

counselling, direct medical assistance and access to medicine. The ARS reimburses all medical costs up to 6 months post arrival. The RP provides social assistance upon arrival. Financial assistance is also provided to cover education fees for children under the RP programme.

Interlinking Reintegration Practices

Providing Reintegration Assistance both Pre-Departure and Post-Arrival

Certain types of assistance are provided after arrival (see above) by IOM and Caritas local offices and partners in the countries of origin. Beneficiaries usually tend to ask for more assistance but unfortunately capacities and resources are limited.

Tailoring of Reintegration Measures

Reintegration assistance is defined on the basis of an assessment of the person's individual needs and a **tailoring of the assistance available to meet these needs**. A first needs assessment takes place when the person expresses the wish to return. A reintegration project is drawn for the returnee (and their family), encompassing social, employment, housing, material and psychological aspects. This is then compared to information provided by the partners in the country of return, for example on the current conditions for return, the employment opportunities available in certain sectors, the living conditions and accommodation in the specific region/villages, the existence of a school for the children of a returnee etc. Previous experience of returnees in the same country/region also serves as contextual information, yet each case is treated individually. The assessment is based on the person's past experience and current experience in the host country, the availability of support by the family etc. The reintegration project is revisited after arrival and it may happen that it is no more relevant for this person.

Under the ARS programme, Caritas Belgium is running a project entitled **STAVR (Strengthening Tailor Made Assisted voluntary return)**, in which counselling is strongly tailored around vulnerable returnees. This category, receives special attention through social assistance or through referral within a local social network. The vulnerability criteria include: people with medical problems, pregnant women, unaccompanied minors and victims of human trafficking.⁷⁴³

At the same time, all stakeholders agree that reintegration assistance also needs to be **tailored to the country of return**. So far reintegration policy in the countries of return has not been particularly linked to Belgian development policy. It appears that the countries of origin are not necessarily priority countries for Belgian foreign relations and development cooperation. Few efforts have been made recently to create a closer link, so that development cooperation takes into account the return factor in certain countries and regions, and sustainable living and working conditions are created both for returnees and the local communities to prevent tensions and inequalities. An interdepartmental discussion has started in the Belgian administration. However, development cooperation actors often do not include returnees in the target

⁷⁴³ <http://www.reintegrationcaritas.be/en/programs/stavr.html>

population.⁷⁴⁴ IOM has been pursuing this link through projects. For example, a project of return of 10 unaccompanied minors in Congo DRC has also included assistance for 70 street children in Kinshasa, with shelter, psychological support and other activities for both groups.⁷⁴⁵

Collaboration between actors in the Member State and in the Country of Return

The REAB includes logistics cooperation with IOM staff in the countries of return for the provision of assistance at the airport and trip to the final destination. In the RP and ARS, reintegration partners in Belgium (IOM, Caritas) also collaborate with local reintegration partners. There is a reintegration working group at Caritas that brings together staff from Belgium and the country of return. Caritas also has networks with implementing partners at local level. These partners are in charge of counselling and assistance for the returnees once back to their country. They ensure follow up and provide further information for reintegration support. Under the ARS, they also monitor the development of the migrant's reintegration project. Local partners also come to Belgium once a year to obtain a personal impression of the situation in the host country.

Both RP and ARS programmes could benefit from a better preparation of the reintegration support by the counsellors in the host country.⁷⁴⁶

Monitoring the Progress/Success of Reintegration Measures

The RP and ARS monitor returnees for 12 months after arrival. A first monitoring and follow up interview takes place one month post-arrival, a second interview at 6 months and a third interview one year post-arrival. The monitoring interviews and meetings are conducted by the IOM country office and local partners. The returnee is expected to attend these (a commitment on his/her part stated already in the 'contract' signed for the return and reintegration support). However, it was noted that this monitoring in reality only takes place with some but not all returnees.

At the same time, IOM, together with Fedasil and unaccompanied children's guardians (if applicable), organise four to six monitoring missions to countries of return every year. These monitoring missions serve various purposes: on the one hand, they aim to monitor the reintegration progress; and on the other hand, they aim to provide capacity building and background knowledge to the staff involved in reintegration in Belgium, (i.e. IOM, Fedasil and guardians) so that they have a first-hand experience of the country of return and its conditions, returnee stories and the mechanism that monitors reintegration.⁷⁴⁷ Indeed, building the capacity of the staff (namely the social assistance providers) in Belgium is crucial, according to Fedasil. Social workers need this first-hand experience and a good understanding of how return and reintegration assistance work, so that they can give an informed and accurate explanation to returnees about what to expect and how the process works.

⁷⁴⁴ Fedasil interview 06/09/2011.

⁷⁴⁵ IOM AVRR Interview 05/09/2011.

⁷⁴⁶ Interview with Fedasil, 06/09/11.

⁷⁴⁷ Interview with IOM AVRR, 05/09/2011.

Reintegration Assistance and Sustainable Return

Benefits

- The REAB's main benefit is that it is a **social policy tool** and everybody who wants to return can do so. Reintegration support has helped many people rebuild their lives back home. In that sense, success is reflected in the extent to which the person is now integrated into the social fabric, financially independent and socially and psychologically content. It is not necessarily of great importance whether the returnee has maintained the initial reintegration plan that was drawn prior to departure or whether this plan has been adapted to his new life in the country of return, as the person and their needs remain the central question in the reintegration approach rather than the plan.
- One benefit of pre-departure measures is that they help get the person into thinking about the forthcoming departure. The emphasis on psychological counselling prior to departure helps migrants **psychologically prepare** to leave.⁷⁴⁸

Challenges

- It has to be noted that there are returnees who do not wish to receive reintegration assistance, as it entails monitoring and follow up in the country of return. In some cases, the experience of staying in the host country has been traumatic, and therefore, the idea of returning home is also felt as a need to turn the page and **avoid having any further relations with actors** involved in the migration experience.⁷⁴⁹
- REAB's main challenge is to provide a **well-informed, accessible and geographically balanced first line of assistance** and an efficient system of referral.⁷⁵⁰
- RP's and ARS' main challenge is **how to coordinate** with many different local partners coming from different backgrounds, cultures and with capacities, and how to ensure a more or less uniform implementation with local partners in over 100 countries.⁷⁵¹
- **Diversity of resource needs** in countries of return. According to IOM, the same amount of money is available for returnees globally, while needs and living costs differ from country to country. However, other stakeholders question how realistic it is to organise different and country-level types of assistance, considering that resources are limited.
- While monitoring takes place, the **evaluation** of reintegration cases is still weak.⁷⁵²

⁷⁴⁸ Interview with Fedasil, 06/09/11.

⁷⁴⁹ Interview with IOM AVRR 05/09/2011.

⁷⁵⁰ Interview with IOM AVRR 05/09/2011.

⁷⁵¹ Interview with IOM AVRR 05/09/2011.

⁷⁵² Interview with Fedasil, 06/09/11.

6.5.1.2 Czech Republic

Introduction and Background

This case study has been compiled using desk research, the country profile questionnaire as well as interviews with the main actors responsible for and actively involved in reintegration activities in the Czech Republic. For the purpose of this study, all four organisations dealing directly with voluntary returns and reintegration in the Czech Republic were interviewed. The actors involved are the Department for Asylum and Migration Policy of the Czech Ministry of the Interior (DAMP)⁷⁵³, IOM (CZ)⁷⁵⁴, Refugee Facilities Administration (RFA)⁷⁵⁵, and the Association of Citizens Assisting Migrants (SOZE)⁷⁵⁶.

Reintegration Assistance in Practice

There is no specific legal act on reintegration policy. This issue is covered by the laws on residence of foreigners on territory of the Czech Republic⁷⁵⁷ and on asylum-seeking procedures⁷⁵⁸. Reintegration projects are implemented based on annual calls for proposals by DAMP, which is financed either by the Czech Development Cooperation Fund or by the European Return Fund. Nevertheless, all interviewed actors agree that consistency should be one of the main features of reintegration policy.

In 2011 there is one project in the Czech Republic targeted at financial incentives for voluntarily returning migrants⁷⁵⁹. This project is a follow up to the previous project implemented by SOZE, which provided financial incentives. Two new reintegration projects are being prepared by IOM for next year. In 2012 the project 'Return Centre' will be implemented under the coordination of IOM, who will coordinate all return and reintegration projects⁷⁶⁰. Other features of a coherent reintegration policy should be flexibility, with an emphasis on quality (not quantity) and the

⁷⁵³ DAMP is the governmental body making decision on Asylum, residence permit or return. Interviewed on 23 August 2011, Prague.

⁷⁵⁴ IOM was service provider for return and reintegration from 2001 to 2010. Interviewed on 23 August 2011, Prague.

⁷⁵⁵ RFA is agency under the Ministry of the Interior dealing with asylum seekers in refugee facilities as well as outside. Interviewed on 23 August 2011, Prague.

⁷⁵⁶ Association of Citizens Assisting Migrants (SOZE) is a non-governmental non-profit organisation and its role consists of providing help to refugees and other kinds of foreigners coming into the Czech Republic. It is a service provider for return and reintegration actions since January 2011 (for more information see www.soze.cz). Interviewed on 24 August 2011, Brno.

⁷⁵⁷ Act no.326/1999 Coll.

⁷⁵⁸ Act no 325/1999 Coll.

⁷⁵⁹ Full project title is 'Financial incentives for Returnees in Moravia and Silesia'.

⁷⁶⁰ The project will be coordinated by IOM and due to legislative obstacles, the implementation will not start earlier than in 2012.

possibility of offering decent living standards, not only to the migrant, but also to the society the returnee is being integrated to.⁷⁶¹

As explained above, the projects are not consistent, therefore it is difficult to find linkages, but in the past years various projects included development components (e.g. Support to the Migration Management in Central Asia, IOM, 2009).

Table 18: Overview of Reintegration Assistance in the Czech Republic

	RP	RP MM	FIRMS	SMMCA ⁷⁶²	SRS GLM ⁷⁶³	SMM M Phase III ⁷⁶⁴
Launched	2009	2009-2010	2011	2009	2009 - 2010	2010
Eligibility	Third country nationals ⁷⁶⁵	Moldavian nationals ⁷⁶⁶	Third country nationals	Governmental experts	Georgian nationals	Moldavian nationals

Providers and Beneficiaries

Assistance is provided by three actors – IOM, RFA and SOZE. Depending on concrete projects, these organisations act either independently or, more likely, in cooperation. Currently (as a consequence of the economic crisis) only SOZE is able to provide reintegration assistance in the form of a limited financial grant. The grant is calculated based on actual needs of the returnee and the price level in the country of return in order to cover his or her needs for approximately one month after the return.

IOM provides support in cases where travel documents are missing. SOZE also built networks of partners in countries of return (mostly IOM offices or field offices of other Czech NGOs) to be able, for the upcoming stage⁷⁶⁷, to offer reintegration incentives in the form of services. All migrants who agreed to voluntary return are eligible for the assistance. In the first semester of

⁷⁶¹ Interview with IOM on 23 August 2011, Prague, but also all other interviewed organisations mentioned one or more of these features.

⁷⁶² The project supported the establishment of a job counselling and referral system, which could serve as a basis for long-term post arrival reintegration in terms of reintegration in the local labour market, start up of business and social services.

⁷⁶³ The project supported the establishment of a job counselling and referral system, which could serve as a basis for long-term post-arrival reintegration in terms of reintegration at the local labour market, start up of business and social services.

⁷⁶⁴ The project supported the establishment of a job counselling and referral system, which could serve as a basis for long-term post-arrival reintegration, in terms of reintegration at the local labour market, start up of business and social services.

⁷⁶⁵ Asylum seekers, unsuccessful asylum seekers, third-country nationals enjoying a form of international protection.

⁷⁶⁶ Asylum seekers, unsuccessful asylum seekers, third country nationals who do not meet or no longer meet conditions for residence permit.

⁷⁶⁷ New project is starting on 1 September 2011 as a follow-up to the previous one, which finished on 30 June 2011.

2011, 8 migrants returned through this project. The budget of the project is €18,000, out of which 75% were covered by the EU Funds.

It is worth mentioning a past capacity building project linked to reintegration targeting Georgia named 'Support to the Reintegration System at the Georgian labour market for Population Vulnerable to Migration and Capacity building for Georgian State Administration'. This project, led by IOM, was supported by the Czech Development Cooperation from 2007 to 2010. One of the main results of these projects was the creation of job counselling centres in Georgia (in 4 regions) to support returnees⁷⁶⁸ in finding a job after their arrival, and also to help locals find jobs, instead of using migration as a solution to their economic situation.

Types of Reintegration Assistance

Currently, only pre-departure assistance is offered, due to a lack of capacity in countries of return. This assistance includes financial incentives for the post-arrival period, vocational training in the Czech Republic, accommodation, interpretation, food, language courses, travel allowance and medicine. It is nevertheless important to mention that due to the speed of the return procedure and/or lack of knowledge of the Czech language and due to the fact that returnees spend only a short period of time in the Czech Republic, no such training has so far been delivered.⁷⁶⁹ Other reintegration assistance provided is equipment for children (e.g. prams), sewing machine or cash allowance.

Interlinking Reintegration Practices

Providing Reintegration Assistance Both Pre-Departure and Post-Arrival

At the moment, there is no follow-up of the reintegration assistance due to lack of resources and capacities in the country of return. All assistance is offered before the return.

Tailoring of Reintegration Measures

The reintegration of individuals is tailored for all returnees and the reintegration grant is offered only based on their needs. This includes vulnerable groups.

Similarly, there are a number of obstacles in addressing the development needs of the countries of return, such as:

- Quite high staff turnover within local authorities, which requires constant trust building exercise;⁷⁷⁰
- Co-funding needed for NGOs from EU Funds, which presents a significant obstacle⁷⁷¹.

⁷⁶⁸ The project covered also non returnees.

⁷⁶⁹ Interview with DAMP (Prague, 23 August 2011) and SOZE (Brno, 24 August 2011).

⁷⁷⁰ Interview with DAMP.

⁷⁷¹ Interview with SOZE.

Collaboration between actors in the Member State and in the Country of Return

Collaboration between actors always depends on many factors, but most importantly upon people. Usually, when collaboration has already started and the standards are set by a Memorandum of Understanding or any other agreement, no major problems arise. On the other hand, in individual cases, even in the framework of one organisation with different field offices, difficulties may occur.

Monitoring the Progress/Success of Reintegration Measures

Up until now, there is no systematic monitoring mechanism in place.

Reintegration Assistance and Sustainable Return

Benefits

- Due to a lack of systematic monitoring, it is difficult to measure the benefits of reintegration assistance.

Challenges

- One of the main difficulties is the inconsistency of reintegration assistance offered. For example, the same post-arrival services cannot be offered in all countries of return and financial grants are not offered constantly, but only for specific periods of time (problem of financing via annual projects)⁷⁷².
- Better cooperation is needed among EU return organisations, as well as knowledge sharing with the partner networks in countries of return. This would also guarantee the same reintegration support to all returnees⁷⁷³.

⁷⁷² Interview with RFA.

⁷⁷³ Interview with SOZE.

6.5.1.3 Denmark

Introduction and Background

This case study has been compiled using desk research, the country profile questionnaire and interviews with the main actors responsible for and actively involved in reintegration activities in Denmark. A number of actors are involved in the provision of Reintegration Assistance in Denmark, namely the Ministry of Refugees, Immigration and Integration Affairs⁷⁷⁴, the Danish Immigration Service⁷⁷⁵, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC),⁷⁷⁶ and the Red Cross.⁷⁷⁷

Reintegration Assistance in Practice

The *legal basis for voluntary return* is provided by the Danish Aliens Act, which was passed in 1983 and regulates the right of foreigners to enter and reside in Denmark. The latest amendment of the Act was passed in 2007 and modified the framework for the provision of voluntary return assistance.

In Denmark, *reintegration policy* is the framework under which the State provides assistance and prepares the return of those who are eligible.⁷⁷⁸ In order to be coherent, reintegration policy needs to comply with certain criteria:

- It should take into account all aspects of human life (*holistic approach*⁷⁷⁹);
- It should coordinate both the pre-departure and the post-arrival phase⁷⁸⁰; and
- It should be tailored both to the individuals and to the country of return.

In addition, in order to be sustainable, reintegration policy needs to look at both the economic and social integration of the person in the country of return.⁷⁸¹ Coherent and sustainable reintegration policy should also be linked to the development goals of specific countries.⁷⁸²

⁷⁷⁴ The Ministry of Refugees, Immigration and Integration is in charge of Return and Reintegration policy. It prepares and initiates laws and it issues ordinances on admission of or refusal of entry of foreigners.

⁷⁷⁵ The Danish Immigration Service is a directorate under the Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs.

⁷⁷⁶ The DRC is a humanitarian, non-governmental, non-profit organisation that offers pre-departure assistance and guidance to all the immigrants that have decided, or are in the process of deciding, to return to their own country.

⁷⁷⁷ An interview was scheduled with IOM, which was however rescheduled by the organisation. The interview has been rescheduled and the related data will be included in the Final Report

⁷⁷⁸ Interview with Danish Refugee Council, Asylum and Repatriation Department, 11 August 2011.

⁷⁷⁹ The *holistic approach* is a principle introduced by the Danish Red Cross, taking into account of its specific tasks, including accommodating asylum seekers and providing health care, psychosocial support, children's care and other pedagogical services.

⁷⁸⁰ Interview with Danish Red Cross, Asylum Department, 11 August 2011.

⁷⁸¹ Interview with Danish Red Cross, Asylum Department, 11 August 2011.

⁷⁸² Interview with Danish Red Cross, Asylum Department, 11 August 2011.

One of the four opt-out clauses from the Maastricht Treaty obtained by Denmark in 1992, concerns justice and home affairs policy. As a consequence, Denmark has not implemented the EU Return Directive and does not participate in the European Return Fund. Consequently, Danish reintegration programmes are not co-funded by the European Return Fund.⁷⁸³ The main sources of funding are instead the Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

There are currently two active programmes which provide reintegration assistance for voluntary returns to specific groups of people, namely unaccompanied minors and victims of trafficking. The Danish government has funded a large number of programmes in the past, but they have now come to a close. Most of those programmes were targeted to specific nationalities and countries, such as Iraq, Kosovo, Vietnam and Bosnia Herzegovina. The interviewees have not been able to explain the reasons for the reduction in the number of active projects, but have mentioned that the success of previous programmes, political grounds and a shift in focus towards specific groups might have played a role.⁷⁸⁴ The table below provides an overview of reintegration assistance in Denmark.

Table 19: Overview of Reintegration Assistance in Denmark

	IRRIM	DRC return assistance programme	Integrated Assisted Voluntary Return Programme	Unaccompanied Minors	Victims of Human Trafficking
Implementation	2007 – 2008	Sept 2006 – Feb 2008	Jan 2005 - Nov 2005	Currently being implemented	Currently being implemented
Eligibility	Voluntary returnees to Iraq	Voluntary Returnees to Kosovo	Voluntary returnees to Iraq	Unaccompanied minors	Victims of Human Trafficking

Providers and Beneficiaries

The system for the provision of reintegration assistance in Denmark is based on centralised policy development run by the Ministry of Refugees, Immigration and Integration Affairs⁷⁸⁵. The **Danish Immigration Service**, a directorate within the Ministry, administers the Danish Aliens Act, handling applications for asylum, family reunification, visas, work permits, etc. It is also engaged in a wide range of other duties relating to the asylum and immigration area, including the task of accommodating asylum seekers.⁷⁸⁶

⁷⁸³ HIT Foundation (2010), Action Research, European cooperation on the sustainable return and reintegration of asylum seekers, Final Report, April 2010.

⁷⁸⁴ Interview with Danish Red Cross, Asylum Department, 11 August 2011

⁷⁸⁵ The Ministry of Refugees, Immigration and Integration is in charge of Return and Reintegration policy. It prepares and initiates laws and issues ordinances on admission of or refusal of entry of foreigners.

⁷⁸⁶ <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/publisher/DIS.html>

The **DRC** provides guidance and counselling to all refugees⁷⁸⁷ and immigrants⁷⁸⁸ that decide to voluntarily return to their country.⁷⁸⁹ Its involvement in reintegration assistance consists primarily of day-to-day counselling work (carried out by its Repatriation Unit), rather than participation in specific programmes. In order to obtain financial support from the Danish government, every person considering returning to their country has to go through counselling sessions with the DRC. While DRC is a private humanitarian organisation, financed through a variety of donors and other resources, the Repatriation Unit within the DRC is financed by the Ministry of Refugees, Immigration and Integration Affairs through a tendering procedure which is renewed every 4 years.⁷⁹⁰

Besides the activities carried out by the Danish Immigration Service and the DRC, Denmark does not have a permanent assisted voluntary return programme; its approach instead focuses on the **implementation of programmes on a country specific and time restricted basis**.⁷⁹¹ Therefore, the actors responsible for the execution can change depending on the programme and specific programmes are allocated to them through public tendering procedures run by the Ministry of Refugees, Immigration and Integration Affairs. The actors involved in the execution of reintegration assistance in Denmark are IOM,⁷⁹² the Danish Red Cross⁷⁹³ and Care4You⁷⁹⁴. The government does not provide guidelines or handbooks for the execution of reintegration assistance in Denmark, as the circumstances and approaches might vary from one project to the other.

The programmes implemented in Denmark usually target people from **specific countries** (e.g. people from Iraq, Kosovo, Bosnia Herzegovina, etc.) or **vulnerable groups** (e.g. unaccompanied groups, victims of trafficking or elderly people). The most recent projects

⁷⁸⁷ Persons who have been granted asylum

⁷⁸⁸ Persons with a valid residence permit due to work, family reunification

⁷⁸⁹ It is important to stress that while the Danish Refugee Council provides assistance to refugees and immigrants, the Red Cross provide necessary assistance to asylum seekers, namely persons without a residence permit, who are forced to return.

⁷⁹⁰ Interview with Danish Refugee Council, Asylum and Repatriation Department, 11 August 2011

⁷⁹¹ HIT Foundation (2010), Action Research, European cooperation on the sustainable return and reintegration of asylum seekers, Final Report, April 2010.

⁷⁹² IOM only recently opened an office in Copenhagen; currently the IOM Copenhagen office employs only one person. Before the setting up of a Danish office, IOM Helsinki was able to provide advice and information on voluntary return, but did not counsel of interview prospective returnees from Denmark through formalised counselling sessions.

⁷⁹³ The Red Cross Asylum Department in Denmark is responsible to ensure that all asylum seekers have a safe, meaningful and dignified stay in Denmark, while waiting for a decision on their case. In addition, the department is also responsible to provide assistance to those people whose application is rejected and who are planning to voluntarily return to their country. In this framework, the Red Cross collaborates with other NGO on the organisation and execution of programmes that target specific groups and specific nationalities.

⁷⁹⁴ One of Care4You focus areas is return, namely support and guidance to refugees and asylum seekers who wish to prepare to return home from either Denmark or the immediate environment. Care4you has collaborated with IOM on a number of programmes.

financed by the government have targeted primarily vulnerable groups, while previous project focused on specific countries.

In 2010, the DRC assisted approximately 4,000 people, 700 of which were new cases.⁷⁹⁵ The number of people that actually decided to return to their own country voluntarily, after having received guidance and counselling from the DRC, has increased substantially: from 138 in 2009, to 370 in 2010 and 387 in the first half of 2011.⁷⁹⁶ This has been partly explained by the substantial increase in cash incentives offered by the government to people that decide to return voluntarily.⁷⁹⁷

Types of Reintegration Assistance

The Danish system for the provision of reintegration assistance focuses primarily on the **pre-departure phase**. Both counselling activities (by the DRC) and specific programmes aim to prepare people before they return to their country, rather than to provide assistance once they have left Denmark.

Reintegration assistance provided by Denmark can be disentangled into two main components:

- a. **guidance/counselling**, provided primarily by the DRC and which also includes organised trips to the return destination to help the person make a decision⁷⁹⁸
- b. **other types of assistance**, which includes in particular.⁷⁹⁹
 - vocational training;
 - counselling on how to start a new business;
 - general preparation (also legal) on the labour market;
 - advice on leaving arrangement (e.g. rent);
 - cash incentives; and
 - medicines, medical equipment and child care assistance.

A **holistic approach** is usually applied when providing pre-departure assistance.⁸⁰⁰ In other words, the NGO and government bodies involved in the counselling and in specific programmes try to make sure that assistance is provided on every aspect of an individual (and his/her family) life, in order to ensure both the economic and social reintegration of the person (and his/her family) in the country of return.

⁷⁹⁵ The number of people assisted through specific programmes varies, depending on the programme and on its attractiveness, as people will have to apply voluntarily. For instance, the Danish Red Cross mentioned the fact that their Iraqi programme was not fully successful because of the limited number of applications received. The situation in Iraq meant that few people were considering voluntary return to the country.

⁷⁹⁶ Interview with Danish Refugee Council, Asylum and Repatriation Department, 11 August 2011.

⁷⁹⁷ From €2,700 to €16,000

⁷⁹⁸ Interview with Danish Refugee Council, Asylum and Repatriation Department, 11 August 2011.

⁷⁹⁹ Interview with Danish Refugee Council, Asylum and Repatriation Department, 11 August 2011 and Interview with Danish Red Cross, Asylum Department, 11 August 2011

⁸⁰⁰ Interview with Danish Red Cross, Asylum Department, 11 August 2011

Interlinking Reintegration Practices

Providing Reintegration Assistance Follow-Up

The decision to focus reintegration assistance on the **pre-departure phase** is explained by the perceived benefits that this form of assistance has proved to provide to returnees.⁸⁰¹ According to stakeholders, limited resources allocated to reintegration assistance can be used more efficiently and effectively if they are focused on the pre-departure rather than the post-arrival phase.⁸⁰² Other stakeholders⁸⁰³ however believe it to be equally important to focus and allocate resources to the reintegration phase. For this reason they would like to explore further funding option to allow for a majority of the funding to be allocated in reintegration activities and capacity building upon return.

Extensive and comprehensive guidance and counselling before people make the decision to return ensure that everyone takes an informed decision, which has proved ultimately **crucial to facilitate their effective reintegration**.⁸⁰⁴ Preparing people to enter the labour market, counselling them on how to start their own business and providing vocational training, before they return, is crucial to ensure their social and economic reintegration in the country. For instance, the Integrated Assisted Voluntary Return Programme applied a 'case-chain management' approach, through which a counsellor in Denmark and a counsellor in the country of return developed a vocational training plan together with the returnee.

According to some stakeholders, there are also **economic and logistic reasons** to focus resources on pre-departure, rather than post-arrival. Post-arrival assistance would have to be provided in at least 24 different countries; this might prove difficult to manage and not affordable, considering the limited resources.⁸⁰⁵

Tailoring of Reintegration Measures

In Denmark, tailoring is addressed both to *the needs of individual returnees* as well as to the *development needs of the country of return*. Both the day-to-day counselling, provided by the DRC, and the specific programmes take into account individual needs and aim to obtain information directly from the individual on their **work experience, education, social needs**, etc.⁸⁰⁶ This information is then usually compiled in an individual reintegration plan that is shared with the returnee before his/her departure.

⁸⁰¹ Interview with Danish Refugee Council, Asylum and Repatriation Department, 11 August 2011.

⁸⁰² Interview with Danish Refugee Council, Asylum and Repatriation Department, 11 August 2011; Interview with Danish Immigration Service, Asylum and Family Reunification Centre, 11 August 2011.

⁸⁰³ Interview with Danish Red Cross, Asylum Department, 11 August 2011

⁸⁰⁴ Interview with Danish Refugee Council, Asylum and Repatriation Department, 11 August 2011.

⁸⁰⁵ Interview with Danish Refugee Council, Asylum and Repatriation Department, 11 August 2011.

⁸⁰⁶ Interview with Danish Immigration Service, Asylum and Family Reunification Centre, 11 August 2011

Specific programmes in particular aim to **target the need of the specific country of return**. For instance, the Integrated Assisted Voluntary Return Programme from Denmark to Iraq took into account both the social and economic needs of the region, in order to ensure that returnees are welcomed.⁸⁰⁷

Targeting reintegration to the specific needs of the country might be difficult primarily because it might be hard to obtain information from the country of origin. This might be related to the fact that some countries generally do not facilitate the return of asylum seekers.⁸⁰⁸ In other cases, targeting might be hindered by the fact that people are not willing to return to countries with the most pressing development needs (e.g. Iraq), because they are not attractive for them.⁸⁰⁹

Collaboration between Actors in the Member State and in the Country of Return

The NGO and government authorities involved in the reintegration assistance system in Denmark agree that contact and collaboration with local authorities in the country of return is crucial to ensure effective and sustainable reintegration. For this reason, despite the fact that Denmark focuses its resources on the pre-departure phase, **significant efforts are made to get in touch with local authorities** in the countries of return. In this sense, the involvement of IOM in the specific programmes is crucial to establish collaboration with local authorities. IOM, through its regional offices in developing countries (e.g. IOM Iraq), is better placed to maintain the contact with local authorities, municipalities, job centres and ministries.

Monitoring the Progress/Success of Reintegration Measures

There is **no monitoring of the progress and success of reintegration measures** by Danish reintegration assistance providers. Some of the programmes have been evaluated *ex-post* and independently by the organisations in charge.⁸¹⁰ According to the Danish approach, the returnee has to voluntarily and spontaneously follow up with the NGOs in Denmark and, in most cases, contacts are lost.⁸¹¹ According to stakeholders, this approach ensures that people take charge of their reintegration once they are back in the country and that they are free to contact authorities back in Denmark, only if they feel the need.

Reintegration Assistance and Sustainable Return

Due to the fact that Danish authorities do not follow up with the recipients of reintegration assistance, it is difficult to evaluate and assess the benefit of the programmes. Nonetheless,

⁸⁰⁷ Interview with Danish Red Cross, Asylum Department, 11 August 2011

⁸⁰⁸ Interview with Danish Refugee Council, Asylum and Repatriation Department, 11 August 2011.

⁸⁰⁹ Interview with Danish Red Cross, Asylum Department, 11 August 2011

⁸¹⁰ For instance, the DRC has carried out an evaluation of its Kosovo programme (DRC (2011), 'Long-term sustainability of return of rejected asylum seekers to Kosovo', April 2011)

⁸¹¹ Interview with Danish Red Cross, Asylum Department, 11 August 2011 and Interview with Danish Refugee Council, Asylum and Repatriation Department, 11 August 2011.

stakeholders have mentioned some of the likely benefits and challenges of the Danish approach.

Benefits

- Providing extensive and comprehensive counselling even before the individual has made a decision to return ensures that the person makes an informed decision and facilitates their effective and sustainable reintegration in the country.⁸¹² Ensuring that the reintegration process begins prior to return makes it much more likely to get a returnee to become active in the reintegration process.
- Some stakeholders think it is important to ensure that the inter-link between pre-departure and post-arrival is made voluntarily by the individual, for instance following up and getting in touch with Danish NGOs. This would ensure that the person takes charge of his/her reintegration, without being constrained to maintain a link with Denmark.

Challenges

- Countries of origin and countries towards which targeted reintegration programmes are directed are often not cooperative and often do not facilitate return and reintegration of single individuals. For this reason, reintegration programmes have to be targeted to the development needs of the countries and they often have to be supported by basic diplomatic tactics.
- The success of the programme often depends on the number of people that decide to participate. In the case of the Integrated Assisted Voluntary Return Programme from Denmark to Iraq, for instance, the organisation and the interlink in the programme seemed to work well, but only a very limited number of people decided to participate.⁸¹³ Thus, its overall success has been limited. Contacting and engaging the people that are targeted via the reintegration programme is often challenging.⁸¹⁴

⁸¹² Interview with Danish Refugee Council, Asylum and Repatriation Department, 11 August 2011.

⁸¹³ Interview with Danish Red Cross, Asylum Department, 11 August 2011

⁸¹⁴ Interview with Danish Refugee Council, Asylum and Repatriation Department, 11 August 2011.

6.5.1.4 France

Introduction and Background

This case study has been compiled using desk research, the country profile questionnaire as well as interviews with the main actors responsible for and actively involved in reintegration activities in France. Interviews were conducted with the Immigration Unit at the Ministry of Interior⁸¹⁵, the French Office of Immigration and Integration (OFII)⁸¹⁶ and three other nongovernmental organisations: the International Organisation of Migration (IOM)⁸¹⁷, Secours Catholique - Caritas⁸¹⁸ and France Terre d'Asile⁸¹⁹. Other organisations⁸²⁰ turned down the invitation to participate either because they do not provide reintegration assistance or because of their unavailability.

Reintegration Assistance in Practice

OFII is the French governmental agency in charge of implementing French immigration policy, in particular regarding voluntary return and reintegration programmes. In 2010, OFII financed 1383 post-arrival reintegration cases⁸²¹, 4016 voluntary return cases and 9761 humanitarian return cases. Reintegration assistance provided by other organisations is marginal and the number of beneficiaries is not monitored.

The reintegration scheme, run by OFII, is laid down by the Agreement Protocol of 23 November 2006 for the implementation of support for economic initiatives for migrants returning to their country of return within the framework of co-development programmes. The Labour Code⁸²² recognises OFII as the service provider of all actions related to the return and reintegration of foreigners in their home country.

Reintegration programmes are defined by the General Secretary of Immigration and Integration, which since 2010 acts under the Ministry of Interior. This unit is responsible for the application of legal provisions as well as for the coordination of application of policies by regional prefects.

Reintegration assistance provided by OFII is delivered under different programmes. Although OFII officially provides only post-arrival reintegration assistance, some measures carried out

⁸¹⁵ Interview with Ministry of Interior – Immigration Unit, 1 August 2011.

⁸¹⁶ Interview with OFII, 1 August 2011.

⁸¹⁷ Interview with IOM, 16 August 2011.

⁸¹⁸ Interview with Secours Catholique – Caritas France, 2 August 2011.

⁸¹⁹ Interview with France Terre d'Asile, 5 August 2011. France Terre d'Asile did not show the willingness to share details about their reintegration measures. From our interview we know that reintegration programmes have existed for 3 years and they can last up to 18 months. Analogous to Caritas, assistance is provided on an individual basis, according to demand.

⁸²⁰ Forum Réfugiés, La Cimade, La Croix Rouge, GISTI, FORIM. Only Forum Réfugiés and La Croix Rouge carry out in-house reintegration programmes.

⁸²¹ One case can include more than one individual.

⁸²² Article L 5223.1 of the Labour Code.

within the scope of return assistance programmes provide support prior to the departure. Given that most of the beneficiaries of reintegration programmes have also participated in voluntary return programmes,⁸²³ activities taking place before the departure will be also discussed. Reintegration activities provided by OFII can be therefore summarised as follows:

- **Pre-departure assistance under the Return Assistance Programmes** – financed by the French Government and the Return Fund; and
- **Post-arrival assistance under the Reintegration Programme** – financed by the French government and OFII.

According to the French Immigration Unit, a coherent reintegration policy endorses three main components:⁸²⁴

1. **Prevention** – taking place before the emigration from the country of return. Relates to the demystification of the positive image of emigration and includes information dissemination concerning the risks associated with irregular migration; and
2. **Safety** – taking place throughout the migration processes and corresponds to the cooperation of police forces between the host country and the country of return; and
3. **Return and Reintegration Assistance** – taking place prior to the return of migrants and embracing a tailored support and project aid for those who wish to return to their countries of return.

In practice, the Ministry recognises having well developed the *safety* component, which is enshrined in international bilateral agreements, while the *return and reintegration* components have been developed only recently through the establishment and expansion of voluntary return and reintegration programmes. The least developed is the *prevention* component, lacking in-depth cooperation between France and the countries of return.

The table below provides an overview of reintegration assistance in France.

Table 20: Overview of Reintegration Assistance in France

	Pre-departure Voluntary Return Programme (OFII)	Post-arrival Reintegration Programme (OFII)	IOM Departure counselling Pas de Calais		Secours Catholique
Implementation ⁸²⁵	1991	1980	2009		2009
Eligibility	Third country	Third country	Asylum		No criteria

⁸²³ In 2007, 90% of reintegration assistance beneficiaries also benefited from the ARV, EMN Report.

⁸²⁴ Interview with Ministry of Interior – Immigration Unit.

⁸²⁵ A reintegration programme was implemented for the first time in the 1980s. It was designed exclusively for construction workers who came to France in the 60s and 70s and who wanted to return after their work was completed. However, the form of the reintegration assistance that is provided today (for regular and irregular migrants regardless of their employment record) dates back to 1998.

	Pre-departure Voluntary Return Programme (OFII)	Post-arrival Reintegration Programme (OFII)	IOM Departure counselling Pas de Calais		Secours Catholique
	nationals	nationals having resided in France for at least 3 months	seekers and irregular migrants		

Providers and Beneficiaries

The geographical scope of reintegration measures is determined by the number and origin of migrants in France and by representations of OFII and local partner organisations in countries of return. In 2010, OFII collaborated with IOM on the provision of reintegration programmes in 13⁸²⁶ out of 30⁸²⁷ countries. In 2011, this agreement was, however, interrupted due to EU objection over the non-compliance with public tendering regulations. For 2012, OFII envisages a call for public tender in order to re-establish local partnership within the extended geographic scope.

The reintegration assistance is provided for different groups of beneficiaries:

- Third country nationals who leave France voluntarily and who benefit from a voluntary assistance programme (AVR) run by the OFII or IOM after a 3 months stay in France;
- Third country regular or irregular nationals who go back to their home country on their own means, after 2 years in France and who seek reintegration support within 6 months after their return⁸²⁸;
- Third country nationals who have stayed in France for at least 18 months under the "young professionals" scheme⁸²⁹; and
- EU nationals mainly from Romania who benefit from voluntary return assistance⁸³⁰

Number of beneficiaries and sources of funding

In 2010, post-arrival reintegration programmes run by OFII received an annual budget of € 6.2 million, but only € 3 million were spent in the same year. The funding is provided by OFII (68%) and the French government (32%). Reintegration assistance programmes do not draw on EU

⁸²⁶ Assistance provided by IOM : Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Djibouti, Ethiopia, India, Iraq, Iran, Kenya, Kosovo, Pakistan, Serbia, Sudan and Sri-Lanka.

⁸²⁷ Assistance provided by OFII: Armenia, Benin, Burkina Faso, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Georgia, Guinea-Conakry, Haiti, Mali, Moldavia, Romania, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia and Ukraine.

⁸²⁸ Interview with OFII, 1st August 2011.

⁸²⁹ Interview with OFII, 1st August 2011.

⁸³⁰ Interviews with OFII, Secour Catholique - Caritas.

Return Fund, which is only used to finance Voluntary and Humanitarian Return Programmes. Other organisations use private sources of funding⁸³¹.

Between 2009 and 2010, the number of beneficiaries of OFII's reintegration measures has more than doubled. This increase is mostly due to the cooperation with IOM which out of the 1383 projects in 2010 implemented 957⁸³². For 2011, OFII estimates having implemented around 500 projects.

Each reintegration project can receive up to €7,000 of financial help. A sum of €2,000 is received before the departure if the beneficiary has participated in the Voluntary Return Programme. If not, the remainder of the amount is distributed over a maximum of 2 years, a period equal to the duration of one project. The rest of the financial aid is provided in-kind by the local partner organisation and is used to cover expenses related to the implementation of the business activity. This enables OFII to keep control over spending and it also ensures that financial resources are used cautiously. The local organisation is reimbursed upon having provided proof of expensed incurred costs.

IOM spends a sum of approximately €2,000 per project. *Secour Catholique – Caritas* estimates having spent around €9,000 per case.

In 2010/2011 OFII estimates that about 70 employees have worked on reintegration and return activities. This number is fixed according to the amount of returns and reintegration projects and includes the staff both in France and abroad.

Types of Reintegration Assistance

OFII generally provides post-arrival assistance, but an exception is made for **Armenian migrants**. As part of a specific agreement between OFII and an Armenian Diaspora support organisation⁸³³ based in France, Armenian returnees can benefit from specific support targeted to their needs while still in France. Other organisations⁸³⁴ provide both pre-departure and post-arrival reintegration assistance.

Reintegration assistance comprises the following components:

- **Financial benefits:** According to the programme, status of the individual and length of stay in France⁸³⁵;

⁸³¹ Interviews with IOM, Secour Catholique – Caritas.

⁸³² OFII (2010) Adoption du rapport sur la mise en oeuvre du programme d'aide au retour et à la réinsertion des étrangers en 2010.

⁸³³ L'Association Arménienne d'Aide Sociale- AAAS.

⁸³⁴ Secours Catholique – Caritas, IOM.

⁸³⁵ The financial benefits provided by OFII amount to €300 per adult and €100 per child for Humanitarian Return; or to €3,500 per married couple, €2,000 per single adult, €1,000 per child under 18 up to the third child and €500 for each supplementary child.

- **Assistance in the preparation of the departure such as**⁸³⁶: obtaining travel documents, closing bank accounts, claiming payment of salary, orientation towards migrant community support organisations, travel arrangements, payment of transport costs (plane) and transport of excess luggage;
- **Individual guidance** during the business project creation⁸³⁷; and
- **Psychological counselling and legal assistance**⁸³⁸ throughout the reintegration process.

Interlinking Reintegration Practices

Providing Reintegration Assistance Both Pre-Departure and Post-Arrival

The extent of pre-departure and post-arrival assistance depends on the programme in which the beneficiary participates. OFII provides pre-departure assistance as part of a voluntary return programme. Post-arrival assistance by OFII is offered by the supporting organisation in the countries of return for a period of one year. The organisation provides guidance during the formation of business plan and undertakes periodical checks once the project has been implemented. Based on the needs of immigrants, OFII can also provide social support in the form of vocational training. This form of aid is, however, not systematic.

IOM provides two types of reintegration assistance outside the cooperation with OFII: (1) pre-departure counselling on return and reintegration for migrants located in the area of Pas de Calais⁸³⁹ and (2) post-arrival assistance by IOM offices in the countries of return.⁸⁴⁰ The re-departure phase can take up to 3 months and post-arrival monitoring lasts 6 months.

Secour Catholique – Caritas currently provides reintegration assistance to 6 Roma families through social, legal and financial support during the construction of housing accommodation in the countries of return, guidance and financial support throughout the development of economic project business plan. This project is expected to end in 2012.

Tailoring of Reintegration Measures

The development of the business plan is carried out according to the beneficiary's individual capacities and the market conditions of local economy⁸⁴¹. Prior to the allocation of funding, the local counterpart in the country of return evaluates the relevance of the project, especially with

⁸³⁶ Interviews with OFII, IOM, *Secour Catholique* – Caritas.

⁸³⁷ OFII, IOM and *Secour Catholique* – Caritas: can include a basic training in accountancy or other vocational education courses.

⁸³⁸ Interviews with *Secours Catholique* – Caritas.

⁸³⁹ In cooperation with the UK Border Agency and financed by EU Return Fund under the UK national envelope.

⁸⁴⁰ Financed by diverse donors – Interview IOM, 1st August 2011

⁸⁴¹ Interviews with OFII, IOM, *Secours Catholique* – Caritas France

regards to individual motivation and project's sustainability. The level of financial support is defined according to the complexity of the project.⁸⁴²

As an important barrier in this process of individual tailoring, OFII points towards a **weak implication of local authorities**. In order for the reintegration to be successful, OFII recognises the importance of not only economic, but also social dimensions. The lack of support of local entities can ultimately hinder successful reintegration of the individual back into the community.

Collaboration between actors in the Member State and in the Country of Return

The pre-departure and post-arrival collaboration is rather weak. With regards to OFII, the reintegration support does not start until the person returns and the contact between local organisation and OFII structures during the post-arrival phase is reduced to the exchange of informative reports. By contrast, the collaboration of *Secour Catholique* – Caritas and IOM with their local counterparts is greater, starting from the pre-departure preparation until the post-arrival follow up and providing local economic, legal and political expertise.

Monitoring the Progress/Success of Reintegration Measures

OFII's and IOM's local organisations monitor the progress up to 12 and 6 months respectively. *Secour Catholique* – Caritas plans to monitor the progress of reintegration measures in the future.⁸⁴³

Reintegration Assistance and Sustainable Return

Benefits

- **Demonstrable benefits** are measurable through the effective support which has led to income and employment generating activities contributing to the development of local structures and thus sustainable returns of migrants and their families who do not regret their decision to return to their home country.⁸⁴⁴

Challenges

- It remains **problematic to find local support organisations** with specific expertise in concerned fields⁸⁴⁵.
- Weak implication of local authorities in countries of return on issues linked to employment, business creation, money transfers, vocational training⁸⁴⁶;

⁸⁴² Interviews with OFII, IOM, *Secours Catholique* – Caritas France

⁸⁴³ Currently, they are only working with returnees in the pre-departure phase.

⁸⁴⁴ Interview with OFII, 1st August 2011.

⁸⁴⁵ Interview with OFII, 1st August 2011.

⁸⁴⁶ Interview with OFII, 1st August 2011.

- IOM sees as the biggest constraints the **limited time for project preparation**⁸⁴⁷ and limited amount of available resources.
- *Secour Catholique* – Caritas further highlights ethnic discrimination and problematic reinsertion of returnees into their local communities, cultural differences of programme beneficiaries concerning the ability of long-term planning and awareness of sustainable results in long rather than short time⁸⁴⁸.
- The negative perception of OFII by French NGOs is a barrier into an efficient management of available financial resources. In 2010 OFII spent only half of the selected budget for reintegration programme.

⁸⁴⁷ Very often the people demanding assistance have the obligation to leave country within a limit of 1 month. This is a constraint for the available time for project preparation.

⁸⁴⁸ *Secours Catholique* – Caritas.

6.5.1.5 Germany

Introduction and Background

This case study is compiled using desk research, the country profile questionnaire as well as interviews with the main actors responsible for and actively involved in reintegration activities in Germany. Due to the decentralised structure of reintegration activities in Germany there are a large number of organisations that are active in this field. For the purpose of this case study, the following organisations were interviewed: ArbeitsGruppe Entwicklung und Fachkräfte (AGEF),⁸⁴⁹ Pro-Asyl,⁸⁵⁰ UNHCR,⁸⁵¹ and Caritas.^{852,853}

Reintegration Assistance in Practice

There is no general regulation for public return assistance (regarding voluntary return) in Germany. Assistance for voluntary return is not explicitly regulated by law, but by annual programmes. These programmes are concluded by the Federal Government and the State Governments. There is however an exception in the Return Assistance Act of 1983 that gives foreign nationals a right to comprehensive return counselling. General conditions and offers for return and reintegration assistance are heterogeneous and vary by financing model, providers, target groups and programme priorities. Programmes in the Federal States are mostly regulated by ordinances, ministerial decrees or administrative directives.

Currently in Germany there are a number of running projects some dating back to 1979:

Table 21: Overview of Reintegration Assistance in Germany

	REAG/GARP	URA II	Heimatgarten	Solwodi	Returning Specialists
Implementation	Since 1979	2009 - 2011	Since 1998	Since 1992 ⁸⁵⁴	Since 1980 ⁸⁵⁵
Eligibility	Third country nationals ⁸⁵⁶	Forced and voluntary	Returnees with a focus on	Female third country	Graduates and

⁸⁴⁹ Interview with AGEF, August 2011.

⁸⁵⁰ Interview with Pro-Asyl, August 2011.

⁸⁵¹ Interview with UNHCR, August 2011.

⁸⁵² Interview with Caritas, August 2011

⁸⁵³ Interviews have been also scheduled with Coming Home, a return and reintegration centre in the city of Munich and Federal Office for Migration and Refugees. Other organisations that were approached but could not participate in interviews included IOM and URA in Kosovo.

⁸⁵⁴ Source: <http://www.solwodi.de/?id=99&L=1>.

⁸⁵⁵ Source: <http://www.cimonline.de/documents/CIM-Flyer-prf-en.pdf>.

⁸⁵⁶ They include asylum-seekers, rejected asylum-seekers and recognized refugees as well as war and civil-war refugees, victims of forced prostitution or trafficking and other foreigners (eligible under § 1 AsylbLG, the German asylum seekers' benefit act).

	REAG/GARP	URA II	Heimatgarten	Solwodi	Returning Specialists
		returnees from Kosovo	vulnerable people ⁸⁵⁷	nationals ⁸⁵⁸	specialists (third country nationals)

Providers and Beneficiaries

The German provider landscape is very decentralised and there is no single reintegration initiative that spans the entire territory of Germany. The only national AVRR programmes are the REAG/GARP program and the ZIRF counselling project. Both are implemented by IOM on behalf of the Federal government and the 16 Federal States.⁸⁵⁹ Local initiatives (e.g. at city level) tend to be supported by the European Return Fund, the Federal and/or Land governments or international organisations (e.g. IOM) and they are usually delivered through local NGOs. Where there are several initiatives in a single Land, these are sometimes linked through formal or informal networks, such as in Bavaria, where several cities have established regular cooperation. As a result of the decentralised nature of reintegration activities in Germany, there is no single set of guidance documents though different organisations have drawn up their own guidance documents. It should be noted that guidance often refers to either activities to be provided in the host country (i.e. Germany) or in the country of return without however establishing a formal link between these activities.

Types of Reintegration Assistance

Due to the fragmented nature of programmes on offer in Germany it is difficult to provide an overall picture of the types of existing assistance. However, most reintegration activities focus on services provided to returnees before departure and this ranges from counselling and information to limited training activities and financial support. For instance, **Caritas Germany** provides pre-return counselling and information about the country of return through a centralised database that includes information about employment, schooling, housing etc.⁸⁶⁰

The IOM Return Counselling and Information Centre at the Aliens' Office in Berlin⁸⁶¹ is another good example of providing a counselling service that addresses many of the needs of returnees, including:⁸⁶²

- individual counselling for potential voluntary returnees to their countries of return or to those considering voluntary return and want to gather detailed information about return programmes
- information concerning migration to a third country;
- up-to-date information on return issues and the situation in their countries of return;

⁸⁵⁷ From the West Balkan states, the CIS, Northern Iraq and Turkey, including the elderly, disabled, traumatised and unaccompanied minors.

⁸⁵⁸ From developing countries and Central/Eastern European Countries.

⁸⁵⁹ Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

⁸⁶⁰ Interview with Caritas, August 2011.

⁸⁶¹ This assistance is made available through its Centre for Returnee Information and Counselling.

⁸⁶² http://www.iom.int/germany/en/projects_avr.htm

- advice and a trustworthy agency to establish contact with IOM's partner organization as well as governmental and nongovernmental institutions and relief organizations on a local level.

The extent to which pre-departure assistance can be provided is limited by the generally relatively short period of time during which such assistance can be provided (i.e. between the decision to return and the actual departure).

The following broadly defined reintegration services are currently being offered in Germany:

- Pre-departure and post arrival counselling and services (job qualification, business start-up support and provision of medical care)⁸⁶³;
- Pre-departure and post arrival financial assistance⁸⁶⁴; and
- Travel allowance⁸⁶⁵.

Interlinking Reintegration Practices

Providing Reintegration Assistance Both Pre-Departure and Post-Arrival

As one interviewee pointed out, most activities focus on assisting migrants while they are in the host country, with less specific focus on return.⁸⁶⁶ However, AGEF is one organisation that focuses specifically on providing assistance to returnees after their arrival in the home country and they consider the linkage between pre- and post-departure activities to be important for successful return. To this end, they have developed a systematic approach for identifying needs and the original reason for migration based on individual case handling.

According to another interviewee, German reintegration activities suffer from a lack of financing, which means that any pre-departure activities are necessarily short in duration and limited in scope. There is only so much training that can be provided over the short period between the decision to return and the actual departure. For these reasons, pre-departure reintegration assistance often focuses on counselling and information about the return country.⁸⁶⁷

Links between activities in the home and host countries reveal to be limited to countries with high numbers of returnees, such as Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan (e.g. the URA 2 return project

⁸⁶³ Heimatgarten.

⁸⁶⁴ REAG/GARP, and URA II.

⁸⁶⁵ REAG/GARP.

⁸⁶⁶ Interview with UNHCR, August 2011. In a follow-up interview, UNHCR pointed out that many organisations focus their activities around refugees, asylum seekers, persons in need of subsidiary protection and also migrants. These persons are considered to come from backgrounds not suitable for return and a major objective of their support lies with the prolongation of their stay. Therefore aspects of return and reintegration are often given less focus.

⁸⁶⁷ Interview with Pro-Asyl, August 2011. In a follow interview, UNHCR underlines that the situation described is not purposely as it is but rather due to necessary priority setting and limited capacities.

to Kosovo).⁸⁶⁸ For instance, the main objective of URA 2 is to ensure that all returnees, independent of their ethnic background, are able to find accommodation, to receive support during the transition period, psychological treatment and general return counselling. Newer objectives like stronger support for children (language training, school bag equipment) are incorporated as well.⁸⁶⁹ These objectives are changing due to the fact that the Government of Kosovo is implementing its own national action plan for reintegration.⁸⁷⁰ While there are links in some programmes between the activities and training provided in Germany and in the home country, this is not very successful in practice, with less than half of returnees staying within their programme for longer than 6 months post-return.⁸⁷¹

The type of assistance provided post-return depends on the capacity of the local partner. Local partners are provided with the results of any assessments and questionnaires administered to the returnee in Germany so that they are informed about their skills and needs. Caritas also has the ability to fund local partners for the services they provide to the amount of €300 per case.⁸⁷²

Tailoring of Reintegration Measures

While several interviewees who are involved in reintegration projects mentioned the need to tailor reintegration activities to personal needs and skills of the returnee, there was a fair amount of scepticism about the extent to which this takes place in practice and the impact that it has on successful reintegration.⁸⁷³ As one interviewee mentioned, the importance of personalised psychological assistance to help forced returnees cope with return and reintegration is often underestimated and very difficult to provide.⁸⁷⁴

However, as AGEF points out, tailoring to individual needs is very important. For instance, only 3% of returnees are likely to have the skills to be self-employed in the home country and they require special assistance if they are to develop their potential and not lose the skills that they may have acquired in the host country.⁸⁷⁵

Tailoring in practice is limited to a basic check of individual capacity and skills but in the vast majority of cases any training provided subsequently is fairly standardised. For instance, as part of the URA2 project, return counselling takes place to assess which kind of assistance returnees need and which kind of assistance should be provided during the first months of the reintegration process.⁸⁷⁶ This is even more so due to the limited time that is generally available for training prior to return (e.g. 3-6 month) which limits the possibility for tailored services. There

⁸⁶⁸ Written submission by FOMR.

⁸⁶⁹ Written submission by FOMR.

⁸⁷⁰ Written submission by FOMR.

⁸⁷¹ Interview with Pro-Asyl, August 2011.

⁸⁷² Interview with Caritas, August 2011.

⁸⁷³ Interviews with Pro-Asyl and UNHCR, August 2011.

⁸⁷⁴ Interview with Pro-Asyl, August 2011.

⁸⁷⁵ Interview with AGEF, August 2011.

⁸⁷⁶ Written submission by FOMR.

are very few programmes that provide services post-return (e.g. AGEF programme) and these have had limited success.⁸⁷⁷

In terms of the needs of the home country itself, linking reintegration with development policy is a great challenge because reintegration initiatives are often fragmented and ad hoc.⁸⁷⁸ Given the decentralised nature of reintegration assistance provided in Germany, different approaches are implemented by different providers. The Munich project Coming Home considers the link between reintegration and development to be very important and they support returnees who create an NGO or become involved in development aid, e.g. an orthopaedic project in Kabul.⁸⁷⁹ However, for other organisations such as UNHCR, tailoring is focussed mostly on the needs of individual returnees rather than development priorities, though UNHCR does carry out community needs assessments as well.⁸⁸⁰

Collaboration between Actors in the Member State and in the Country of Return

In Germany there is little coordination across reintegration projects, except in cases where the activities are run by larger organisations (e.g. Caritas) that have a presence across the German territory or where local initiatives link up within one of the Lander (e.g. in Bavaria). For instance, a meeting of all German Return-Funds projects takes place at least every 2 years and in 2010 this was organised by Munich-based Coming Home and BAMF.⁸⁸¹

In terms of cooperation with organisations in the home country, there are a few examples of projects where this is taking place (e.g. the best example for such collaboration is the organisation SOLWODI - "Solidarity with women in distress" – whose close collaboration with local NGOs is a strong success driver⁸⁸²) but this remains the exception. In some cases this is because institutions in the home country do not want to prioritise the needs of returnees over other part of the population.⁸⁸³ UNHCR Germany cooperates with their colleagues in field offices in the countries of return, sharing information on returnees. This cooperation is primarily focussed on the exchange of information, the activities carried out in the receiving countries are measures taken by the respective country field office, not by UNHCR Germany.

Several organisations have also set up their own offices in home countries where there is a lot of return activity from Germany (e.g. Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan). For instance there are 3 offices currently in Kosovo but, as one interviewee suggested, these do not always coordinate their activities and they tend to compete for funding rather than cooperating.⁸⁸⁴

⁸⁷⁷ Interview with Pro-Asyl, August 2011.

⁸⁷⁸ Interview with UNHCR, August 2011.

⁸⁷⁹ Interview with Marion Lich, August 2011.

⁸⁸⁰ Interview with UNHC, August 2011.

⁸⁸¹ Interview with Marion Lich, August 2011.

⁸⁸² Interview with Marion Lich, August 2011.

⁸⁸³ Interview with AGEF, August 2011.

⁸⁸⁴ Interview with Pro-Asyl, August 2011.

Monitoring the Progress/Success of Reintegration Measures

As discussed throughout this case study, with the exception of REAG/GARP, German reintegration activities are characterised by a fragmented set of initiatives that take place often at local level and are constrained by limited resources, capacity and reach. However, under URA 2 returnees who receive grants for accommodation or employment contact the Return Centre usually on a monthly basis. There are also additional monitoring visits at home and at the place of employment. This return case management during the first reintegration phase is an important part of the project which provides support for about 1 year.⁸⁸⁵

In line with these constraints, not much monitoring in home countries takes place except sometimes in the context of Return Fund funded activities⁸⁸⁶. In addition, as several interviewees suggested, there is little interest in formal monitoring and evaluation systems among the smaller initiatives⁸⁸⁷. As one stakeholder noted, some NGOs fear that monitoring detracts from the core work, as it can show a lack of success.⁸⁸⁸

Where monitoring does take place this is often anecdotal and informal e.g. through regular visits to the home country or meetings with local partner organisations where these exist (e.g. in the case of Caritas).⁸⁸⁹ Similarly AGEF have developed a monitoring tool that allows to link different organisations at different stages of the return process. Monitoring by AGEF usually takes place over 2 years and it is being used in 50-100 cases per year in Germany and Denmark.

In cases where local partners exist, some organisations (e.g. Caritas) provide further help and follow-up (usually for a period of 6 months), though this can only be done if it can be financed through a relevant project.⁸⁹⁰

Benefits

- Some evidence of benefits where these are monitored (e.g. URA 2) as returnees have accommodation and access to medical assistance and most returnees stay employed after the period of 6 months assistance.⁸⁹¹

Challenges

- Long-term vocational training, though crucial to secure a longer term livelihood, is difficult due to other short term funding needs among returnees.⁸⁹²

⁸⁸⁵ Written submission by FOMR. It should be noted that under URA 2, accommodation grants are provided for 6 months, job contracts for 6 months and job counselling after returnees have decided on a place of residence. For returnees who need psychological treatment this is often supported for longer than 1 year.

⁸⁸⁶ Interview with Pro-Asyl, August 2011.

⁸⁸⁷ Interview with Pro-Asyl, August 2011; Interview with AGEF, August 2011.

⁸⁸⁸ Interview with AGEF, August 2011.

⁸⁸⁹ Interview with Caritas, August 2011

⁸⁹⁰ Interview with Caritas, August 2011.

⁸⁹¹ Written contribution by FOMR.

- Lack of resources is not the only challenge as there are more fundamental challenges around what works and what does not work in terms of supporting sustainable return.⁸⁹³
- The fragmented nature of German reintegration activities is a particular challenge and efforts need to be made to better coordinate these activities.⁸⁹⁴
- Need to define common minimum standards and principles for reintegration assistance and to develop a certified qualification measure for reintegration counsellors at the national level.⁸⁹⁵
- Little hard evidence to suggest that reintegration activities lead to sustainable returns, partly due to a lack of monitoring and partly because anecdotal evidence does not suggest a high success rate.⁸⁹⁶

⁸⁹² Written contribution by FOMR.

⁸⁹³ Several interviewees.

⁸⁹⁴ Interview with Marion Lich, August 2011.

⁸⁹⁵ Interview with Marion Lich, August 2011.

⁸⁹⁶ Interview with Pro-Asyl, August 2011.

6.5.1.6 Hungary

Introduction and Background

This case study has been compiled using desk research, the country profile questionnaire as well as interviews with the main actors responsible involved in reintegration activities in Hungary. The stakeholders involved in reintegration activities in Hungary are the Office of Immigration and Nationality (OIN)⁸⁹⁷ and the IOM.⁸⁹⁸

Reintegration Assistance in Practice

The Hungarian National Policy does not have an official written reintegration policy yet. However, Hungary is currently working on a National Migration Strategy. OIN's suggestion for text of the Strategy consists of strategic goals in the fields of return and reintegration and also refers to the necessity of developing a return and reintegration policy.⁸⁹⁹ There are various laws and decrees which support the implementation of reintegration projects:

- Act II of 2007 on the Admission and Right of Residence of Third-Country Nationals and its amendments; and
- Government Decree 114/2007 (V. 24.) on the Implementation of Act II of 2007 on the Admission and Right of Residence of Third-Country Nationals and its amendments.

Reintegration programmes are co-financed by the European Return Fund and are implemented according to legislation 2007/575/EC of 23 May 2007, establishing the European Return Fund for the period 2008 to 2013 as part of the General Programme 'Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows'.

In the past 18 years, the IOM Mission with Regional Functions (MRF) in Budapest has compiled various guidelines in order to preserve the accumulated experience. Two of the most recent examples are: "Assessment of the Assisted Voluntary Projects in Hungary" and "Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration – Principles and Best Practices".⁹⁰⁰

Most of the pre-departure activities in Hungary are open to all returnees. The table below provides an overview of reintegration assistance in Hungary.

⁸⁹⁷ Interview with the Office of Immigration and Nationality (Unit for International Relations and Funds) 14/6/11, Budapest.

⁸⁹⁸ Interview with IOM, 14/6/11, Budapest.

⁸⁹⁹ Interview with the Office of Immigration and Nationality (Unit for International Relations and Funds) 14/6/11, Budapest.

⁹⁰⁰ HU Country Profile.

Table 22: Overview of Reintegration Assistance in Hungary

	RETURN I, II, III I ⁹⁰¹	HARRP I-II-III ⁹⁰²	HAVRR 2011 ⁹⁰³	CAR I - III
Launched	2006 (I), 2007 (II), 2008 (III)	2009	2011	2009
Eligibility	Third-Country Nationals ⁹⁰⁴	Third-Country Nationals ⁹⁰⁵	Third-Country Nationals ⁹⁰⁶	Third-Country Nationals ⁹⁰⁷

Providers and Beneficiaries

In 2009 OIN launched its first programme on reintegration – Complex assistance before return (CAR) – which provides pre-departure activities to returnees from any country of return. The project also supports families, vulnerable groups and victims of trafficking.⁹⁰⁸ A total of €292,393⁹⁰⁹ has been spent on reintegration assistance and approximately 830 returnees⁹¹⁰ have benefited from these projects⁹¹¹.

The return and reintegration projects have been running since 2006, together with the support of OIN. The projects are open for asylum seekers and irregular immigrants and provide pre-departure cash stipend to all returnees and reintegration assistance to a selected number of returnees. IOM also provides assistance to victims of trafficking.⁹¹² A total of €145,000⁹¹³ will have been spent on Reintegration Assistance by the end of 2011, i.e. on small business start

⁹⁰¹ Enhancing Mechanisms and Harmonising Standards in the Field of Voluntary Return of Irregular Migrants in EU Central European Member States – Phases I, II and III.

⁹⁰² Hungarian Assisted Return and Re-integration Programme.

⁹⁰³ Hungarian Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration.

⁹⁰⁴ Third-country nationals (non-EU nationality) who have been compelled by the competent authorities to leave the territory of the country and the government authorities and practitioners dealing with AVR. Source:

<http://www.iom.cz/aktivita/voluntary-returns-and-reintegration/older-programmes-of-voluntary-returns-and-reintegration-assistance/enhancing-mechanisms-and-harmonizing-standards-in-the-field-of-voluntary-return-of-irregular-migrants-in-eu-central-european-member-states-return-preparatory-action-2005>.

⁹⁰⁵ Asylum seekers, refugees, beneficiaries of subsidiary protection, beneficiaries of temporary protection, third country nationals who do not or no longer fulfil the conditions for entry and/or stay rules in Hungary and who, in accordance with the obligations to leave the territory of Hungary make use of voluntary return.

⁹⁰⁶ Asylum seekers, beneficiaries of international protection; third-country nationals who do not or no longer fulfil the conditions for entry and/or stay in Hungary.

⁹⁰⁷ See previous footnote.

⁹⁰⁸ OIN provides psychological assistance for returnees with mental problems (including victims of trafficking), as well as medical help for vulnerable groups within the project.

⁹⁰⁹ Total 2009: €82,287; Total 2010: €78,816; Total 2011: €131,290; EU Funds (75%) National Funds (25%).

⁹¹⁰ The main Countries of Return of returnees covered by these projects are Kosovo, Serbia, Albania and Russia.

⁹¹¹ Out of this, some 700 returnees have benefited from pre-departure reintegration assistance, 51 persons passed the training courses successfully.

⁹¹² IOM provides assistance to victims of trafficking – mainly Hungarian victims who are returning to Hungary – IOM accompanies upon their arrival in Hungary to the shelter where they receive assistance.

⁹¹³ Reintegration Assistance from Hungary: Return I: 6 persons -1500 EUR; Return II: 6 persons - 2000 EUR; Return III: 5 persons - €2000; HARRPI-II-III: 27 persons - €2000; HAVRR 2011: (in progress): 30 persons - €2000.

ups and education plans. Approximately 1,300 returnees⁹¹⁴ will have returned from Hungary to their countries of return within the framework of these projects between 2006 and the end of 2011⁹¹⁵. In the last years IOM has increased the number of returnees eligible for reintegration in the country of return.

Types of Reintegration Assistance

The projects run by OIN focus on **pre-departure activities** for all returnees who do not or no longer fulfil the conditions for entry and/or stay in Hungary⁹¹⁶. Assistance is provided through social workers, psychologists and a specialist in pedagogy who all work in a community shelter run by OIN where returnees are also provided with accommodation. Returnees inside the community shelter receive:

- Pre-departure counselling;
- Information about the return procedure, as well as voluntary return;
- Country of return information;
- Reintegration plan and analysing possibilities of living in the country of return;
- Psychological assistance for returnees with mental problems (including victims of trafficking);
- Medical help for vulnerable groups;
- Training courses; and
- Availability of a nursery.⁹¹⁷

Some of those returnees who stay at the community shelter for a longer period – after they have chosen the training they would like to attend – are invited to attend a 200-hour vocational training in Hungary. This training⁹¹⁸ is provided to around 30 returnees per year as pre-departure support with the aim of achieving a qualification that would enable the returnee to take up employment in the country of return.⁹¹⁹

The projects implemented by IOM focus on pre-departure and limited reintegration assistance in the country of return. Reintegration in the country of return is only provided to a specific number

⁹¹⁴ The main nationalities of returnees covered by these projects are Kosovo, Serbia and Mongolia. Interview with IOM, 14/6/11, Budapest.

⁹¹⁵ All returnees have benefited from pre-departure assistance. A small percentage of returnees have benefited from post-arrival assistance.

⁹¹⁶ From 2010, third-country nationals who have not yet received a final negative decision in relation to their request for international protection cannot be involved into the project - according to the decision of the national Responsible Authority based the legislation 2007/575/EC of 23 May 2007, establishing the European Return Fund.

⁹¹⁷ June 2011, OIN is also providing a special nursery service for the children of the beneficiaries before they return to their country of origin.

⁹¹⁸ Training courses such as hairdressing/painting.

⁹¹⁹ HU country profile and interview with the Office of Immigration and Nationality (Unit for International Relations and Funds) 14/6/11, Budapest.

of returnees.⁹²⁰ All returnees⁹²¹ are eligible to the pre-departure assistance. The pre-departure assistance covers:

- Counselling;
- Information dissemination;
- Transportation to the airport;
- Flight ticket;
- Small cash allowance of €100; and
- Medical assistance.

€2,000 is made available for each selected returnee whose application has been approved for reintegration in the country of return:

- Vocational training or further education is provided with the aim of achieving a qualification that would enable the returnee to take up employment in the country of return; and
- Grants for setting up small businesses are provided to the successful applicants. Business plans are selected for funding based on the assessment of the IOM office in the host country and in the country of return.

Interlinking Reintegration Practices

Providing Reintegration Assistance Both Pre-Departure and Post-Arrival

The project run by the OIN has no direct link to any post-arrival assistance. However, Hungary has been working on trying to improve and broaden reintegration services provided in order to better assist the returnees. Financial limitations do not allow for all returnees to receive reintegration in their country of return.⁹²² Due to the limited funding there are also limitations regarding monitoring and follow-up of returnees.

Tailoring of Reintegration Measures

Within the OIN's project, preparing a reintegration plan and analysing possibilities of living in the country of return (work, education, social network) is part of the pre-departure assistance, which is tailored to the individual needs and supports sustainable return. In order to assure assistance at a high level, OIN provides social workers and psychologists with regular trainings and up-to-

⁹²⁰ Most of the returnees are either living in the OIN's community shelters or in Detention Centres of the Police. The application forms for the AVRR project are provided in all the facilities. All applications are sent to OIN who approves the returnees' participation in the programme. Beneficiaries of the project can apply for reintegration assistance by submitting a business plan or an education plan. These applications are then reviewed by IOM Budapest and by the IOM office in the country of return and assistance is provided to the selected returnees.

⁹²¹ IOM receives around 60-70 applications for AVRR each year.

⁹²² Implementing activities in a third country needs larger budget and additional human capacity- interview with the Office of Immigration and Nationality (Unit for International Relations and Funds) 14/6/11, Budapest.

date information on countries of return. The Documentation Centre of the OIN holds presentations on the current situation of the main countries of return for the social workers and psychologists on a regular basis, thus providing updated information for the beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries can also take part in professional training courses with the aim of achieving a qualification that would enable the returnee to take up employment in the country of return.

In IOM's project, in order to make sure that the business plans submitted by returnees are in line with the needs of the country, all business plans go through a number of selection criteria including the experience and qualification of the returnee. They are then sent to the IOM office in the country of return for approval.⁹²³

Collaboration between actors in the Member State and in the Country of Return

Even though there seems to be a gap in the Hungarian practice in the cooperation between Hungary and the countries of return regarding the implementation of the recent return and reintegration project of the OIN, the overall relations with third countries are considered quite positive.⁹²⁴ The OIN, in its suggestion to the text of the Hungarian Migration Strategy, underlined the importance of improving and developing relations with third countries, and especially with typical countries of return.

Monitoring the Progress/Success of Reintegration Measures

General monitoring of reintegration is not foreseen in the projects, yet IOM follows up with the returnees and monitors the returnees until the reintegration assistance has been completed.⁹²⁵

Occasional assessments are carried out within the framework of separate projects. In 2009 and 2011, a two-week fact finding mission with IOM and OIN took place in Kosovo.⁹²⁶ The main component was country of return information collection in Kosovo, with the aim of understanding what returnees will face back in Kosovo and in order to better design the reintegration assistance. During this mission the delegation also had the opportunity to meet with returnees and discuss with them their reintegration experience.⁹²⁷

⁹²³ Returnees complete the business plan either with IOM office in Budapest or in the Country of Origin or with OIN. Business plans are then reviewed by the IOM office in the country of origin. Returnees are also invited to submit education plans but so far the returnees prefer to submit business plans.

⁹²⁴ Interview with the Office of Immigration and Nationality (Unit for International Relations and Funds) 14/6/11, Budapest.

⁹²⁵ In the cases where the beneficiaries receive reintegration IOM goes with them to check the equipment or helps them rent a shop etc... When the business is set up and assistance has ended there is no further follow up component in the project.

⁹²⁶ Kosovo was chosen since a significant number of returnees come from this country.

⁹²⁷ Interview with the Office of Immigration and Nationality (Unit for International Relations and Funds) and IOM, 14/6/11, Budapest.

Reintegration Assistance and Sustainable Return

Benefits

- Organising AVRRs using the worldwide network of IOM offices;⁹²⁸
- Utilising the reintegration experience of IOM missions in the countries of return;
- Comprehensive pre-departure programmes contribute to the thorough preparation of beneficiaries for the reintegration in the country of return. Beneficiaries, due to the programme, would arrive home with the hope of a new beginning rather than the idea of how to return to the European Union again.⁹²⁹

Challenges

- The funding available is limited and thus reintegration cannot be provided to a large number of returnees;⁹³⁰
- Insufficient resources are available for assessment and follow-up activities;⁹³¹
- Speed and amount of information sharing on AVR is limited.⁹³²

⁹²⁸ Hungary country profile.

⁹²⁹ Interview with IOM, 14/6/11, Budapest.

⁹³⁰ Hungary country profile, Interview with the Office of Immigration and Nationality (Unit for International Relations and Funds) and IOM, 14/6/11, Budapest, Interview with IOM, 14/6/11, Budapest.

⁹³¹ Interview with IOM, 14/6/11, Budapest.

⁹³² Hungary country profile.

6.5.1.7 Italy

Introduction and Background

This case study has been compiled using desk research, the country profile questionnaire as well as interviews with the main actors responsible for and actively involved in reintegration activities in Italy. The main stakeholders involved in reintegration are the Ministry of Interior⁹³³ as a donor, IOM⁹³⁴ as the main implementing agency. Several local bodies and NGOs are involved in ad hoc programmes such as Italian Council for Refugees (CIR)⁹³⁵, Virtus Italia Onlus⁹³⁶, the Italian Branch of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (AICCRE)⁹³⁷ and the European Committee for Education and Agriculture (CEFA)⁹³⁸. Various organisations have also joined together in the Nirva network (the Italian Network for the Assisted Voluntary Return)⁹³⁹.

Reintegration Assistance in Practice

Italy fully transposed the EU Return Directive in August 2011. With this development irregular migrants will be granted a voluntary departure period and have the possibility to apply for assisted voluntary return. The guidelines on the enforcement of the new regulation in force on immigration and return will provide more details on the priorities to be followed in the selection of potential beneficiaries (vulnerable groups, asylum seekers etc.) especially in light of restricted financial resources.⁹⁴⁰

As mentioned in the 2006 European Migration Network Pilot Study on "Return Migration: the Italian case", the Italian government initiated voluntary return programmes in 1991 through IOM.⁹⁴¹ Throughout the years, other entities have become involved in such projects and reintegration programmes started in 2008 with projects funded under EU Return Funds.

⁹³³ Interview with Ministry of Interior, Rome, 11 July 2011.

⁹³⁴ Interview with IOM, Rome, 12 July 2011.

⁹³⁵ Interview with CIR, 11 July, 2011, Rome.

⁹³⁶ Interview with Virtus Italia Onlus, Rome, 11 July 2011.

⁹³⁷ Interview with AICCRE, 12 July 2011, Rome.

⁹³⁸ Written replies, CEFA ONLUS, Bologna, 3 October 2011.

⁹³⁹ NIRVA is implemented by AICCRE Rome, CIR, OXFAM and IOM - Nirva is a network of Bodies and Associations spread all over Italy, with the aim of informing migrants on the opportunities offered by the Assisted Voluntary Return programme. The Networking provides all the information necessary for returnees to make a well aware decision and helps them in the application procedures for the Assisted Voluntary Return programme and its implementing projects <http://www.ritornare.eu/eng/progetto.asp>; www.nirva.org.

⁹⁴⁰ Written replies Ministry of Interior, Rome, 30 September 2011.

⁹⁴¹ Replies to questionnaire, EMN NCP Italy, 30 August, 2011.

Various programmes have been implemented over the years, as indicated in the table below. Specific programmes have also been created for specific nationalities such as Odisseo⁹⁴² targeting Albanian young adults and RIVAN⁹⁴³ targeting Tunisian citizens.

Table 23: Overview of Reintegration Assistance in Italy

	Ulisse ⁹⁴⁴	Odisseo (I,II) ⁹⁴⁵	PARTIR ⁹⁴⁶ (I,II,III)	REMPLOY ⁹⁴⁷	RIVAN I & II	PARIVUL ⁹⁴⁸	REMIDA ⁹⁴⁹	RVA ⁹⁵⁰
Launched in	2008	2010	2009-2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011
Eligibility	Romanian nationals ⁹⁵¹	Former unaccompanied minors and young adults ⁹⁵²	Third country nationals ⁹⁵³	Migrant workers ⁹⁵⁴	Nationals from North Africa who agree to voluntarily return ⁹⁵⁵	Vulnerable groups from third countries	Moroccan nationals with residence permits ⁹⁵⁶	TCN coming from Libya ⁹⁵⁷

⁹⁴² Project implemented by Virtus Italia Onlus – Interview with Virtus Italia Onlus, Rome, 11 July 2011.

⁹⁴³ Project implemented by IOM – Interview with IOM, Rome, 12 July 2011.

⁹⁴⁴ Project implemented by Virtus Italia Onlus.

⁹⁴⁵ Project implemented by Virtus Italia Onlus.

⁹⁴⁶ Project implemented by IOM.

⁹⁴⁷ Project implemented by IOM - All returnees received a subsidized reintegration allowance between € 1,500 and € 3,400.

⁹⁴⁸ Project implemented by IOM- All returnees are supposed to take part in personalized training courses on their relevant job sector.

⁹⁴⁹ Project implemented by European Committee for Education and Agriculture.

⁹⁵⁰ Ritorno Volontario Assistito – finance by the Italian Civil Protection (Prime Minister’s Office).

⁹⁵¹ Between 17-25 years – Romanians legally in Italy who are facing difficulties integrating.

⁹⁵² Ex unaccompanied minors now aged 18 or more and young Albanian adults aged from 18 to 25.

⁹⁵³ Asylum seekers and rejected asylum seekers; migrants which have been granted international protection (subsidiary or humanitarian protection); victims of trafficking, migrants which have been granted a temporary residence permit; “humanitarian cases” that is handicapped, elderly, sick migrants, women with children, etc... Migrants potentially at risk to become irregular (holding a temporary permit for working or medical reasons, others).

⁹⁵⁴ with a residence permit awaiting employment or without having the possibility to renew their work permit coming from four different regions in the North of Italy : Lombardia, Piemonte, Veneto, Emilia-Romagna

⁹⁵⁵ All returnees received a subsidized reintegration allowance of €200.

⁹⁵⁶ The project is focusing on Moroccan citizens from the provinces of Bologna, Forli-Cesena and Modena

⁹⁵⁷ TCN who agree to return voluntarily in their countries of origin. All returnees received a subsidized reintegration allowance of € 200.

Providers and Beneficiaries

Until 2001, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with IOM, implemented return projects for Albanian and Kosovo nationals. Since 2008 the Ministry of Interior has supported several projects under the Return Fund⁹⁵⁸ which cover a wider range of returnees. The Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration of the Ministry of Interior has supported **AVR projects since early 2001**, assisting and sustaining the reintegration of victims of trafficking and since 2005 also of “humanitarian cases” (e.g. vulnerable persons, elderly people, and persons with health problems). Organisations are invited to submit applications for projects to the Ministry of Interior on a yearly basis as soon as the annual programme is approved.

The current projects running in 2011 offer different types of reintegration assistance. The projects run by Virtus Italia Onlus – Odisseo I & II focus on a small number of returnees with long term reintegration assistance. Since 2008 a total of approximately 40 returnees have been reintegrated and more than €200,000 has been spent on reintegration assistance.⁹⁵⁹

IOM's current projects cover a wide range of beneficiaries of different nationalities and reintegration assistance varies between one project and another. Since the Tunisian revolution began in early 2011, the Ministry of Interior has provided funds for IOM to implement small projects focusing on Tunisian nationals who had arrived in Italy and were ready to return. Through the PARTIR projects, more than 400 returnees⁹⁶⁰ have been reintegrated and approximately €2,600,000 has been spent on returning and reintegrating these returnees⁹⁶¹.

Vulnerable groups are also covered by the various projects being implemented by the different organisations.

Types of Reintegration Assistance

Currently there are 7 projects which offer reintegration assistance on a short and long-term basis. The main types of reintegration assistance provided in these projects are:

- Pre-departure counselling;
- Health screening;
- Small cash incentives;
- Accommodation; and
- Business development training⁹⁶².

⁹⁵⁹ The nationalities of these returnees were Albanian and Romanian.

⁹⁶⁰ 200 returnees are foreseen to be returned and reintegrated by PARTIR III.

⁹⁶¹ The main nationalities of the returnee were Moroccan, Nigerian, Sudanese, Tunisian and Iraqi.

⁹⁶² Vocational training in Italy and in Morocco. The average amount of reintegration assistance (cash & in kind) given to returnees is around €3000 (excluding the projects PARIVUL and RIVAN).

IOM is currently running various large and small scale projects. Some of them are small scale projects such as REMPLOY, which focuses on specific nationalities coming from selected regions of Italy, while RIVAN I/II focus on all regions in Italy. The reintegration assistance provided in the small scale projects varies from a small amount of cash (RIVAN I) to more consistent reintegration assistance, which includes pre-departure and post-arrival assistance (REMPLOY). The large scale projects are open to all nationalities and provide longer term reintegration. PARTIR I attracted a majority of Moroccan single men, who were found to be victims of labour exploitation. Other nationalities were Nigerians, Sudanese and Iraqis. The reintegration provided was in cash and when monitoring took place 3 months after the return a good number of them were untraceable⁹⁶³. Therefore changes were made to the reintegration provided in PARTIR II and assistance was provided in-kind.⁹⁶⁴ PARTIR II has attracted a majority of returnees from Latin America and, to a smaller extent, the Middle East and North African (MENA) countries, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Sub Saharan countries and Asia. One third of the returnees who participated in PARTIR II had health problems.⁹⁶⁵

Virtus Italia Onlus is a small NGO which started implementing reintegration projects in 2008 with the Project Ulisse financed by the municipality of Rome. Reintegration was offered to a small number of Romanian nationals and the long-term reintegration assistance in Romania included accommodation, help in finding a job as well as training on human skills and stress management. The project Odisseo which was developed in 2010 under the Return Fund, provides reintegration assistance to a small number of returnees. The reintegration is offered on a long-term basis.⁹⁶⁶

The project REMIDA under the lead of the CEFA⁹⁶⁷ provides tailored reintegration assistance to Moroccan workers, assistance in creating micro-enterprises, individual job placement, small cash incentives, assistance in carrying out bureaucratic procedures for reintegration and the reintegration of minors and women in society.⁹⁶⁸

Complementing these reintegration programmes is a project called Nirva. Nirva is a national network set up to create a referral system which did not exist before. The NIRVA's focal points can provide first counselling and orientation and then refer the cases to the main actors involved in reintegration such as IOM.⁹⁶⁹ This referral system is available to a selected number of organisations who, following the returnees' interest can then offer the returnee a possibility to return and reintegrate in his country of return. This project organises meetings with embassies and consulates that represent countries of return and currently is also conducting a pilot programme in selected countries in order to identify reintegration opportunities. CIR also

⁹⁶³ This could be because they had re-migrate or been re-trafficked to other EU Member States

⁹⁶⁴ Interview with Ministry of Interior, Rome, 11 July 2011 and Interview with IOM, Rome, 12 July 2011.

⁹⁶⁵ Interview with IOM, Rome, 12 July 2011.

⁹⁶⁶ Interview with Virtus Italia Onlus, Rome, 11 July 2011.

⁹⁶⁷ Other partners to this project are Overseas Onlus (Spilamberto, Modena), DiiaLogos Soc. Coop. Sociale (Forli), Cooperativa Attivita Sociali (Bologna), ASP Distretto Cesena Valle Savio (Cesena) and CEFAL (Bologna – Ente di Formazione).

⁹⁶⁸ Written replies, CEFA ONLUS, Bologna, 3rd October 2011.

⁹⁶⁹ NIRVA does not provide reintegration assistance per se but only pre-departure assistance.

provides information to returnees who wish to leave and gives them advice on the reintegration opportunities available.⁹⁷⁰

Interlinking Reintegration Practices

Providing Reintegration Assistance Both Pre-Departure and Post-Arrival

During the pre-departure phase returnees taking part in the IOM projects are provided with pre-departure training, which would help them reintegrate in the country of return. The provision of the reintegration in cash does not guarantee that the returnee is actually investing the money as envisaged, or using it to migrate again. Considering that returnees need to be counselled upon return and guided throughout the reinsertion phase, it was thus deemed more advisable and sustainable that the reintegration allowance be awarded in kind, by means of goods and services.⁹⁷¹

Virtus Italia Onlus provides long-term training for a small number of returnees in the country of return. Returnees are assisted for a period between 6 months to 1 year during which, apart from employment assistance they are also provided with psychological support.

Tailoring of Reintegration Measures

All projects which include specific reintegration are linked with local community development projects.⁹⁷² Italy provides a good example of tailored reintegration to specific nationalities and more general reintegration.

The projects run by Virtus Italia Onlus has so far focussed on Romania and Albania. The Odisseo Project aims to develop individual micro-projects of social rehabilitation, education, vocational training, job placement and housing. The micro-projects are tailored to the specific returnee and developed by taking into account a preliminary analysis of the returnees' family country area. The returnee is then tutored and monitored by a multidisciplinary team.

Prior to the implementation of the project as well as during the project Virtus Italia Onlus contacts various employers so as to get an idea of the potential employment situations in the countries. All micro-projects are planned and agreed with the applicant and his family. Some of the employers agree to hire the returnees who would have completed the training for the specific jobs. Most of the returnees had a fixed contract by the end of their first year in their country of return.⁹⁷³

⁹⁷⁰ Interview with CIR, 11 July 2011, Rome.

⁹⁷¹ Interview with Ministry of Interior, Rome, 11 July 2011.

⁹⁷² All projects including more elements than just cash allowance.

⁹⁷³ Interview with Virtus Italia Onlus, Rome, 11 July 2011. The projects run by Virtus Italia Onlus target a particular age group and nationality of returnees. Italy has over 600,000 Albanians and 2 million Romanians (excluding illegal) thus making these two nationalities quite important for return. The business plans are developed by taking into account a

The projects run by IOM benefit from country information on the countries of return, provided by the IOM offices abroad. Assessment missions also take place when possible in order to analyse the success of the reintegration measures provided.

The project managed by CEFA, focuses on Moroccan migrants living in the Emilia Romagna region and provides several pre-departure services (information, cultural mediation, psychological counselling, personalized vocational training and, travel arrangements). According to CEFA, every single migrant (or family) leaves Italy with a clear idea of their reintegration plan and with adequate information about opportunities in the country of return.⁹⁷⁴

preliminary analysis of the returnees' family country area. The returnee is then tutored and monitored by a multidisciplinary team.

⁹⁷⁴ Written replies, CEFA ONLUS, Bologna, 3 October 2011.

Collaboration between actors in the Member State and in the Country of Return

The lead organisations implementing reintegration projects collaborate with the countries of return⁹⁷⁵, mainly through their offices⁹⁷⁶ abroad. Italy is inclined to establish a dialogue with major countries of return and promote discussion fora and workshops on the subject.⁹⁷⁷ The Italian authorities involved in reintegration collaborate closely with their UK counterparts and believe it is important to eventually create a forum to discuss reintegration.

Monitoring the Progress/Success of Reintegration Measures

Projects' success is monitored at different stages throughout the implementation.

Virtus Italia Onlus continues to monitor the returnees for 6 months from the end of the project. The final evaluation is made by Virtus Italia Onlus and includes a SWOT analysis on the strengths and weaknesses with particular focus on effectiveness and efficiency of reintegration and rehabilitation projects. Other relevant aspects of the evaluation process are the selection procedure of applicants and the sustainability of the project. Moreover, the evaluation process aims to measure the level of the applicants' satisfaction in order to improve the general impact of the project. The improvements are then used in the development of future projects.⁹⁷⁸

IOM monitors returnees from 3-6 months from their return. The feedback from the returnees provides an insight on the package provided to the returnees' such as the benefits of providing cash or in kind assistance, length of time for the reintegration plan and subsequent implementation, and the sustainability of the reintegration provided. At the end of each year the results of the monitoring become an essential element when planning new proposals in order to improve the projects' impact and effectiveness.⁹⁷⁹

REMIDA project relies on CEFA staff in Morocco, where CEFA has been working since 1997. Returnees receive assistance as soon as they are returned and are helped in finding a qualified job, creating micro-enterprises. Children and women also receive assistance in social reintegration.⁹⁸⁰

⁹⁷⁵ In the project ULISSE the Council of Romanian Ministers was involved and discussions were held about the project and possibilities of promotion of the project.

⁹⁷⁶ Virtus Italia Onlus has a small number of offices in some return countries while IOM covers most of the return countries.

⁹⁷⁷ Italy Country Profile.

⁹⁷⁸ Italy Country Profile.

⁹⁷⁹ Italy Country Profile.

⁹⁸⁰ Written replies, CEFA ONLUS, Bologna, 3 October 2011.

Reintegration Assistance and Sustainable Return

Benefits

- From the projects which have been implemented so far the returnees' response to reintegration has been positive and thus there is the chance of returning more people with reintegration.⁹⁸¹
- NIRVA's database is accessible by all organizations implementing reintegration thus organisations can contact returnees to discuss with them the opportunities for reintegration.⁹⁸²
- The accommodation centres run by Virtus Italia Onlus in Italy offer returnees⁹⁸³ the possibility to stay in the accommodation centre prior to return.
- The majority of the returnees returned under the specific country targeted project ULISSE and ODISSEO I had found employment.⁹⁸⁴
- IOM, Virtus Italia Onlus and CEFA have offices in the country of return. This has proven to be very beneficial for several reasons. IOM offices facilitate monitoring and provide country of return information which is very useful to the EU country where the returnee is returning from.
- Italy is aware of creating networks with countries of return and of migrants, which could be helpful for the exchange of information between beneficiaries and authorities and for the coordination among the members of the network in Italy and abroad. Moreover, efforts are being made in order to improve cooperation and relations between Italy and third countries, aimed at creating a more favourable reception environment.⁹⁸⁵

Challenges

- Project proposals take a long time to be approved.^{986,987}
- Number of beneficiaries is limited compared to the actual request for reintegration.⁹⁸⁸
- Sensitive issues, such as political issues, sometimes delay a returnees' decision to return.

⁹⁸¹ Interview with Virtus Italia Onlus, 11 July 2011, Rome and Interview with IOM, 12 July 2011, Rome.

⁹⁸² Interview with CIR, 11 July 2011, Rome.

⁹⁸³ These centres are also open to locals.

⁹⁸⁴ The returnees continue to be monitoring until 6 months from the end of the project. Interview with Virtus Italia Onlus, 11 July 2011, Rome.

⁹⁸⁵ Written replies Ministry of Interior, Rome, 30 September 2011.

⁹⁸⁶ Interview with AICCRE, 12 July 2011, Rome.

⁹⁸⁷ All bureaucratic procedures through which project proposals are approved are being simplified. The procedures are weighed down by legislation that prescribes the preventive supervision of legality of the Court of Accounts of the grant agreement following approval by the Responsible Authority. Written replies Ministry of Interior, Rome, 30 September 2011.

⁹⁸⁸ Interview with Virtus Italia Onlus, 11 July 2011, Rome and Interview with IOM, 12 July 2011, Rome.

6.5.1.8 Netherlands

Introduction and Background

This case study is compiled using desk research, the country profile questionnaire and interviews with the main actors responsible for and actively involved in reintegration activities in the Netherlands. A number of actors are involved in the provision of Reintegration Assistance in the Netherlands, including the Repatriation and Departure Service⁹⁸⁹, the Dutch Council for Refugees, IOM⁹⁹⁰, the Central Agency for Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA)⁹⁹¹, the Mediation Agency for Return⁹⁹² as well as a number of other Dutch NGOs such as Foundation Worldwide (Stichting Wereldwijd)⁹⁹³.

Reintegration Assistance in Practice

The legal basis for voluntary return is provided by the Return Memorandum of 21 November 2003 and the Illegal Aliens Memorandum of 24 April 2004, as well as the 'International migration and development 2008' Memorandum, a follow-up to the 2004 Memorandum on 'Development and Migration'. The Remigration Act defines which third country nationals with an asylum residence permit, which relatives and which lawfully residing third country nationals qualify for reintegration assistance.

A total of 15 projects were found to contain elements of reintegration in the Netherlands.⁹⁹⁴ The table below provides an overview of the five most important in terms of budget, number of beneficiaries and length of project. The two main voluntary return and reintegration programmes are implemented by the IOM through the return programme "Return and Emigration of Aliens from the Netherlands" (REAN) and the Return and Reintegration Regulation (HRT).

Table 24: Overview of Reintegration Assistance in the Netherlands

	REAN	HRT	UAM	Reintegration Afghanistan	CRRS
Implementation	Since 1991	Since 2006	2008 - 2011	2009 – 2011	2010 - 2011

⁹⁸⁹ Interview with the Repatriation and Departure Service, 20 July 2011.

Service combining repatriation, Aliens police and the Royal Constabulary (the officers in the Service consist of, among others, officers with a background in the Immigration and Naturalisation Service, Aliens police and the Royal Constabulary). The Service's mission is to advance the actual departure of aliens with no right of residence, focussing on illegal aliens and rejected asylum seekers.

⁹⁹⁰ Interview with IOM, 21 July 2011.

⁹⁹¹ COA is responsible for the reception of asylum seekers. COA is an independent administrative body funded by the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. The Minister for Immigration and Asylum Policy is politically accountable. See <http://www.coa.nl>.

⁹⁹² Interview with the Mediation Agency for Return, 21 July 2011.

The Mediation Agency's aim is to facilitate the humane and independent return of ex-asylum seekers and undocumented migrants to their countries of origin by offering support concerning their reintegration. See <http://www.maatwerkbijterugkeer.nl>.

⁹⁹³ See <http://www.stichtingwereldwijd.nl/>.

⁹⁹⁴ See Netherlands Country Profile.

	REAN	HRT	UAM	Reintegration Afghanistan	CRRS
Eligibility	Asylum Seekers, Irregular migrants and Migrants with a regular procedure	Asylum Seekers ⁹⁹⁵	(Former) unaccompanied minors ⁹⁹⁶	Afghan asylum seekers	Asylum Seekers ⁹⁹⁷

The **Mediation Agency for Return** (Maatwerk bij Terugkeer) is involved in several programmes on reintegration activities. These include:⁹⁹⁸

- **ERSO-West** – Development through Sustainable Return involving Civil Society in Sierra Leone, Senegal, Cameroon, Togo, Morocco (ERSO III, 1 January 2011 – 1 January 2014). The ERSO-West programme supports institutional capacity building to local NGO in countries of return and improves the reintegration process. Aside from the Mediation Agency, the following European organisations work on the programme: Caritas Austria, Caritas Belgium, Raphaelswerk Germany, France Terre D'Asile (FTDA), France and Accem, Spain. Partner organisations in Africa are Cameroon-CCEY, PARI/Caritas Senegal, CBPR (Sierra Leone), BCGO (Togo) en CARDEV (Morocco).
- The operationalisation of the **Foundation for Sustainable Return** (1 February 2010 – 30 April 2011) a helpdesk for voluntary return of (former) asylum seekers in the Netherlands – aimed at increasing efficiency and effectiveness of the activities of its individual partner organisations. Sub-actions included **Beyond Borders** (1 July 2010 – 30 April 2011) which offers support to minors to develop their future perspective and for the processes of return and reintegration. Beyond Borders plays an intermediary role between the demand of young (former) asylum seekers and the provision of aid of organizations involved.⁹⁹⁹
- The European Training Foundation (ETF) project **Return and reintegration of undocumented persons**.
- The Project **DREAMS** (durable reintegration by education and material support) together with Foundation Worldwide (Stichting Wereldwijd) aims to give vocational training and materials to returnees.¹⁰⁰⁰

⁹⁹⁵ Those who meet the REAN and HRT requirements except the nationals of Georgia and Belarus, source: IOM Netherlands [http://www.iom-nederland.nl/english/Programmes/Return_Reintegration/Reintegration Projects/Return and Reintegration Regulation/Annex 1 Countries with visa requirements excluded from HRT](http://www.iom-nederland.nl/english/Programmes/Return_Reintegration/Reintegration%20Projects/Return_and_Reintegration_Regulation/Annex%201_Countries_with_visa_requirements_excluded_from_HRT)

⁹⁹⁶ Unaccompanied minor aliens and ex-unaccompanied minor asylum seekers.

⁹⁹⁷ From: Angola, Armenia, Colombia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania or Uganda.

⁹⁹⁸ Email Correspondence between Christina Hooson (Matrix Insight) and Lenie van Goor (Maatwerk bij Terugkeer), 2 December 2011.

⁹⁹⁹ <http://www.maatwerkbijterugkeer.nl/en/organization/beyond-borders-project>.

¹⁰⁰⁰ DREAMS is financed 50% by European Funds (ETF, European Return Fund). Other financial support comes from Sint Maartenscollege Maastricht, - DSM/SABIC, - Cordaid and various private funds. See <http://www.stichtingwereldwijd.nl/Downloads/DREAMS%20folder%20ENG.pdf>.

Providers and Beneficiaries

The provision of reintegration assistance in the Netherlands involves numerous actors. Cooperating closely with the Immigration and Naturalisation Department, the Aliens Police and the Royal Netherlands Military Constabulary and funded by the Ministry of the Interior, the **COA** provides accommodation during the asylum procedure and prepares asylum seekers for staying in the Netherlands, returning to their home country or to a third country.¹⁰⁰¹ The Ministry of the Interior's **Repatriation and Departure Service** directs the actual departure of aliens who have no right to reside in the Netherlands.¹⁰⁰² **IOM** offers return and reintegration assistance to (ex-) asylum seekers and irregular migrants who return from the Netherlands voluntarily.¹⁰⁰³ The **Dutch Refugee Council** provides information on opportunities in the countries of return including information about return schemes and projects.¹⁰⁰⁴ The **Mediation Agency for Return (Maatwerk bij Terugkeer)** also provides reintegration support for rejected asylum seekers and irregular migrants wishing to return from the Netherlands.¹⁰⁰⁵

The funding of reintegration assistance depends on the particular programme. National projects are generally funded by the Ministry of the Interior¹⁰⁰⁶ and other sources of funding include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European Return Fund.

Types of Reintegration Assistance

Pre-departure reintegration assistance is offered by the Dutch Council for Refugees, IOM and COA and includes the provision of information on return and resettlement to potential returnees. **IOM** provides support for travel costs and documents and arranges flight tickets and IOM Netherlands is responsible for payment of the reintegration sums that the Dutch government has made available for returnees to cover the first period after resettlement in the country of return.¹⁰⁰⁷ IOM also implements several projects aimed at the reintegration of specific target groups, with an in-kind grant or a combination of cash and in-kind.¹⁰⁰⁸ The **Mediation Agency for Return** provides assistance in the fields of information provision, housing, medical care and follow-up care, education, credit provision and finding work in the country of origin.

In general terms, **pre-departure assistance** in the Netherlands can include:¹⁰⁰⁹

- General return counselling and information provision;
- Legal assistance (referral to relevant organisations);
- Cash incentives;

¹⁰⁰¹ <http://www.coa.nl>.

¹⁰⁰² Interview with the Repatriation and Departure Service, 20 July 2011. See also <http://english.dienstterugkeerenvertrek.nl>.

¹⁰⁰³ Interview with IOM, 21 July 2011. See also http://www.iom-nederland.nl/english/Programmes/Return_Reintegration/Reintegration_Projects/Return_and_Reintegration_Regulation. In addition to the REAN and HRT projects, voluntary return and reintegration projects implemented by the IOM include: Assisted Voluntary Return/Native Counsellors (RIIM), Assisted Voluntary Return from Detention (AVRD), UAM project for unaccompanied minors and 'Shelter for unaccompanied minors in Angola and in the Democratic Republic of Congo'. See the EMN. 2011. Annual Policy Report 2010: Developments in Dutch Migration and Asylum Policy, pp. 76-77.

¹⁰⁰⁴ See <http://www.vluchtelingenwerk.nl/asiel/asiel.php>.

¹⁰⁰⁵ Interview with the Mediation Agency for Return, 21 July 2011. See also <http://www.maatwerkbijterugkeer.nl>.

¹⁰⁰⁶ Interview with IOM, 21 July 2011.

¹⁰⁰⁷ <http://www.erso-project.eu/partners/national-asylum-return-policy/netherlands>.

¹⁰⁰⁸ Email Correspondence between Christina Hooson (Matrix Insight) and Adri Zagers (IOM Netherlands), 22 November 2011.

¹⁰⁰⁹ See Netherlands Country Profile.

- Assistance obtaining travel documentation;
- Travel assistance (at Schipol Airport, during departure, transit and arrival when applicable); and
- Medical assistance (research of medical care in the country of return, assistance during travel).

Post-arrival assistance offered to those returning from the Netherlands varies according to programme and can include:¹⁰¹⁰

- Travel Assistance (secondary transportation in country of return to final destination);
- Cash incentives;
- Financial support for vocational training, university/college courses, job places and for setting up a small business;¹⁰¹¹
- Temporary Accommodation;
- Medical assistance (limited budget for medical expenditures, referral to medical institutions and reintegration assistance for migrants with a chronic indication).

Interlinking Reintegration Practices

Providing Reintegration Assistance both Pre-Departure and Post-Arrival

Reintegration Assistance in the Netherlands is provided both pre-departure and post-arrival. Pre-departure, the main focus is return counselling. Post-arrival assistance includes financial support (often granted in-kind) and short-term medical assistance.

Tailoring of Reintegration Measures

IOM projects are tailored to the needs of the individual. IOM offers, for example, 'information meetings' where it provides information regarding the assistance it can provide when migrants depart and can focus on specific questions and wishes of those present.¹⁰¹² This is especially true for programmes that target **specific target groups and nationalities**.¹⁰¹³ IOM believes that a comprehensive approach towards a specific group (pre-departure, travel and post-arrival) is the best way to trace all the specific needs of the group and to respond to them adequately.¹⁰¹⁴

Another example is the **Adeona Return Knowledge Bank**, set up and managed by the HIT Foundation until 2008: it was an interactive database which provided information and advice on future opportunities in the countries of return and on obstacles that potentially stand in the way

¹⁰¹⁰ See Netherlands Country Profile.

¹⁰¹¹ The financial support available depends on the programme. UAM, for example offers €2,500 flexible cash/in-kind, whilst CRRS and Reintegration Afghanistan offer up to €1750 and €3,000 in kind assistance respectively. See Netherlands country profile.

¹⁰¹² See [http://www.iom-](http://www.iom-nederland.nl/english/Programmes/Return_Reintegration/Information_provision/Information_meetings)

[nederland.nl/english/Programmes/Return_Reintegration/Information_provision/Information_meetings](http://www.iom-nederland.nl/english/Programmes/Return_Reintegration/Information_provision/Information_meetings)

¹⁰¹³ UAM, migrants with chronic diseases, victims of trafficking, reintegration in Afghanistan, Iraq, Sierra Leone, Azerbaijan.

¹⁰¹⁴ Email Correspondence between Christina Hooson (Matrix Insight) and Adri Zagers (IOM Netherlands), 22 November 2011.

¹⁰¹⁴ See Netherlands Country Profile.

of repatriation. Counsellors and asylum seekers could ask online questions concerning individual return issues. Adeona's staff also gave individual advice on how to draw up and implement a future action plan. Adeona's activities have since been integrated into the new Helpdesk set up by the COA.¹⁰¹⁵

Furthermore, '**native counsellors**' are appointed by IOM under the Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) Native Counsellors Method. Under this project the potential target group is being actively approached by native counsellors of IOM as far as they reside in the difficult accessible networks of irregular migrants in the major cities of the Netherlands.

Vulnerable groups (victims of trafficking, medical cases and unaccompanied minors) fall under IOM's basic programme and additional assistance can be offered in such cases.¹⁰¹⁶ The **UAM** project (Unaccompanied Minors) started by IOM in 2008 offers unaccompanied minors and adult aliens who have applied for asylum before their 18th birthday special reintegration support if they return voluntarily. In addition to the regular REAN programme, those eligible are entitled to support including:¹⁰¹⁷

- Information about possibilities for reintegration assistance and identification of support needed in the country of origin after return. IOM offers a grant of €2,500 maximum per person for this reintegration support. The nature of the assistance depends on the opportunities in the country of origin and the wishes of the migrant;
- If the reintegration support cannot be offered after return, or it is in the interest of the migrant then it is possible to apply for a reintegration grant of €1,750;
- The tracing of family or friends and re-establishment of contact prior to return;
- IOM can assist minors with accommodation until the minor has reached the age of 18 years.

The Dutch government also finances programmes implemented by IOM in Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo providing **shelter for unaccompanied minors**, making use of orphanages in the countries of return so as to provide accommodation and care, if necessary. Unaccompanied minors without family contact may be placed in the shelter in Mulemba in Luanda (Angola) or the Don Bosco Shelter in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of the Congo).¹⁰¹⁸ IOM has made agreements with reception agencies in these towns with regard to the reception, education, and reintegration of the unaccompanied minors.¹⁰¹⁹

The **DREAMS project** of Foundation Worldwide aims to offer about 40 unaccompanied minors a professional education. Courses are customized and provide personal guidance. Upon return, the Foundation also sends a box filled with materials and tries to organise support and guidance for the young participants (and social network or family) in the country of destination.

¹⁰¹⁵ See <http://hitfoundation.eu/completed-projects/adeona-return-knowledge-bank/>

¹⁰¹⁶ Interview with IOM, 21 July 2011.

¹⁰¹⁷ http://www.iom-nederland.nl/english/Programmes/Return_Reintegration/Reintegration_Projects/Additional_support_for_former_unaccompanied_minors.

¹⁰¹⁸ Reception in those shelters is guaranteed until the unaccompanied minor reaches the age of 18 years.

¹⁰¹⁹ European Migration Network. 2010. 'EMN Study: Unaccompanied minors in the Netherlands', p. 52.

Collaboration between actors in the Member State and in the Country of Return

IOM Netherlands cooperates with diplomatic representations (with regards to travel documentation) and IOM missions in the country of return. For the programme 'Reintegration Afghanistan', there is liaison between IOM Netherlands and the IOM mission in Afghanistan, as well as cooperation with the government of Afghanistan – the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation specifically, as well as national and international NGOs.¹⁰²⁰

The **Beyond Borders** project has helped to develop two new websites in Afghanistan and Angola. The sites serve to form a digital bridge between young (former) asylum seekers and refugees in the Netherlands, returnees, students and other stakeholders from Afghanistan and Angola, so that a flow of information and contact exchange is established and an international network is formed.¹⁰²¹

Monitoring the Progress/Success of Reintegration Measures

Monitoring generally takes place after 6 and 12 months.¹⁰²²

Reintegration Assistance and Sustainable Return

Benefits

- IOM case managers working in the field know specifically what's going on in the countries of return.¹⁰²³ In addition, IOM's 'dealing with return workshops' aim at enhancing knowledge, understanding and skills in order to address the option of voluntary return. The workshops are aimed at care workers and teachers who are in contact with asylum seekers.¹⁰²⁴
- Good cooperation between the Ministry of the Interior and IOM.¹⁰²⁵
- In different projects implemented by IOM with Native Counsellors, it appears that counsellors having a migrant's background, thinking in a migrant's context and speaking a migrant's language have an added value in reaching the target group and in counselling vulnerable or complex cases. Experience with Native Counsellor projects has shown that the best way to reach migrants is through mouth to mouth communication, going to shops, markets etc. For example, 30% of the returnees assisted by Native Counsellors were referred directly to the Native Counsellors by ex-clients.¹⁰²⁶
- The IOM's UAM projects have demonstrated that a comprehensive approach towards a specific group (encompassing pre-departure, travel and post-arrival) is the best way to

¹⁰²⁰ See Netherlands Country Profile.

¹⁰²¹ <http://www.maatwerkbijterugkeer.nl/en/organization/beyond-borders-project>.

¹⁰²² Interview with the Mediation Agency for Return, 21 July 2011.

¹⁰²³ Interview with the Repatriation and Departure Service, 20 July 2011.

¹⁰²⁴ <http://www.iom->

[nederland.nl/english/Programmes/Return_Reintegration/Information_provision/Dealing_with_return_workshop](http://www.iom-nederland.nl/english/Programmes/Return_Reintegration/Information_provision/Dealing_with_return_workshop).

¹⁰²⁵ Interview with IOM, 21 July 2011.

¹⁰²⁶ Email Correspondence between H el ene David (ECRE) and Ana Fonseca (IOM), 14 November 2011.

trace all the specific needs of the group and enable IOM to adequately respond to them.¹⁰²⁷

- The Foundation for Sustainable Return – a helpdesk for voluntary return of (former) asylum seekers in the Netherlands – aimed at increasing efficiency and effectiveness of the activities of its individual partner organisations, more effectively utilising the resources provided by the Dutch government.¹⁰²⁸ The aim was to come up with a coordinated approach and bring all assisted voluntary return and reintegration initiatives together by registering information on a centralised database and giving counsellors from different organisations the opportunity to contact each other.¹⁰²⁹ In its first year, the Foundation achieved 80% of the planned result, more than 280 returnees, developed a method for psychosocial support to potential returnees, and a special empowerment programme for minors.¹⁰³⁰ The grant, provided by the Dutch government for the financing of the pilot, has now been stopped.

Challenges

- There is also a danger of forum shopping as a result of too much overlap in some of the projects.¹⁰³¹
- Insufficient leadership from ministries to encourage organisations with very diverse agendas to cooperate.¹⁰³²
- Reintegration assistance has a tendency to be too output orientated, focussing on the quantity of returnees rather than quality of assistance.¹⁰³³
- Need for more systematic monitoring. Whilst monitoring is undertaken, it is generally anecdotal evidence based on a few success stories.¹⁰³⁴
- It is important that reintegration measures such as **education and training begin prior to departure**. An evaluation of the local support centre for returnees in Angola established in 2007 by the Dutch Return Development Project TOP¹⁰³⁵ concluded that restricting access to education and work during the asylum procedure reduces the economic perspective and number of returnees. Having had, at best, limited access to education and work whilst in the Netherlands, most returnees are laggards in terms of professional skills, knowledge and attitude in a fast-growing Angolan labour market.¹⁰³⁶

¹⁰²⁷ Email Correspondence between H el ene David (ECRE) and Ana Fonseca (IOM), 14 November 2011.

¹⁰²⁸ See <http://hitfoundation.eu/current-projects/foundation-for-sustainable-return/>.

¹⁰²⁹ Email Correspondence between H el ene David (ECRE) and Ana Fonseca (IOM), 14 November 2011.

¹⁰³⁰ Email Correspondence between Christina Hooson (Matrix Insight) and Lenie van Goor (Maatwerk bij Terugkeer), 2 December 2011.

¹⁰³¹ Interview with the Repatriation and Departure Service, 20 July 2011.

¹⁰³² Interview with Joris van Wijk, HIT Foundation/Vrije Universiteit, 20 July 2011.

¹⁰³³ Interview with Joris van Wijk, HIT Foundation/ Vrije Universiteit, 20 July 2011.

¹⁰³⁴ Interview with Joris van Wijk, HIT Foundation/ Vrije Universiteit, 20 July 2011.

¹⁰³⁵ The Return Development Project (TOP) explored new ways to support (ex)asylum seekers to return successfully to their country of return. The project ran from January 2005 to December 2007 and was financed under European Social Fund Equal II. See <http://hitfoundation.eu/completed-projects/return-development-project/>.

¹⁰³⁶ van Wijk, Joris. 2008. 'Terug naar Angola: Evaluatie innovatiepilot Angola Conexcao'. Stichting HIT. See: <http://hitfoundation.eu/docs/AngolaConexcaoindrappport.pdf>.

6.5.1.9 Spain

Introduction and Background

This case study has been compiled using desk research, the country profile questionnaire as well as interviews with the main actors responsible for and actively involved in reintegration activities in Spain. Interviews were conducted with the Ministry of Labour and Immigration¹⁰³⁷ and 6 non-governmental organisations providing voluntary return assistance¹⁰³⁸: ACCEM,¹⁰³⁹ ACOBE,¹⁰⁴⁰ AESCO,¹⁰⁴¹ CEPAIM,¹⁰⁴² RUMIÑAHUI¹⁰⁴³ and CEAR.¹⁰⁴⁴

Reintegration Assistance in Practice

The legal framework for assisted voluntary return builds on **8 provisions of the current Alien Law** which imparts financing for voluntary return programmes that endorse reintegration elements, foreseeing the development of employment generating activity in the country of return.

According to the Ministry of Labour and Immigration, a **coherent reintegration policy** should enable returning migrants to seize the advantage of economic and social capital accumulated in the host countries to successfully reintegrate into their community back in the countries of return.¹⁰⁴⁵

Voluntary return (VR) measures that contain reintegration components are implemented through three mainstream programmes.

¹⁰³⁷ Interview with Deputy General Directorate of Social Intervention (Directorate of Integration of Immigrants) 30 August 2011, London.

¹⁰³⁸ The total number of providers of the three main voluntary return and reintegration programmes in 2011 was 9. CEAR - the Spanish Commission for Refugee Aid – used to devise and provide reintegration programmes in the 1980s for political refugees from Argentina and Chile. The organisation has not taken part in providing reintegration support under new voluntary return and reintegration programmes. Interviews with the Red Cross, MPDL, the IOM and RESCATE have not been conducted because of limited time availability of stakeholders.

¹⁰³⁹ Interview with ACCEM (International Department) 27 July 2011, Madrid.

¹⁰⁴⁰ Interview with ACOBE (General Coordination) 27 July 2011, Madrid.

¹⁰⁴¹ Interview with AESCO (Voluntary Return Programme) 27 July 2011, Madrid.

¹⁰⁴² Phone interview with CEPAIM (Development Cooperation and Co-Development Area Senegal) 29 July 2011, London.

¹⁰⁴³ Interview with RUMIÑAHUI (General Directorate) 27 July 2011, Madrid.

¹⁰⁴⁴ Interview with CEAR (Central Services) 28 July 2011, Madrid.

¹⁰⁴⁵ Ministry of Immigration.

Table 25: Overview of Reintegration Assistance in Spain

	Humanitarian Programme for Immigrants in a Vulnerable Situation	AVRR	Accumulated Unemployment Benefit
Launched in	2003	2003	2008
Eligibility	Legally or illegally staying third country nationals ¹⁰⁴⁶	Legally or illegally staying third country nationals ¹⁰⁴⁷	Unemployed legally staying third country nationals ¹⁰⁴⁸

Voluntary return activities are co-financed by the European Return Fund which for the period 2008-2013 earmarked €25.3 million for Spain. The Spanish government contributed with a sum of €8.4 million. Between 2008 and 2009 around 2,000 people received voluntary (humanitarian and reintegration) return assistance and around 5,000 individuals benefited from Accumulated Unemployment Benefit Programme.

Providers and Beneficiaries

The devising, management, control and monitoring of assisted return programmes fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour and Immigration. In Spain, the selection of reintegration assistance providers is made through a public tendering process. In 2011, there were 9 service providers.¹⁰⁴⁹

The three Spanish reintegration programmes target different beneficiaries:

(1) Humanitarian Programme for Immigrants in Vulnerable Social Situations – for non-EU nationals in a vulnerable situation who have resided in Spanish territory for at least 6 months. The programme exists since 2003 and it is available for immigrants from outside the EU, Romanians and Bulgarians.

(2) Programme for Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) - devised for individuals with entrepreneurial skills willing to receive a support in the creation of their business

¹⁰⁴⁶ Need to be registered (but not necessary be in a legal situation); be in a situation of vulnerability; to have resided more than 6 months in Spain; to agree not to return to Spain within 3 years for residence or work purpose. The programme has 3 regional components: PREVIE (for migrants residing anywhere in Spain), PREVICAT (migrants residing in Catalonia), PREVICAV (migrants residing in the Autonomous Community of Madrid).

¹⁰⁴⁷ They need to be eligible for one of the voluntary return programmes; to be registered (but not necessary be in a legal situation); to have resided more than 6 months in Spain; to agree not to return to Spain within 3 years for residence or work purpose.

¹⁰⁴⁸ They have to be from one of the 20 countries that have bilateral agreements with Spain in Social Security matters (Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, United States, Russia, Philippines, Morocco, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela); be registered as unemployed and be in a situation of legal unemployment; have a right to unemployment benefits; agree not to return to Spain within 3 years for residence or work purpose and agree to leave within 30 days.

¹⁰⁴⁹ ACCEM, ACOBE, AESCO, CEPAIM, CRUZ ROJA, IOM, MPDL, RESCATE and RUMIÑAHUI.

idea. The support is given for a maximum period of one year, including pre-departure and post-arrival assistance, and a follow-up phase. The programme exists since 2003 and is available for migrants who are beneficiaries of the voluntary return programmes and who show interest in developing economic activity in their countries of return. This assistance is contingent upon the existence of a service provider counterpart in the country of return.

(3) Accumulated Unemployment Benefit Programme – devised for unemployed immigrants, nationals from one of the 20 countries with which Spain has entered into a Convention on Social Security¹⁰⁵⁰. It provides one year of unemployment benefits in two accumulated amounts, 40% of which is paid before the departure and the remaining 60% is paid after the arrival. Expenses of travel costs are also included, but they are contingent upon the availability of funding. The programme has been created in November 2008 and it does not contemplate post-arrival assistance. The beneficiaries must have been legally residing in Spain and be unemployed.

Types of Reintegration Assistance

Accumulated Unemployment Benefit Programme provides only financial assistance; the Humanitarian and AVRR Programmes endorse the following elements of reintegration assistance:

- **Financial support:** Financial grant for the development of business activity, return ticket, unexpected substantiated journey expenses, financial assistance for the journey of €50 for each member of the family unit;
- **Social, psychological and legal assistance:** individual sessions and/or informative group workshops; and
- **Business Development Activity Guidance and Follow-Up:** only imparted under AVRR.

Interlinking Reintegration Practices

Providing Reintegration Assistance Both Pre-Departure and Post-Arrival

Every programme has a pre-departure assistance component. Post-arrival assistance is delivered as a part of the Humanitarian Programme for Immigrants in Vulnerable Social Situations and AVRR.

All organisations consider that assistance during the process of voluntary return - starting from pre-departure preparatory actions until the post-arrival follow-up - is an essential component of migration management. The extent of interlinking depends on the existence of local counterparts in the countries of return. Some organisations¹⁰⁵¹ provide reintegration

¹⁰⁵⁰ EMN (2009), Programmes and Strategies fostering assisted return and reintegration in third countries. Spain.

¹⁰⁵¹ ACOBE (Bolivia), AESCO (Peru, Ecuador, Columbia) and CEPAIM.

assistance only in countries with affiliated offices; others draw on services of local partners.¹⁰⁵² Post-arrival assistance is contingent upon the existence of a partner organisation and in the case of Humanitarian Programme, upon available resources of the service provider. This means that any activity beyond the development of a business idea is financed by private resources of local organisations.

Tailoring of Reintegration Measures

Tailoring could address both the needs of individual returnees as well as the development needs of the country of return. Among the three main return assistance projects, only Humanitarian Return and AVRRE include individual tailoring. AVRRE also take into consideration the local economy needs of the countries of return.

Despite the fact that general guidelines for all programmes are defined by the Ministry of Labour and Immigration, organisations coincide in developing **in-house internal procedures** to assess individual needs and the type of return assistance.

As defined by ACCEM, the process of tailoring is usually composed of three steps. The first step is to evaluate the person's intentions to return in a one-to-one session. At this stage, the type of return assistance is chosen and applicant's needs, motivations and capabilities are evaluated. Special attention is paid to individual professional skills that could be capitalised in the country of return. The second stage of the process depends on the type of assistance the individual proves to need. If the person decides to pursue a business plan creation, the pre-departure assistance foresees guidance for the business plan development. This process can last up to two and half months until the definitive departure. If the person requires humanitarian assistance, the pre-departure support consists mainly of psychological and social counselling and it lasts up to one and a half months. Social and psychological counselling is not mutually exclusive with the creation of economic activity. Assistance is delivered according to individual needs. Both programmes are often complemented by informative group workshops tailored to the type of assistance required. Both types of assistance also cover organisation of the return journey and accompaniment to the airport.

Collaboration between Actors in the Member State and in the Country of Return

All Spanish service providers report having a good relationship with each other and collaborating during both pre-departure and post-arrival phases. For example, organisations regularly exchange information on the type of programme they are providing and availability of funding throughout the year. Staying in contact enables them to use resources efficiently and satisfy as much demand as possible.¹⁰⁵³

¹⁰⁵² ACCEM (mainly in Morocco and Latin America).

¹⁰⁵³ ACOBE, ACCEM, AESCO, RUMINAHUI and CEPAIM.

The collaboration in the countries of return takes place mainly at the level of “networking”. Organisations deem it essential to have a reliable counterpart in the country of return¹⁰⁵⁴. Some organisations draw on recommendations suggested by other European migration organisations with which they have been collaborating in a specific area¹⁰⁵⁵.

Monitoring the Progress/Success of Reintegration Measures

The maximum time for monitoring is set by default to one year starting with the pre-departure support until the implementation of business activity. Any monitoring imparted under Humanitarian Programme or Accumulated Unemployment Benefit Programme is financed by private resources of service providers. Some organisations¹⁰⁵⁶ with in-house affiliating offices in the countries of return monitor the progress beyond the one year limit. This is done through general visits of their premises in countries of return during which they also visit former returnees.

Reintegration Assistance and Sustainable Return

Benefits

- ACCEM, ACOBE and AESCO describe cases where as a result of accumulated professional experience acquired abroad, returning migrants were able to use these skills to develop successful business activity back home.
- The social and psychological counselling support taking place before the departure is considered as an important step in the process of family reunifications. As for instance, mothers who have been away from their children for years, find reintegration easier when both parties, mothers and their family members, participate with organisations in counselling sessions, aiming to ensure a smooth family reunification.¹⁰⁵⁷
- CEPAIM highlights the importance of having a reliable counterpart in the country of return. As a part of reintegration assistance, in 2002, the organisation co-financed the creation of a co-operative salt mine in Senegal. The role played by the local organisation in the early years of the existence of the project was crucial in terms of monitoring, supporting and partially controlling its functioning. Today, the mine employs more than 350 people and it exports salt to Senegal and other neighbouring countries.

Challenges

- The time to develop a coherent business plan is constrained by the obligation to leave Spanish territory as soon as possible.

¹⁰⁵⁴ ACCEM, ACOBE, ROMINAHUI, AESCO and CEPAIM.

¹⁰⁵⁵ ACCEM and CEPAIM.

¹⁰⁵⁶ ACOBE, ROMINAHUI and CEPAIM.

¹⁰⁵⁷ AESCO.

- Funding resources are limited and do not satisfy the demand. Although government grants are annual, many organisations have run out of reintegration and return funding by the end of 9 months.¹⁰⁵⁸
- With regard to difficulties encountered in the countries of return, organisations stress the gravity of a lack of interest of domestic institutions. In the context of limited financial resources, the extent of aid provided by local structures fails by far to meet the needs of returnees.
- The insufficient planning which is many times caused by a lack of financial resources accentuates the probability of a migrant to fall back into precariousness once in the country of return¹⁰⁵⁹.
- **Insufficient information about the general economic situation in the country of return.**¹⁰⁶⁰ A lack of coherent economic, social and political picture complicates the adaptation of business plans to the local context.
- Many countries of return still **fail to ensure political and economic stability**¹⁰⁶¹. The lack of security and employment opportunities is often considered as the reason to stay rather than to return into the country.
- Finally, the Ministry of Labour and Immigration points towards **unequal time distribution between administration and the design of policies** where too much time spent on the former jeopardises the outcomes of the latter.¹⁰⁶²

¹⁰⁵⁸ ACOBE, AESCO and ROMINAHUI.

¹⁰⁵⁹ RUMIÑAHUI, and AESCO.

¹⁰⁶⁰ AESCO.

¹⁰⁶¹ RUMIÑAHUI, ACCEM and ACOBE.

¹⁰⁶² Interview with Deputy General Directorate of Social Intervention (Directorate of Integration of Immigrants) 31 August 2011, London.

6.5.1.10 Sweden

Introduction and Background

This case study has been compiled using desk research, the country profile questionnaire and interviews with the main actors responsible for and actively involved in reintegration activities in Sweden. The main actors involved are IOM (Helsinki), the Swedish Migration Board (SMB), the Swedish Red Cross (SRC) and other local NGOs. Three interviews were scheduled, namely with the SMB¹⁰⁶³, the SRC¹⁰⁶⁴ and with an independent consultant who worked on reintegration in Sweden together with other NGOs.¹⁰⁶⁵

Reintegration Assistance in Practice

Table 26: Overview of Reintegration Assistance in Sweden

	ARR Somalia	Returning Afghans	RSS	IRAQ project	Serbia Project I, II
Implemented	2004 - 2005 ¹⁰⁶⁶	2009 - 2001	2007 - 2011	2010	2009 - 2010
Eligibility	Somali nationals	Afghan nationals ¹⁰⁶⁷	Third country nationals ¹⁰⁶⁸	Iraq	Roma ethnicity (I) and all returnees (II) to Serbia

Providers and Beneficiaries

The SMB is the administrative agency responsible for managing reintegration assistance in Sweden through its service providers. The board is the body which administers both the European Refugee Fund and the European Return Fund. For those projects implemented by IOM, applications are first received and evaluated by the SMB.¹⁰⁶⁹ These programmes target asylum seekers returning voluntarily to Iraq, Afghan nationals and Somali rejected asylum seekers.¹⁰⁷⁰

Since 2008, SRC has provided three levels of reintegration assistance. Assistance is funded by the SRC, EU Return Fund, the Swedish Migration Board and the Ministry of Justice. First level assistance is open to all rejected asylum seekers, second level is open to rejected asylum seekers from Afghanistan, Armenia, Macedonia, Russia, Syria and Lebanon, and third level is open to rejected asylum seekers from Iraq, Serbia and Kosovo. SRC stresses that the assistance they offer is provided to only to returnees who come on their own free will. In

¹⁰⁶³ Interview with the Swedish Migration Board, 19 September 2011.

¹⁰⁶⁴ Interview with SRC, 4 October 2011.

¹⁰⁶⁵ Interview with the independent consultant, 30 September 2011.

¹⁰⁶⁶ <http://iom.fi/content/view/28/8>

¹⁰⁶⁷ Interested in returning voluntarily or nationals who have applied for asylum in Sweden

¹⁰⁶⁸ From Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Gaza Strip, Africa, Yemen, Kosovo, Russian Federation Republics of Dagestan, Ingushetia and Chechnya

¹⁰⁶⁹ Interview with the Swedish Migration Board, 19 September 2011.

¹⁰⁷⁰ The EMN (2009) Study for Sweden indicates that returnees from Gaza also benefited from re-establishment support

Sweden, SRC has 3 staff members working on pre-departure counselling in addition to 10 refugee counsellors and 60 – 70 volunteers. In third level support countries, between 20 and 40 persons are involved in the provision of SRC reintegration assistance. Between 1 July 2010 and 30 September 2011, a total of **1,319 individuals registered for support from SRC**. 624 individuals registered for third level assistance in Sweden and an additional 589 individuals registered for reintegration support after return in the three countries concerned.¹⁰⁷¹ First and second level assistance each received 53 registrations in Sweden.¹⁰⁷²

The SMB is leading a new project “the **European Return Platform for Unaccompanied Minors**” (ERPUM), co-financed by the Return Fund.¹⁰⁷³ The Project partners are Sweden, the Netherlands, Norway and the UK. It should provide a basis for direct cooperation between a number of migration services with third countries' authorities in the practical work in returning unaccompanied children primarily to their parents (notably thanks to family tracing), guardians or other forms of appropriate reception facilities in the country of origin, while respecting the best interests of the child. In addition, for each child a reintegration plan, which would include education and training support, would be devised.

Types of Reintegration Assistance

Reintegration assistance offered by IOM and SRC includes the provision of information, psychosocial support and practical assistance.¹⁰⁷⁴ Assistance provided by the SRC varies according to the level of assistance (as described above). Assistance provided **pre-departure** mainly consists in the provision of psychosocial support and information.

Post-arrival reintegration can include:

- Temporary accommodation and medical assistance;¹⁰⁷⁵
- Transport to the final destination;¹⁰⁷⁶
- Material assistance;¹⁰⁷⁷
- Food and hygiene parcels;¹⁰⁷⁸
- Small income generation funds;¹⁰⁷⁹ and
- Practical guidance and assistance in dealing with the authorities (e.g. registration, applications for social assistance and pension requests).¹⁰⁸⁰

¹⁰⁷¹ The high number of applications for SRC assistance post arrival can largely be explained by the numerous Serbian families sent back very quickly who then registered for assistance upon return.

¹⁰⁷² Interview with SRC, 4 October 2011.

¹⁰⁷³ ECRE, Save the Children, *Study on good practices in the field of return of children*, 2011 (to be published)

¹⁰⁷⁴ For example the clothes and tools for work.

¹⁰⁷⁵ Provided as part of IOM assistance. Interview with the Swedish Migration Board, 19 September 2011.

¹⁰⁷⁶ www.iom.fi

¹⁰⁷⁷ Provided as part of second and third level SRC assistance. Interview with SRC, 4 October 2011.

¹⁰⁷⁸ Provided as part of second and third level SRC assistance. Interview with SRC, 4 October 2011.

¹⁰⁷⁹ Provided as part of second and third level SRC assistance. Interview with SRC, 4 October 2011.

¹⁰⁸⁰ Provided as part of second and third level SRC assistance. Interview with SRC, 4 October 2011.

Assistance starts upon arrival and material assistance is provided for one year (requirements of the Return Fund). Guidance can however be provided for a longer period of time, continuing outside the programme.

SRC identifies vulnerable groups such as the elderly, handicapped and ill, and starts planning prior to departure. Vulnerable individuals receive more assistance both in Sweden and upon return.

Interlinking Reintegration Practices

Providing Reintegration Assistance Both Pre-Departure and Post-Arrival

While assistance is provided in both phases, Swedish reintegration assistance is concentrated in Sweden. This can be explained by the very few organisations in the countries of return with the economic capacity to provide assistance.¹⁰⁸¹

Tailoring of Reintegration Measures

IOM projects are tailored to both the needs of the individual as well as the need of the countries of return. This is especially true as all programmes target specific nationalities and countries of return.

SRC carried out a needs assessment prior to starting providing reintegration assistance in the third level countries. For Kosovo, for example, 10 potential Kosovar returnees in Sweden were interviewed by the SRC and further interviews were carried out by the SRC sister society in Kosovo in order to determine what kind of assistance was required.

Similarly, SRC adopts an individual approach. There is for example, the opportunity to receive support through small income generating projects.¹⁰⁸² Whilst there is no particular assistance tailored to young people, attempts are made to cater for their needs – in Kosovo, for example, the SRC sister society tries to bring them back into society by cooperating with other youth groups.

Collaboration between actors in the Member State and in the Country of Return

IOM collaborates with local actors in the countries of return. For example, IOM Helsinki and the Swedish Migration Board are developing a network of partners which include Somali Diaspora associations, relevant NGOs and international organisations, in Somalia and Kenya.¹⁰⁸³

¹⁰⁸¹ Interview with the independent consultant, 30 September 2011.

¹⁰⁸² One lady, for example, was a qualified tailor; SRC provided her with a sewing machine. Interview with SRC, 4 October 2011.

¹⁰⁸³ Kenya is a country where many organizations with activities in Somalia are based. Source: www.iom.fi

Aside from its sister societies in the various countries of return, SRC also collaborates with IOM, UNHCR and local NGOs, sharing information and referring returnees to organisations which may be able to assist where SRC is not.¹⁰⁸⁴ In third level countries, SRC sister societies also cooperate with the country of return governments, advocating for the needs of the returnees.

Monitoring the Progress/Success of Reintegration Measures

Under IOM programmes, returnees are monitored after return.¹⁰⁸⁵ Furthermore, follow-up for returnees receiving third level SRC assistance takes place after 3 months and after one year. Returnees are asked what they think about the assistance and the SRC's programme/plan of action is amended where necessary. SRC visits the third level countries of return at least twice a year to follow up and the sister societies based in the countries of return also follow up.

Reintegration Assistance and Sustainable Return

Benefits¹⁰⁸⁶

- Returnees are grateful to have someone to talk to.
- Returnees are happy to have some information on the country of return. For example, Kosovars returning with health issues used not to know if medicine/treatment was available in Kosovo, now they can find out this information.

Challenges¹⁰⁸⁷

- Initial challenge of whether or not the SRC should get involved – fear of being mixed up with the authorities was an obstacle at first. This was overcome by defining a clear SRC mandate based on the voluntary nature of the assistance they provide.¹⁰⁸⁸
- Despite having the same principles as their SRC sister societies, it is a (positive) challenge to coordinate between the sister societies and SRC in Sweden (working in very different contexts).¹⁰⁸⁹
- Reliance on local partners in countries of return who might not share the same vision and mission of the donor.¹⁰⁹⁰

¹⁰⁸⁴ In Serbia, for example, SRC refers returnees seeking legal advice to the NGO 'Praxis' which is able to further assist. Interview with SRC, 4 October 2011.

¹⁰⁸⁵ Source: Sweden country profile. Monitoring however takes place only in relation to the programmes activities.

¹⁰⁸⁶ Interview with SRC, 4 October 2011.

¹⁰⁸⁷ Interview with SRC, 4 October 2011.

¹⁰⁸⁸ Interview with SRC, 4 October 2011.

¹⁰⁸⁹ Interview with SRC, 4 October 2011.

¹⁰⁹⁰ Interview with the independent consultant, 30 September 2011.

6.5.1.11 Switzerland

Introduction and Background

This case study has been compiled using desk research, the country profile questionnaire and interviews with the main actors responsible for and actively involved in reintegration activities in Switzerland. The main actors involved are the Federal Office for Migration (FOM)¹⁰⁹¹, the Return Counselling Services (RCS)¹⁰⁹², IOM-Bern¹⁰⁹³, the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC)¹⁰⁹⁴, as well as the Swiss Foundation of the International Social Service (ISS)¹⁰⁹⁵.

Reintegration Assistance in Practice

The legal basis for Switzerland's national return assistance is governed by Article 93 of the Asylum Act, "Return assistance and prevention of irregular migration", as well as Asylum Order 2¹⁰⁹⁶ and the Federal Act on Foreign Nationals (FNA)¹⁰⁹⁷ pertaining to the exploitation of labour (cabaret dancers) and victims of human trafficking. At present, around 180 individuals return to their country of origin each month with the help of individual return assistance or within the framework of one of the four country-specific programmes currently running.¹⁰⁹⁸

Return assistance has evolved considerably since the concept was first conceived in Switzerland in 1993, broadening in scope to include all asylum seekers, victims of human trafficking and exploited cabaret dancers, and, by avoiding cash-payouts at the airport where possible, placing an increasing emphasis on tailoring and sustainability. Today, the main aims of return assistance are to facilitate voluntary¹⁰⁹⁹ (and thereby avoid forced) return and to assist

¹⁰⁹¹ FOM is the overarching body responsible for implementing return assistance programmes.

¹⁰⁹² RCS, FOM's most important partner in Switzerland, is a network of partners competent for return assistance at cantonal level.

¹⁰⁹³ IOM-Bern, FOM's most important partner for the implementation of reintegration measures in the country of origin, assists in the planning, implementation and evaluation of policies and activities aimed at promoting voluntary return and reintegration. IOM-Bern also works in close collaboration with the RCS and IOM Missions in the countries of origin.

¹⁰⁹⁴ SDC helps FOM implement structural aid programmes in countries of origin, which benefit the local population and returnees.

¹⁰⁹⁵ The social and professional reintegration services offered by ISS are supplementary to and independent from those financed by FOM. ISS focuses on supporting young people and their families in developing concrete plans for reintegration. Beneficiaries are: those wishing to return to their country of origin and who have a concrete re-integration plan. ISS offers financial support for reintegration plans and puts them in contact with a support person in situ.

Interview with ISS, 3 August 2011. See also http://www.ssiss.ch/en/re_integration_in_the_country_of_origin

¹⁰⁹⁶ Articles 62-78.

¹⁰⁹⁷ Articles 60 and 30.

¹⁰⁹⁸ FOM (2011), Return Assistance in Switzerland, Bern, May 2011 (See also Swiss Country Profile) <http://www.bfm.admin.ch/content/dam/data/migration/rueckkehr/rueckkehrfoerderung/2011-factsheet-rkh-e.pdf>.

¹⁰⁹⁹ Understood here as 'independent': In around a third of FOM return assistance cases one can talk of truly 'voluntary' return; the other two thirds represent cases where the returnees are required to leave Switzerland and do so independently.

and facilitate reintegration.¹¹⁰⁰ Coherency is sought by offering the same services in each canton and also at the highest political level through the development of “migration partnerships” with countries of return¹¹⁰¹. Such partnerships intend to ensure a coherent Swiss migration policy; a “whole of government approach” that operates in the interests of all partners by promoting the positive aspects of migration whilst also providing a constructive framework within which to solve the challenges it poses.¹¹⁰² The promotion of voluntary return and reintegration represents only part of this exchange with countries of return. Switzerland has established such partnerships in the West Balkans (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Kosovo) and with Nigeria.¹¹⁰³

The national return assistance instruments Switzerland deploys include return assistance at reception centres (REZ), return counselling offices (RCS), individual return assistance, a special programme for victims of human trafficking and exploited cabaret dancers, as well as country specific programmes including structural aid projects. They are summarised in the table below¹¹⁰⁴. The extent of the reintegration dimension varies considerably from instrument to instrument, both in terms of scope of activities and level of financing.

¹¹⁰⁰ Interview with FOM, Section Return Bases and Return Assistance, 2 August 2011.

¹¹⁰¹ Interview with IOM-Bern, 2 August 2011. The concept of migration partnerships is set out in article 100 of the Federal Act on Foreign Nationals, which charges the Federal Council to promote bilateral and multilateral migration partnerships with other countries. These partnerships include projects and programmes with concrete bearings on questions related to immigration and emigration. Fields covered include the strengthening of state structures in the country of origin, the prevention of irregular migration, and migration and development. As part of a global approach migration partnerships can also encompass other foreign policy activities of relevance to issues of migration (e.g. promotion of civilian peacekeeping, promotion of human rights, social security agreement). See <http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/topics/migr/migpa.html>.

¹¹⁰² See <http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/topics/migr/migpa.html>.

¹¹⁰³ Interview with FOM, Section Return Bases and Return Assistance, 2 August 2011.

¹¹⁰⁴ Not included in the table is SwissREPAT, the departure unit of FOM's airport offices, which makes all the necessary departure arrangements for return assistance recipients. This unit is responsible for paying the financial reintegration assistance and if necessary organising medical or social escort in cooperation with IOM.

Table 27: Overview of Reintegration Assistance in Switzerland

	REZ	RCS	Individual Return Assistance	Return Assistance AUG ¹¹⁰⁵	Country Specific Programmes ¹¹⁰⁶	Structural aid projects
Implemented	Since 2005	Since 1997	Since 1997	Since 2010 ¹¹⁰⁷	Since 1997	1999
Eligibility	Asylum seekers ¹¹⁰⁸	Asylum seekers* and recognised refugees		Victims of human trafficking and exploited cabaret dancers	Asylum seekers* and recognised refugees from the countries with specific programmes	Countries in which Switzerland has migration-specific interests

* All persons living in Switzerland under the Swiss Asylum system, who have been in Switzerland for at least three months and are not Dublin cases.¹¹⁰⁹

Providers and Beneficiaries

Headed by the FOM as the competent authority for the implementation of return assistance in Switzerland for persons under Swiss asylum law, the following organisations are involved in the return and reintegration assistance process:

- **RCS** is a network of partners competent for return assistance at cantonal level. Depending on the canton, these may be an administrative agency such as a cantonal migration department or NGOs such as Red Cross or Caritas. Co-funded by the FOM, each RCS is responsible for helping individuals understand the various return assistance options available to them.
- Established in 1994, **IOM-Bern**, working together with **IOM missions** in countries of return, aids the FOM with providing return assistance services.¹¹¹⁰
- **SDC** implements projects steered by the Committee for International Cooperation in the Field of Migration (IMZ-A) contributing to improving social and economic settings in the

¹¹⁰⁵ See <http://www.ch.iom.int/programme/counter-trafficking.html>.

¹¹⁰⁶ Switzerland's first country specific programme ran between 1997 and 1999 in Bosnia and Herzegovina and ran for two years. Programmes lasting one year or more have since followed in countries: Kosovo, Serbia, Macedonia, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, Somalia, Turkey and Afghanistan, Iran, DRC, Angola, Armenia, Maghreb, West African Countries. There are currently country specific programmes for Nigeria (since 2005), Guinea-Conakry (since 2009), Georgia (since 2006), and Iraq (since 2003).

¹¹⁰⁷ http://www.ksmm.admin.ch/ksmm/en/home/themen/menschenhandel/meilensteine_mh.html.

¹¹⁰⁸ Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

¹¹⁰⁹ Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

¹¹¹⁰ IOM-Bern is in charge of return counselling in the reception centres (REZ), participates in the IRRiCO project within the framework of its global RIF project, implements (via IOM offices in the countries of return) the Reintegration Assistance from Switzerland (RAS) programme which in many cases is the mechanism for paying out Individual Return Assistance and implements country specific programmes for the Western Balkans, Georgia, Guinea, Nigeria and Iraq. Under the swissREPAT- IOM - Movements (SIM programme), IOM is responsible for organising the journey, assisting during the journey and assisting/accompanying vulnerable persons. Interview IOM-Bern, 2 August 2011. See also <http://irrico.belgium.iom.int/iom-offices/iom-switzerland.html>.

countries of return and preventing further irregular migration.¹¹¹¹ SDC also aids FOM and IOM with the implementation of country-specific return assistance programmes when structural aid is involved.

With the exception of a special programme for victims of human trafficking and exploited cabaret dancers, Swiss national reintegration policy deals solely with cases in the field of asylum thus far.¹¹¹² There are however cantonal AVRRs, running in collaboration with IOM-Bern, in the Cantons Vaud and Geneva for irregular migrants (cases under the Federal Act on Foreign Nationals). These are financed by the cantons.

Switzerland pays particular attention to vulnerable groups, offering additional support (reintegration and medical assistance, medical escort on the trip home) and has a handbook detailing the organisation of such returns.¹¹¹³

Within the FOM, in various departments, around 10 full time employees (FTEs) are allocated to return assistance.¹¹¹⁴ In addition, IOM-Bern employs a total of 19 FTEs (14 in Bern, 5 at the reception centres)¹¹¹⁵ and each of the 23 RCS has, on average, between 1 and 2 FTEs.¹¹¹⁶

Types of Reintegration Assistance

Reintegration assistance, depending on programme, includes the organisation of the trip home, financial aid, in kind support as well as medical aid and support for the vulnerable. The types of reintegration assistance available under each programme are summarised below.

¹¹¹¹ FOM (2011), Return Assistance in Switzerland, Bern, May 2011. The IMZ-A is responsible for deciding about the country specific programmes in accordance with Switzerland's migration policy in general and the needs of FOM specifically.

¹¹¹² Interview with FOM, Section Return Bases and Return Assistance, 2 August 2011.

¹¹¹³ Vulnerable is defined here relatively flexibly according to the individual situation and needs. The handbook *Organisation der Rückkehr und Reintegration vulnerabler Personen* covers, for example, people with physical and psychological problems, the elderly and victims of human trafficking.

¹¹¹⁴ Interview with FOM, Section Return Bases and Return Assistance, 2 August 2011.

¹¹¹⁵ Interview IOM-Bern, 2 August 2011.

¹¹¹⁶ Interview with KKF OCA, 3 August 2011. The number of RCS employees depends on the number of asylum seekers allocated to the particular canton (asylum seekers are allocated to the different cantons according to a distribution key based on population numbers) as well as on any additional financing which may be provided by the canton.

Table 28: Types of Reintegration Assistance, Switzerland

	REZ	Individual Return Assistance	Return Assistance AUG ¹¹¹⁷	Specific Country Programmes			
				Georgia	Guinea	Nigeria	Iraq
Individual counselling	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Organising documentation ¹¹¹⁸	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Arranging social insurance reimbursement		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Travel assistance/organisation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Medical aid and support for vulnerable people	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Financial Reintegration Assistance (CHF); cash	Adult	500	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
	Child	250	500	3000	500	500	1000
Reintegration (CHF); in kind; per case	100 ¹¹¹⁹	3000*		4000**	4000**	6000**	5000**
Post-arrival assistance		✓***	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

* Returnees may choose from one of several options: small business projects, training subsidy, accommodation, transport of materials or support from family member (for care or shelter)

** IOM Missions in the countries of return help returnees realise a personal reintegration plan including: Small business projects, assistance finding job opportunities, training projects or mix of training and business projects, as well as monitoring of the professional reintegration.

*** In countries where there is neither an IOM nor Swiss diplomatic mission to provide reintegration assistance in kind, the amount of 3000 CHF is paid out in cash at the airport

The Figure below illustrates the coordination between the different actors involved in Individual Return Assistance. An almost identical procedure is followed for the specific country programmes. RCS serve as the asylum seekers main point of contact. FOM and IOM-Bern have no direct contact with potential returnees. Discussing problems and plans for the future directly with those concerned, clarifying the situation and needs of the individual as well as the situation in the country of return, the RCS assist in preparing the return and define the assistance necessary. The RCS provide the documentation required, arrange any social insurance reimbursements, organise the return and explain the procedure to the potential returnee and develop (where applicable) a reintegration project together with the individual. IOM-Bern helps establish country-specific information during this process¹¹²⁰. The RCS then submit requests for assistance to FOM for approval, implementation, and coordination on location. IOM missions (and the Swiss diplomatic missions in countries where IOM is not present) are involved in,

¹¹¹⁷ Source: http://www.ch.iom.int/fileadmin/media/pdf/programme/counter_trafficking/allg_infos/mb-rkh-ausbeutung-d.pdf

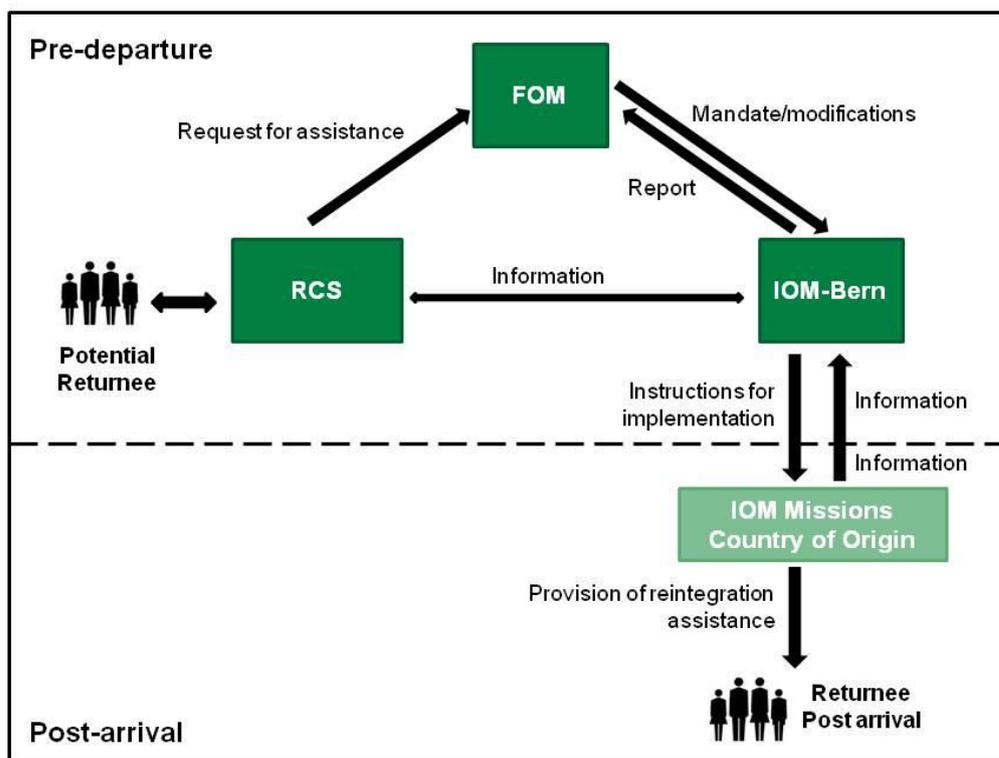
¹¹¹⁸ Documentation here includes return information etc.

¹¹¹⁹ Travel money. Source: Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

¹¹²⁰ IOM-Bern offers a Return Information Service (RIF), gathering and sorting return relevant information from IOM missions in the countries of origin and other sources to answer questions/provide relevant information for the RCS, FOM and REZ.

among others, assisting returnees on location, paying out return money, doing project follow-up supervision or assessing social and medical settings.¹¹²¹ IOM-Bern here acts as a go-between, relaying instructions for the implementation of approved projects.¹¹²²

Figure 2: Individual Return Assistance, Switzerland



Source: Adaptation from IOM-Bern RAS assistance diagram.

Interlinking Reintegration Practices

Providing Reintegration Assistance Both Pre-Departure and Post-Arrival

Switzerland aims to provide return assistance both prior to departure and after arrival where possible.

With the exception of REZ, where there is in practice *no* real reintegration assistance post arrival, the programmes listed above all contain aspects of pre-departure and post-arrival assistance. The focus of pre-departure is on the provision of counselling; Switzerland no longer offers vocational training to individuals before they leave.¹¹²³ Whilst reintegration assistance **pre-departure** is mainly carried out by the cantonal RCS assisted by IOM-Bern¹¹²⁴,

¹¹²¹ FOM (2011), Return Assistance in Switzerland, Bern, May 2011

¹¹²² Interview IOM-Bern, 2 August 2011.

¹¹²³ See section on challenges below.

¹¹²⁴ The exception here is again REZ: Return assistance at the reception centres is carried out by IOM-Bern.

reintegration assistance **post-arrival** is generally carried out by the IOM missions in the country of return.

Although the two phases are generally carried out by two different actors, there are certain procedures in place to ensure both continuity and sustainability including:

- IOM-Bern has its own **feedback mechanisms and Return Information Service (RIF)** that helps ensure that the service provided by RCS pre-departure is not detached from the situation in the country of return. In instances where there is a mismatch between the project developed by the returnees and the RCS and the realities in the country of return upon arrival, there are mechanisms in place to alter the project.¹¹²⁵
- Where possible, reintegration assistance is provided **in kind** rather than in cash. This ensures that the monetary reintegration assistance is used as envisaged in the pre-departure phase.

Tailoring of Reintegration Measures

The network of RCS in Switzerland serves to ensure that return and reintegration assistance is tailored to the **needs of the individual**, paying particular attention to vulnerable cases.¹¹²⁶ The provision of country specific information via RIF further enables the counselling to be tailored to the needs of the individual. RIF and monitoring more generally allows informed decisions to be made on individual projects, ensuring that projects which are unlikely to succeed are not approved.¹¹²⁷ FOM, for example, supports taxi business projects in Lagos, Nigeria, only under certain conditions as the market is already saturated. Taxi business projects have also been rejected in countries where previous experience suggests that there is a high probability that cars purchased with reintegration assistance will be sold soon after.

The country programmes allow for further tailoring to the needs of returnees (and the country of return in terms of structural aid). The amount available per case is greater than for Individual Return Assistance and cost of living is taken into consideration when determining the sum. Within the framework of country programmes there is also the possibility of:

- Offering small income generation courses (1-2 times per year) to give individuals additional qualifications in order for them to start a small income generation project.
- Introducing special measures. In Georgia, for example, SDC implemented a programme funded by FOM for the social rehabilitation and reintegration of former drug users (2007-2009). The overall objective was to contribute to relieving the drug problem in Georgia in line with the Anti-Drug Strategy of the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia.

Collaboration between actors in the Member State and in the Country of Return

¹¹²⁵ Changes to individual projects are possible but must be approved by FOM. Interview with FOM, 2 August 2011

¹¹²⁶ RCS counselling is based on four principles: Individual, confidential, free of charge and focused on the returnee and his/her individual needs. Interview with Social Welfare Office, Canton Zurich, 4 August 2011

¹¹²⁷ Interview with Social Welfare Office, Canton Zurich, 4 August 2011

The promotion of voluntary return and reintegration is perceived as an essential aspect of Switzerland's **migration partnerships**. Concluded with certain countries of return, such partnerships are intended to ensure a coherent Swiss migration policy, balancing the interests of Switzerland, of the partner country and of the migrants. Switzerland currently has migration partnership agreements with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo, Nigeria and Guinea.

Monitoring the Progress/Success of Reintegration Measures

If requested by FOM, return and reintegration assistance financed by FOM is monitored by IOM-Bern in collaboration with the various IOM missions. IOM monitoring visits generally take place after 6 months for Individual Return Assistance and after 6 and 12 months for the country specific programmes.¹¹²⁸ The cantonal RCS receive the final reports and may use photos sent back by the IOM missions to illustrate return examples to potential returnees.¹¹²⁹

In addition, IOM-Bern was sponsored by FOM to carry out a **comprehensive monitoring exercise** which examined all Reintegration Assistance from Switzerland (RAS)¹¹³⁰ cases within the period August 2009 and January 2010. According to the resulting *IOM Monitoring Report*, roughly two thirds of return assistance projects instigated by FOM are successful i.e. measures contribute to the livelihoods of returnees.¹¹³¹

Reintegration Assistance and Sustainable Return

Benefits

- The provision of reintegration assistance **in kind** rather than in cash ensures sustainability of the assistance provided.
- Comprehensive pre-departure return and reintegration measures have made impossible cases possible. For vulnerable people, for example, return has been facilitated by careful RCS preparation with the manual for vulnerable cases and by training return counsellors.¹¹³²
- Migration partnerships provide a logical and coherent package within which reintegration assistance can be offered.

¹¹²⁸ Interview with IOM-Bern, 2 August 2011.

¹¹²⁹ Interview with KKF OCA, 3 August 2011.

¹¹³⁰ RAS is funded by FOM and implemented by IOM and in many cases is the mechanism for paying out Individual Return Assistance (see footnote 16).

¹¹³¹ See IOM (2010) Monitoring Report: August 2009 – January 2010: RAS-Reintegration Assistance from Switzerland. Produced after FOM mandated IOM to establish a pilot project to systematically monitor individual RAS projects for 6 months.

¹¹³² Interview with FOM, 2 August 2011. 2 day training with IOM and partners offered to sensitise RCS to vulnerable cases.

Challenges

- There are a number of challenges regarding the implementation of the current reintegration assistance offered by Switzerland. Prior to departure, for example, communication problems¹¹³³ and difficulties accessing the correct documentation (relevant return information) from countries of return impede the process. Post arrival, barriers such as a lack of basic infrastructure, state bureaucracy and high costs of living in the country of return endanger the sustainability of reintegration assistance offered.¹¹³⁴
- There is a further need for tailoring to ensure reintegration is sustainable. Specific needs of young men without experience or social networks, for example, are not catered for by the current system. The scarcity of education/training opportunities in many countries of return and individuals' lack of work experience makes putting together tailored projects difficult. An absence of social networks aggravates the situation further.¹¹³⁵
- The further development of tailoring and pre-departure assistance invariably entails increase in the workload for the RCS and a potential strain on resources in the future.¹¹³⁶
- Switzerland no longer offers pre-departure vocational training to individuals (e.g. gastronomy courses) as part of their reintegration assistance because this had the adverse effect of encouraging people to stay in Switzerland. Potential returnees finished the training courses believing that they had better prospects on the Swiss labour market.¹¹³⁷
- The success of return and reintegration is very dependent on the willingness of individuals to return and their experience. In cases where the latter is missing, there is a need to be innovative. One idea would be to offer a service of exchange with former returnees, either asking them to employ young returnees for an internship (financed with reintegration assistance) or to be mentors.¹¹³⁸ This is already done within the Nigeria program, where returnees can contact either IOM or previous returnees via Skype.¹¹³⁹

¹¹³³ Returnees are expected to bring their own translators to the return counselling offered by the RCS.

¹¹³⁴ Interview with IOM-Bern, 2 April 2011.

¹¹³⁵ Interview with KKF-OCA, 3 April 2011.

¹¹³⁶ Interviews with IOM-Bern and FOM, 2 April 2011

¹¹³⁷ Interview with FOM, 2 April 2011. Some cantons still offer vocational training (the counselling centre in canton Wallis for example is also a training centre) but the FOM stopped such practices in 2005.

¹¹³⁸ Interview with KKF-OCA, 3 April 2011.

¹¹³⁹ Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

6.5.1.12 United Kingdom

Introduction and Background

This case study has been compiled using desk research, the country profile questionnaire as well as interviews with the main actors responsible for and actively involved in reintegration activities in the UK. Unlike other Member States, only a limited number of actors is involved, namely the UK Border Agency,¹¹⁴⁰ IOM (UK)¹¹⁴¹, and Refugee Action.¹¹⁴²

Reintegration Assistance in Practice

The **legal basis** for voluntary return, which also governs reintegration activities, is the 2002 Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act.¹¹⁴³ The Act further permits the Secretary of State to participate in international projects, including those aimed at assisting or ensuring the return of migrants.¹¹⁴⁴

The scope of reintegration policy in the UK is to provide a dignified return to those who are eligible and support their transition which would lead to middle to long-term sustainable return.¹¹⁴⁵ Programmes are co-funded by the EU Return Fund (ERF)¹¹⁴⁶ and UKBA.

There are currently four main programmes which provide reintegration assistance for voluntary returns. The UK also provides reintegration assistance for forced returnees going back to Iraq and Afghanistan. As this case study shows, reintegration packages are characterised by short-term¹¹⁴⁷ post-arrival measures. The Table below provides an overview of reintegration assistance in the UK.

¹¹⁴⁰ UKBA is the Government Agency in charge of Returns and Reintegration.

¹¹⁴¹ IOM has been the Service Provider for Return and Reintegration Programmes between 1999 and March 2011.

¹¹⁴² Refugee Action is the new Service Provider for Returns and Reintegration Programmes since April 2011.

¹¹⁴³ 2002c 41, Part3, Section 58.

¹¹⁴⁴ 2002c 41, Part3, Section 59.

¹¹⁴⁵ Interview with IOM (UK), Facilitated Reintegration Scheme, 6 July 2011, and interview with UKBA, Assisted Voluntary Return Team, 19 July 2001.

¹¹⁴⁶ A maximum of 50% come from the ERF.

¹¹⁴⁷ The Nationality Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 allows for short term assistance. The specific length of assistance is, however, dictated by the Return Fund Directive. For the Programmes running this year, UK assistance related to education, business set-up and training will be awarded with the first six months after arrival in the country of return. However, the funds can be used for activities that extend up to a year.

Table 29: Overview of Reintegration Assistance in the UK

	VARRP	AVRFC	FRS ¹¹⁴⁸	AVRIM	Forced Return Programmes ¹¹⁴⁹
Launched in	1999 ¹¹⁵⁰	2010 ¹¹⁵¹	2006	2004 ¹¹⁵²	2003/2005 ¹¹⁵³
Eligibility	(Rejected) asylum seekers ¹¹⁵⁴	Non-EEA families and children ¹¹⁵⁵ who meet AVRIM/VARRP criteria	Non-EEA foreign national who have served a custodial sentence	Irregular migrants ¹¹⁵⁶	Forced returnees to Iraq and Afghanistan

Providers and Beneficiaries

In the UK, provision of reintegration assistance is granted through a public tendering process. Between 1999 and March 2011, IOM was the service provider.¹¹⁵⁷ Since April 2011, Refugee Action¹¹⁵⁸ has become the service provider, responsible in addition to pre-decision advice for the logistics of return and administering reintegration assistance.¹¹⁵⁹ Reintegration activities in the UK officially started in 2002 under the VARRP Programme, and were extended to cover other voluntary return programmes, namely AVRFC, FRS and AVRIM.¹¹⁶⁰

These four programmes are intended for different types of recipients including asylum seekers, non-EEA families and children, non-EEA foreign national who have served a custodial sentence and irregular migrants. AVRIM is specifically dedicated to vulnerable returnees, including medical cases, victims of trafficking and victims of domestic violence. Under VARRP and AVRFC, vulnerable cases are also provided additional support especially in terms of medical

¹¹⁴⁸ This is the Voluntary Return and Reintegration for Detained Migrants Programme.

¹¹⁴⁹ Interview with Country Returns Operations & Strategy (CROS) Office, Appeals and Removal Directorate, UKBA, 20 August 2011.

¹¹⁵⁰ Reintegration assistance was introduced in this Programme only in 2002.

¹¹⁵¹ Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

¹¹⁵² Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

¹¹⁵³ The Afghanistan programme was launched in 2003, and a new contract will be awarded in October 2011. The Iraq Programme was launched in March 2005 and was extended until June 2011.

¹¹⁵⁴ The VARRP is open to asylum seekers of any nationality, whose asylum claim is under one of the following criteria: waiting for a decision from Border and Immigration Agency, refused by the Border and Immigration Agency, appealing against the asylum decision and those given ELR (Exceptional Leave to Remain).

¹¹⁵⁵ Those who want to return permanently to their countries of origin, whether they have ever claimed asylum or have not.

¹¹⁵⁶ This includes people who might have been smuggled or trafficked into the UK or who have overstayed their visas.

¹¹⁵⁷ Interview with IOM (UK), Facilitated Reintegration Scheme, 6 July 2011.

¹¹⁵⁸ Refugee Action has been running “the Choices” programme, providing information and informal counselling for refugees and asylum seekers to prepare for their return for over 10 years. Interview with Refugee Action, 3 August 2011.

¹¹⁵⁹ IOM still provides reintegration assistance to those who returned before end of March 2011.

¹¹⁶⁰ UK Country Profile.

care.¹¹⁶¹ In 2003, the UK provided assistance for those individuals subject to forced return to Iraq while in 2005 for those returning to Afghanistan.¹¹⁶² These activities were managed by UKBA and the service provider was IOM.¹¹⁶³

It is estimated that between 2006 and 2011 there have been more than 15,421 beneficiaries of reintegration assistance under AVRFC¹¹⁶⁴ and VARRP.¹¹⁶⁵

Types of Reintegration Assistance

The return programme operating from 1999 to 2002 by IOM lacked a reintegration component. This was introduced as part of return programmes in 2002. Initially, reintegration assistance began as a small cash grant and a year later was developed into a comprehensive assistance package.¹¹⁶⁶ During its mandate, IOM used its own AVRR handbook in the UK as well as the global tool published in Geneva.¹¹⁶⁷

Reintegration assistance provided by the UK can be divided into two main components: information/counselling¹¹⁶⁸ and financial incentives, both cash and in kind. The latter can be used for a number of purposes including:¹¹⁶⁹

- training courses fees, equipment and books;
- school fees, uniforms, equipment and study material;
- business purposes such as buying stock, equipment, tools, rent;
- travel to final destination;
- temporary rent; and
- medicines, medical equipment and child care assistance.

Upon departure' a lump sum of £500 cash¹¹⁷⁰ per person is provided for VARRP and AVRFC. The rest is given in kind after arrival for a maximum of £1000 (VARRP) and £15000 per person (AVRFC) respectively.¹¹⁷¹

¹¹⁶¹ Interview with IOM (UK), Facilitated Reintegration Scheme, 6 July 2011.

¹¹⁶² Information received from the Country Returns Operations & Strategy (CROS)-UKBA on 30 August 2011.

¹¹⁶³ The Iraq Programme will terminate in June 2011. IOM is the interim service provider until announcement of successful tender bid for new contract to commence October 2011.

¹¹⁶⁴ This programme began on March 2010.

¹¹⁶⁵ There are about 2500 returnees under this programme, of which approximately 2300 received reintegration assistance. Interview with IOM (UK), Facilitated Reintegration Scheme, 6 July 2011.

¹¹⁶⁶ Interview with IOM (UK), Facilitated Reintegration Scheme, 6 July 2011.

¹¹⁶⁷ Other pan-European handbooks and guidelines were consulted by IOM, but were not necessarily implemented. Interview with IOM (UK), Facilitated Reintegration Scheme, 6 July 2011.

¹¹⁶⁸ Interview with Refugee Action, 3 August 2011.

¹¹⁶⁹ UK country profile.

¹¹⁷⁰ This sum has been defined as "one of the most generous reintegration assistance packages" by UNCHR. Interview in the UNHCR London office on 21 July 2011.

¹¹⁷¹ The maximum amount of reintegration assistance for AVRIM is a discretionary of £1000 per case for vulnerable applicants. This is decided on a case by case basis and provided in kind in the country of return.

Interlinking Reintegration Practices

Providing Reintegration Assistance Both Pre-Departure and Post-Arrival

The UK mainly provides post-arrival reintegration assistance. While some support is provided pre-departure, it mainly takes the form of supplying information about the process, and other information related, for example, to the situation in the country of return.¹¹⁷² The objective of pre-departure reintegration measures is to ensure the migrant makes an informed decision, using the utmost access to information a returnee can get. This also means the relevant organisation is managing migrant expectations and preparing them in a way so as to avoid any possible frustrations upon arrival.¹¹⁷³

The choice of focusing reintegration assistance post arrival is explained by the perceived benefits that this form of assistance has proven to provide to returnees. Funding for the programmes is limited and provision of financial assistance (beyond that required for travel) prior to departure might increase the risk of financial outlay without a return if the applicant changes their mind.¹¹⁷⁴

Tailoring of Reintegration Measures

Tailoring could be addressed to both the needs of individual returnees as well as to the development needs of the country of return. In the UK, the focus is only on the former. There are no wide development goals or policies behind the UK reintegration assistance provided.¹¹⁷⁵ The scope of this assistance is to help people reintegrate and resettle so that they do not leave their country again. Consequently, tailoring is only addressed to the individual and not the development needs of the country of return.¹¹⁷⁶ Refugee Action, is aware of the importance of targeting needs of the specific local context and consequently seeks the collaboration of local non-governmental organisations which will help to provide a more tailored approach.¹¹⁷⁷

Based on both formal evaluation and informal learning, IOM and UKBA, in consultation, agreed that reintegration assistance should be individually tailored to meet each person's (and any dependents') needs, and should be delivered in a more phased manner. The Individual Return Plans (IRPs) were therefore introduced in October 2007.¹¹⁷⁸ Tailoring for individuals' needs is also clearly reflected in the IOM approach. In the 2010-11 year, IOM launched the 'Percentage approach' to reintegration, which included an in-kind reintegration grant of £2,500 (approximately €3000) available to migrants. Individuals could choose how they wish to use

¹¹⁷² Interview with UKBA, Assisted Voluntary Return Team, 19 July 2001.

¹¹⁷³ Interview with IOM (UK), Facilitated Reintegration Scheme, 6 July 2011.

¹¹⁷⁴ Interview with UKBA, Assisted Voluntary Return Team, 19 July 2001.

¹¹⁷⁵ Interview with UKBA, Assisted Voluntary Return Team, 19 July 2001.

¹¹⁷⁶ Interview with UKBA, Assisted Voluntary Return Team, 19 July 2001.

¹¹⁷⁷ Interview with Refugee Action, 3 August 2011.

¹¹⁷⁸ Interview with UKBA, Assisted Voluntary Return Team, 19 July 2001.

their reintegration assistance, ranging from housing, temporary accommodation, house repairing, medical assistance, income generation via job-placement or small business, to education and vocational training. From these, each returnee could choose which elements they used their in-kind assistance for.¹¹⁷⁹ Previously to the percentage approach, IOM was using the 'new approach'. This meant that if an element of assistance was not needed it was lost and could not be redirected to other areas where further assistance may have been needed.¹¹⁸⁰

Collaboration between Actors in the Member State and in the Country of Return

Given the scope of reintegration assistance, collaboration between sending and return countries is very important. IOM UK, for example, cooperates with its office in countries of return as well as local NGOs in order to collect the information and to provide post-arrival assistance. IOM also collaborated closely with UK based NGOs in outreach work such as Refugee Action and the Refugee Council.¹¹⁸¹ Refugee Action does not set up offices in countries of return but instead subcontracts to other local community based and non-governmental organisations doing similar work, as it believes that these organisations have the best understanding of reintegration needs within the local context.¹¹⁸²

Monitoring the Progress/Success of Reintegration Measures

Returnees are monitored up to 6 months after return. The service providers are responsible for this task. During its service, IOM used to produce the "Stories of Return Booklets" showing examples of successful reintegration activities.¹¹⁸³

Reintegration Assistance and Sustainable Return

A number of visible benefits and obstacles are perceived by providers and recipients of UK reintegration assistance.

Benefits

- Providing information pre-departure allows more buy-in from the returnee and makes them more proactive. Ensuring the reintegration process begins prior to return makes it much more likely to get a returnee to become engaged in the reintegration process.¹¹⁸⁴
- Reintegration assistance allows returnees to start a business and successfully generate an income to support themselves, their families or wider family network.¹¹⁸⁵

¹¹⁷⁹ Interview with IOM (UK), Assisted Voluntary Returns Officer, 6 July 2011.

¹¹⁸⁰ Interview with IOM (UK), Assisted Voluntary Returns Officer, 6 July 2011.

¹¹⁸¹ Interview with IOM (UK), Facilitated Reintegration Scheme, 6 July 2011.

¹¹⁸² Interview with Refugee Action, 3 August 2011.

¹¹⁸³ Interview with UKBA, Assisted Voluntary Return Team, 19 July 2001.

¹¹⁸⁴ Interview with IOM (UK), Facilitated Reintegration Scheme, 6 July 2011.

¹¹⁸⁵ Interview with IOM (UK), Facilitated Reintegration Scheme, 6 July 2011.

- Pre-decision advice and assistance ensures that individuals can make an informed and sustainable decision about their future, and regain a sense of control over their situation.¹¹⁸⁶
- Pre-departure advice and assistance allows returnees to plan for their reintegration, and to take steps before they have left the UK which will help them to reintegrate sustainably (for example contacting friends and family, considering how to spend their reintegration assistance, developing a business plan, undertaking training in the UK).¹¹⁸⁷
- The flexible categories in which reintegration assistance can be spent enable returnees to take the steps that will be most beneficial in their specific situation and taking into account the local country context.¹¹⁸⁸
- Post-return assistance from country-based NGOs ensures that any unanticipated issues can be addressed after the returnee arrives in their country, and that assistance with reintegration continues for a period of time beyond return.¹¹⁸⁹

Challenges

- Accessing information related to the situation in countries is limited. Information becomes out-dated very quickly as the situation in the country of return may change even within the timeframe of 6 months. It is, therefore, important to make the information 'accurate' and 'relevant'. In order to overcome such obstacles, organisations like IOM seek to update their database on a 6 month basis;
- The limited resources availability can stand as an obstacle in the longer term viability of the returnees' reintegration assistance as it can constrain the business set-up options available to them¹¹⁹⁰
- Lack of use amongst returnees of the information provided to them about the country of return. Migrants have been of 'mixed reception' as some prefer to judge the situation in their country of origin based on their own experiences and those of their family.¹¹⁹¹
- Returnees decide to start up their own business without having any business skills, entrepreneurial experience, or market research. This might lead to a very fast failure of their business.
- Service providers face the challenge of providing a complex service in a quick and efficient manner.¹¹⁹²
- The evidence required to prove reintegration expenditure is extremely difficult for returnees to obtain in some countries.¹¹⁹³

¹¹⁸⁶ Interview with Refugee Action, 3 August 2011.

¹¹⁸⁷ Interview with Refugee Action, 3 August 2011.

¹¹⁸⁸ Interview with Refugee Action, 3 August 2011.

¹¹⁸⁹ Interview with Refugee Action, 3 August 2011.

¹¹⁹⁰ Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

¹¹⁹¹ Email correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix) and Sacha Chan Kam (IOM), 7 December 2011.

¹¹⁹² Interview with Refugee Action, 3 August 2011.

¹¹⁹³ Interview with Refugee Action, 3 August 2011.

6.5.2 Case Studies: Countries of Return

6.5.2.1 Ecuador

This case study is compiled using desk research, interviews with the main actors responsible for and actively involved in reintegration activities in Ecuador as well as interviews with selected returnees. The main actors involved are the National Secretariat of the Migrant (SENAMI)¹¹⁹⁴, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs¹¹⁹⁵, IOM Quito¹¹⁹⁶ and Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)¹¹⁹⁷. The returnees interviewed returned from Belgium and received reintegration assistance under a Caritas Belgium/HIAS implemented programme.

Introduction and Background

In 2007, a specific policy targeted at migration was launched, and a dedicated Ministry, the National Secretariat of the Migrant (SENAMI)¹¹⁹⁸ created. The migration policy developed since 2007 aimed at modifying the existing laws on migration dating from 1971¹¹⁹⁹. One of the priorities was to set up programmes to assist Ecuadorian nationals living abroad.

A National Plan of Human Development for Migrations was drafted for the period 2007-2010¹²⁰⁰. This plan promoted the right of people to migrate, to stay and to return, calling for the right to free movement through open borders. Within this plan and the return policy in general, the government considers that return has to be voluntary. As part of the plan, the government created a “Voluntary Return Plan”, known as “Welcome home”¹²⁰¹.

In addition, the SENAMI established offices in the main countries hosting Ecuadorians: the United States, Spain, Italy, the UK and Venezuela. These offices provide information on the assistance available; legal, social and psychological counselling, as well as cultural or language training.

The SENAMI, which is part of the Coordination Ministry for Social Development, together with the Ministries for Economy, Education, Health and Urban Development, leads the work of the Ecuadorian government on return and reintegration. It collaborates with, among others, the Ministry of Foreign Relations (and Ecuador’s Embassies and consulates) and the Coordination Ministry for Production, which includes the Ministry of Labour. At the non-governmental level, IOM Quito locally coordinates returns and reintegration programmes organised by IOM offices

¹¹⁹⁴ Interview with the SENAMI, 22 August 2011.

¹¹⁹⁵ Interview with the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Migration and Consular Affairs, 19 August 2011.

¹¹⁹⁶ Interview with IOM, Assisted Voluntary returns Unit, 18 August 2011.

¹¹⁹⁷ Interview with HIAS, Return contact persons, 22 August 2011.

¹¹⁹⁸ Decree 150 of March 2007, http://www.senami.gob.ec/lainstitucion/documentacion-senami/doc_details/509-decreto-150-creacion-de-la-senami.html.

¹¹⁹⁹ The laws of 1971, were based on the “National Security Doctrine” (as developed in Brazil and Argentina during the Cold War) that promoted nationalist policies and hostile measures towards foreigners.

¹²⁰⁰ http://www.senami.gob.ec/component/docman/doc_details/108-plan-nacional-de-desarrollo-humano-para-las-migraciones-2007-2010.html.

¹²⁰¹ Bienvenidos a casa.

throughout the world. The HIAS Quito office is the partner of Caritas Belgium in implementing their reintegration programmes in Ecuador. They were also, until 2008, the partner of another Belgian NGO, CIRE, for a similar programme.

Returnees

Ecuadorians have important communities in the EU, particularly in Spain, Italy, the UK and Belgium. The government estimates¹²⁰² that there are between 2.5 and 3 million Ecuadorians living abroad. The most recent statistics of the Spanish Ministry of Labour and Immigration show that by the end of June 2011, 409,125 Ecuadorian nationals held a residence permit in Spain and that this number has kept growing since 2010¹²⁰³. Ecuadorian migration is essentially economically-driven and relatively recent. In 1999- 2000, Ecuador faced a severe economic crisis which led to massive emigration of Ecuadorians to the United States, but also to Spain and some other EU countries.

Between 2008 and the 30 of April 2011, 14,623 persons have returned to Ecuador with support from SENAMI programmes. In 2010 alone the number totalled 5,433¹²⁰⁴. Among the persons assisted by the SENAMI since its creation in 2007, 7,753 were identified as “vulnerable”¹²⁰⁵. IOM internal statistics indicate that 183 people returned from the EU through their programmes in 2010.¹²⁰⁶ HIAS assisted 5 persons in 2010 and 3 in 2011.

Most returnees come from the United States, though more and more also come from Spain, according to the SENAMI and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs¹²⁰⁷. Various stakeholders mention the current economic crisis in the EU as a reason for returning.

Though there are no available statistics disaggregated by age, it is estimated that most returnees are older people, including pensioners or irregular migrants. It was noted that in some cases parents would return but their children would remain abroad. Most emigrants worked abroad in the construction, agricultural or tourism sectors and are likely to continue in this area once returned.¹²⁰⁸

¹²⁰² Interview with the SENAMI, 22 August 2011.

¹²⁰³ <http://www.americaeconomia.com/politica-sociedad/sociedad/crece-el-numero-de-ecuatorianos-en-espana-pesar-de-la-crisis>.

¹²⁰⁴ Statistics are available at <http://www.senami.gob.ec/lainstitucion/senami-en-cifras/233-senami-en-cifras/748-bienvenidos-a-casa.html> and <http://www.sigob.gob.ec/metas/main/consulta/default.asp>

¹²⁰⁵ Indigents, ill and terminally-ill persons, deportees, etc.

¹²⁰⁶ Email Communication with Ana Fonseca (IOM), 2 December 2011

¹²⁰⁷ Interviews with the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Migration and Consular Affairs, 19 August 2011 and the SENAMI, 22 August 2011

¹²⁰⁸ Interview with the SENAMI, 22 August 2011

Cooperation with EU Countries

Ecuador has not signed any agreements with the EU or member states relating to migration. According to a representative of the Foreign Affairs Ministry¹²⁰⁹, readmission agreements cannot be signed by Ecuador because they would be against the country's constitution¹²¹⁰, which "advocates for the free movement of all the inhabitants of the planet" and promotes the "right to migrate".

On the other hand, the EU is funding a project¹²¹¹ covering the Latin American and Caribbean countries, called "Strengthening the dialogue and cooperation between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) to establish management models on migration and development policies". The project was launched in January 2011 and is implemented by IOM Brussels, in collaboration with the International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies (FIIAPP). Amongst other objectives, the project aims to promote the good management of migration and social and economic reintegration policies of returnees in their local communities. One of the project's outcomes will be a labour market study in Ecuador, with the objective of supporting the design of public policies in favour of the economic reintegration of returnees. Through the project, IOM Ecuador are, in close collaboration with FIIAPP, also upgrading the Migration Profile of Ecuador, an instrument that is being worked with government entities that manage the issue of migration. It is expected, that the document can guide public policy decisions on migration in Ecuador.

In addition, the government of Spain, through its Ministry of Labour and Immigration, is collaborating with the International Labour Organisation (ILO)'s MIGRANDINA project and the government of Ecuador on labour migration programmes. One of the outcomes of this collaboration was the creation in August 2010 of a joint committee on the situation of returnees¹²¹². The mixed committee is made up of representatives of the ILO; on the Ecuadorian side of the SENAMI, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Labour; and on the Spanish side of the Ministry of Labour. The goal of the committee is to develop an inter-agency plan for return management. A number of workshops and meetings have been organised in 2010 and the first half of 2011. Activities have been planned for the rest of 2011. Workshops have also been opened to other actors such as the delegation of the EU in Ecuador, NGOs, UN agencies and Member States' development agencies.

¹²⁰⁹ Interview with the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Migration and Consular Affairs, 19 August 2011.

¹²¹⁰ Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador, 2008, http://www.mmrree.gob.ec/pol_exterior/constit_eng.pdf.

¹²¹¹ Information provided by the EU Delegation in Ecuador (by email).

¹²¹² Information provided by the EU Delegation in Ecuador (by email).

Reintegration Assistance in Practice

Table 30: Overview of Main Existing Programmes and Activities in Ecuador

Programme/ project name	Implementer	EU partner	Timeline
Welcome Home- Bienvenidos a casa ¹²¹³	SENAMI	N/A	Since 2008
Assisted Voluntary return and reintegration programmes	IOM	IOM BE, CH, ES (until 2010), IT, UK	Depending on EU counterparts
Reintegration programme	HIAS	CIRE (BE) Caritas (BE) Maatwerk bij Terugkeer (NL)	2006-2008 Since 2009
Andean service for Migrations (SAMI)	Fundacion Esperanza	N/A	Since 2011
Own Business from Spain to Ecuador	Fundacion Alternativa	Fundacion Crea-Empresa (ES)	Since 2008

Ecuadorian nationals who wish to return to their country can register with one of the offices of the SENAMI abroad or with their consulate in order to benefit from the government assistance. Upon registration, the migrant receives information on the different types of assistance and can then meet with counsellors. The return plan of the government, “Welcome Home”, is described by the SENAMI¹²¹⁴ as a “comprehensive” programme, based on the migrant’s free will to return and their individual “life project”. The programme includes various reintegration assistance components:

- **Custom fees waiver programme** on household items, cars, as well as working tools and equipment;
- **Education:** Public schools have the obligation to reintegrate returning children;
- **Health:** Access to social security;
- **Housing:** Support in building or buying a house;
- **Employment:**

The Cucayo Fund is a competitive grant system for which returnees can apply individually or collectively by submitting business projects¹²¹⁵ (business creation or development). The grants amount to up to \$10,000¹²¹⁶ for individual projects and up to \$50,000 (approximately €36,000)¹²¹⁷ for collective projects.

The SENAMI works with a network of experts in different economic sectors who provide advice to (potential) returnees on the economic situation in Ecuador. Counselling is offered for up to one year during the developing phase of the business project. Returnees can also register at the job bank managed by the Ministry of Labour.

¹²¹³ Includes: Material assistance package, “Cucayo fund” (grants), Migrants’ Bank and Job bank.

¹²¹⁴ Interview with the SENAMI, 22 August 2011.

¹²¹⁵ Areas concerned include industry, tourism, environment, manufactured goods, agriculture and livestock farming, hunting, fishing, forestry, construction, education, community, social or individual services.

¹²¹⁶ About €7,000.

¹²¹⁷ About €35,000.

As a continuation of the government's migration and return policy, the Migrant's Bank was established in 2009. The bank offers loan to Ecuadorian emigrants, returnees or migrants' families. As far as returnees are concerned, the loans were first dedicated to business and entrepreneurship projects and are now also available for housing and investments. Priority is given to projects in the original local community of the migrants, in order to help their development, and, by extension, national development.

IOM Ecuador¹²¹⁸ is in charge of providing reintegration assistance and following up on returnees who benefited from IOM programmes abroad. The assistance provided by IOM consists of in-kind assistance for setting up a business, health or education, as well as monitoring. The specifics of the assistance and monitoring are dependent upon the programmes established in the EU offices, and variations are mainly dependent upon local funding. However, on average, the reintegration assistance amounts to \$3000¹²¹⁹ per person, and lasts for six months. Information about Ecuador's economy, political situation, education and health system is provided by IOM offices abroad, thanks to country sheets produced by IOM Ecuador, as well as contact with the Quito office. After their return, the migrants have an interview with the person in charge of the programme in the Quito office within one month. The IOM person provides counselling and follows up on the individual cases. Monitoring is always included in the programmes lasting between 6 months and one year.

IOM Ecuador has been exploring various possibilities to improve assistance for return and reintegration of Ecuadorians. Firstly, through a Referral Network with government entities and NGOs that can assist the returnees in different areas such as education, health, and support credits for productive projects, among others. And secondly, by drawing up a business plan (template) that enables returnees to identify the opportunities and challenges for productive projects.¹²²⁰

In addition, some NGOs are involved through partnerships with European NGOs. HIAS¹²²¹, an international NGO, acts as a partner for different European organisations through its office in Ecuador. HIAS has worked with CIRE (Coordination and Initiatives for and with Refugees and Foreigners), a Belgian NGO on their "reintegration and support programme" (2006-2008). The CIRE project added a reintegration component to the Assisted Voluntary Return Programme offered by IOM Belgium by providing psycho-social and technical counselling as well as a reintegration grant for social or business projects. With CIRE, HIAS developed a psychological component of the assistance. The psychological support started in Belgium and was continued by HIAS psychologists in Ecuador who are specifically trained on (forced) migration issues. It was also offered to the family of the returnee. According to HIAS¹²²², this type of assistance is essential in the reintegration process.

¹²¹⁸ Interview with IOM, Assisted Voluntary Returns Unit, 18 August 2011.

¹²¹⁹ About €2,000.

¹²²⁰ Email Correspondence between Gabriele Birnberg (Matrix Insight) and Ana Fonseca (IOM), 2 December 2011.

¹²²¹ Interview with HIAS, Return contact persons, 22 August 2011.

¹²²² Interview with HIAS, Return contact persons, 22 August 2011.

Following the end of the CIRE project, HIAS became the partner of Caritas Belgium in their reintegration programme. This programme includes in-kind support¹²²³ and counselling. Additional help is also offered to vulnerable persons¹²²⁴. Before the return, HIAS and Caritas liaise to prepare the return. Once the person has returned they meet with a staff member of HIAS within one month and are then followed for 3 to 6 months. In addition to psychological support, HIAS offers counselling on business projects (by their in-house specialised staff). Information is provided by individual contacts as well as through a country profile established under another Belgian-funded project in 2009. Since 2010, 7 persons have benefited from this programme. HIAS also works more informally with the Dutch NGO Maatwerk bij Terugkeer (Mediation Agency for Return). Within this collaboration, they have supported two families.

Since the beginning of 2011, the *Fundacion Esperanza*¹²²⁵ has been implementing a pilot project funded by EuropAid, called Andean Migration Services¹²²⁶ (SAMI). This offers psycho-social assistance and supports economic projects, with a focus on women returnees. The project, which is run in collaboration with the SENAMI, aims to assist 40 women in Ecuador. Participants will receive one month of training and then 9 months of follow-up.

Since 2008, the Inter-American Development Bank has been funding a programme of voluntary return, based on business capacity development and aimed at emigrants from Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia and Uruguay who live in Spain. The project is implemented by the Fundacion Crea Empresa in Spain, in collaboration with local organisations. In Ecuador, their partner is the Fundacion Alternativa¹²²⁷. The goal of the project is to promote the development and strengthening of businesses run by returnees, or potential returnees, with a view to contribute to the economic and social development of their country of return. The project includes capacity building through training and the promotion of investing remittances into business projects that have a transnational component¹²²⁸. To date, Fundacion Alternativa has held 15 training series in five provinces for 325 participants. The outcome of the training is the development of a business plan. In 2011, the Foundation partnered with Quito's Economic Promotion Agency, Conquito. Together with their Spanish partners, they contributed to the training of local counsellors. The counsellors will monitor the returnees' projects with the goal of ensuring sustainability. The new phase of the project will also include the possibility for returnees who attended training to apply for a loan.

¹²²³ Meant to cover temporary housing after arrival, assistance in the search for a job or in the creation of a small income-generating activity, medical care, re-registration in the administrative system both on local and national level, material support (in some cases), extra transport costs, education and training.

¹²²⁴ People with medical problems; pregnant women; unaccompanied minors; victims of trafficking.

¹²²⁵ Interview with the Fundacion Esperanza, Migrants' Aid Unit, 22 August 2011.

¹²²⁶ The project started in 2011 and will run for 2 years.

¹²²⁷ Information provided by Fundacion Alternativa.

¹²²⁸ The programme aims to develop economic links between Spanish and Ecuadorian companies.

Reintegration Assistance and Sustainable Return

Benefits

- Since its creation, the SENAMI has developed many programmes and supported a significant number of returnees. They can also count on an **important network** of social workers, psychologists, labour market counsellors and trainers.
- **Return and local development:** The migration and return policy of the Ecuadorian government is part of the global Plan for Good Living¹²²⁹, which aims at improving the development of the country. Within the goals of the SENAMI, the migrant is considered as an “actor of development”¹²³⁰.
- The SENAMI tries to promote projects which would also help the development of local communities, by giving preference to projects in the returnee’s region of origin in order to strengthen those regions and also reduce the push factors. However, some returnees from rural areas prefer to settle back in the main cities.
- The SENAMI further works on developing local communities by helping to establish links between migrants and their communities of origin. For example, the Spanish Aid Agency (AECID) funded a four-year project of co-development¹²³¹ between the Spanish region of Murcia and the Ecuadorian region of Cañar, based on relations between migrants and their community of origin.
- The Fundacion Esperanza is starting a new project¹²³² funded by the Spanish Aid Agency in the province of Cotacachi in the North of the country, within which local development will play a big role. Supported projects will be based on existing trades: handicrafts and tourism. The Foundation will work with local indigenous organisations, and will first evaluate local needs.

Challenges

- Other actors in the field lament that because of its political position, the SENAMI is not an easy institution to collaborate with; staff turnover is high and it seems **difficult to keep track of the relevant contact persons**.
- NGOs, IOM and returnees also pointed to the **lack of information** on the available programmes of the SENAMI.
- Currently, the SENAMI is working with other relevant economic and trade Ministries, such as the Ministry of Labour, to establish a catalogue¹²³³ presenting the various services available to returnees in the field of labour or business, that will be published online. However, some actors highlighted stories that even when (potential) returnees were informed, some internal communication between the authorities was lacking. For

¹²²⁹ *Plan nacional del Buen Vivir*, 2009-2013, <http://plan2009.senplades.gob.ec/web/en>.

¹²³⁰ <http://www.senami.gob.ec/proyectos/bienvenidos-a-casa.html>.

¹²³¹ For a description of the project (in Spanish), cf.

[http://www.carm.es/web/pagina?IDCONTENIDO=5238&IDTIPO=11&RASTRO=c884\\$m5936,11771](http://www.carm.es/web/pagina?IDCONTENIDO=5238&IDTIPO=11&RASTRO=c884$m5936,11771).

¹²³² Interview with the *Fundacion Esperanza*, Migrants' Aid Unit, 22 August 2011 .

¹²³³ Interview with the Ministry of Labour, Migration Unit, 18 August 2011.

example, the SENAMI provides a service to bring back equipment and personal item free of customs duties. In one example, custom officers did ask for duties when a returnee went to retrieve their goods, and the latter then preferred to abandon them rather than paying duties. This example was based on a lack of information of the custom officers or bureaucratic issues when some papers were missing or incomplete.

- It is difficult to evaluate the sustainability of those returns and **some actors tend to think that re-migration is an important phenomenon**. The Ecuadorian government, for example, envisages migration as a personal life project and believes that circular migration can also benefit the country of return.
- Local actors all think that **return is more likely to be sustainable when it is voluntary** and prepared in the host countries. However, IOM¹²³⁴ noted that the information is not always well-communicated and returnees are not always well-prepared. HIAS¹²³⁵ highlighted the positive effects of good interpersonal relations with their counterpart at Caritas Belgium, making the preparation and the case transfer smoother.
- Returnees interviewed were relatively satisfied with their return and living conditions. Returning from Belgium, they had agreed, prior to departure, not to re-migrate to the country for a minimum of five years¹²³⁶. They plan to respect this agreement. Both returnees, however, considered their **time for preparation too short**. In one case, the return took place within one week, which the returnee considered barely enough to leave his apartment and close all his contracts and accounts.
- Representatives of the Ministries noted that **better cooperation with host countries could be beneficial**, though the general view was that member states, as well as the EU, developed migration policies based on individual interests rather than as part of an international effort.
- Main obstacles to reintegration are the **time people spend abroad** and the related difficulties in readapting to the way of living, human relations and the welfare system. Most migrants keep in touch with their families, and are therefore informed about major changes in their country. However, they lack practical information on the cost of living, institutions, or available services, as well as counselling before and after return on realistic education or labour opportunities. It was also noted¹²³⁷ that psycho-social assistance can be important in order to “revalorise” a person, point them towards the benefits of their return, and help the reintegration in the local community.
- Another obstacle mentioned¹²³⁸ was the **difficulty in identifying the needs of local migrant communities**, which is crucial to secure the sustainability and dignity of the return through improvement of the conditions of the returnee and their community.

¹²³⁴ Interview with IOM, Assisted Voluntary Return Unit, 18 August 2011.

¹²³⁵ Interview with HIAS, Return contact persons, 22 August 2011.

¹²³⁶ This information needs to be checked with Caritas Belgium.

¹²³⁷ Interview with the SENAMI, 22 August 2011.

¹²³⁸ Interview with the *Fundacion Esperanza*, Migrants' Aid Unit, 22 August 2011.

6.5.2.2 Georgia

Introduction and Background

There is no official migration policy document approved in Georgia as of yet, but in the meantime, at the end of 2010, the State Commission for Migration (SCM)¹²³⁹ was established and shortly afterwards WG on reintegration. The Strategy WG was only established only in May 2011 and is responsible for drafting the Migration Policy¹²⁴⁰. The work of this particular WG is supported by Targeted Initiative Georgia (TIG); the WG Integration is supported by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC).

The main Georgian authority responsible for reintegration is the Ministry of Internationally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia (MIDPOTAR). Other governmental actors covering reintegration issues are: the Civil Registry Agency of the Ministry of Justice (CRA), the Office of the State Minister on Diaspora Issues of Georgia, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Mol), State Minister's Office on EU and EU Atlantic Integration of Georgia and the Delegation of the EU to Georgia. Other organisations involved in Reintegration are the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Georgian Employers' Association (GEA), the Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), and the People's Harmonious Development Society (PHDS)¹²⁴¹.

Returnees

Following the fall of the Soviet Union, several towns in Georgia were hit by unemployment and thus a large number of Georgians migrated to Ukraine and Russia; others went to Greece, Spain and Ireland. The vast majority of returnees work in blue collar jobs while they are outside their country while others, mainly women, work as housekeepers and nurses¹²⁴².

¹²³⁹ The SCM is an intergovernmental body gathering representatives of ministries and other institutions who define key issues on individual migration related areas.

¹²⁴⁰ Three additional working groups were later created on the consolidation of reintegration activities, the reduction of statelessness and on migration strategy. The work of the working groups is facilitated by the project run by the DRC and focuses on specifying the needs/possibilities including assistance in the various regions in Georgia. A well functioning secretary for the SCM should soon be in operation thus making the work more efficient. Interview with DRC, 6th July 2011, Tbilisi.

¹²⁴¹ Interviews were held with MIDPOTAR, CRA, European Integration Department and the Office of the State Minister for Diaspora Issues, Mol, State Minister's Office on EU and EU Atlantic Integration of Georgia, and GEA on 5 July 2011, Tbilisi.

Interviews were held with DRC, GYLA and PHDS on 6 July 2011, Tbilisi.

Interviews were held with the European Commission and IOM on 7 July 2011, Tbilisi.

¹²⁴² Interview with the NALAG, 6 September 2011, Tbilisi.

Table 31: Profile of Returnees to Georgia

Main Countries of destination	CZ; IE; PL; CH; UK
Main Places of Return	Tbilisi; Imereti; Kvemo Kartli; Kakheti; Shida Kartli
Main age	21 - 40
Gender	Pre dominantly male

Source: IOM statistics 2003 – July 2011¹²⁴³

Cooperation with EU Countries

In March 2011 the EU and Georgia signed a visa facilitation and readmission agreement¹²⁴⁴. The EU-Georgia Mobility Partnership was signed in November 2009 and is the overall framework in which the projects have been implemented. One of the main projects is a three-year one on the reintegration of returning migrants, together with a number of bilateral activities with EU member states. The Targeted Initiative Georgia project, “Support reintegration of Georgian returning migrants and the implementation of EU-Georgia readmission agreement” (TIG), brings together 15 institutions from nine EU countries (Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania and Sweden) and IOM, who committed themselves to supporting the development processes in the area of migration ongoing in Georgia. The project aims to promote legal migration and prevent illegal migration as defined by the Mobility Partnership. The project aims to enhance the sustainable socio-economic reintegration of returning Georgian migrants by implementing a number of activities in three main areas: capacity building, individual reintegration assistance and an information campaign.¹²⁴⁵ TIG facilitates the work of the Strategy WG, just as the DRC facilitates the work of the Reintegration WG. The project has other important activities which are related to reintegration, e.g. consultations on labour market management.

The visa and readmission agreement came into force on 1 March 2011. During the following six months, there were more than 200 applications to readmit Georgians coming mainly for Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden and Romania. The MoI has approved more than 92% of applications. The cooperation between Georgia and the EU counterparts is very good¹²⁴⁶ and the MoI has been invited to different EU Member States to discuss readmission issues. Returnees who return under the readmission agreements have the possibility of participating in reintegration projects and accommodation is offered on a temporary basis by MIDPOTAR¹²⁴⁷.

¹²⁴³ Interview with IOM, 7 July 2011, Tbilisi.

¹²⁴⁴ The legal basis for the readmission agreement was signed on the 26 April, 2011.

¹²⁴⁵ http://www.informedmigration.ge/en/index.php?about_tig.

¹²⁴⁶ Interview at Ministry of Internal Affairs, 5 July 2011, Tbilisi.

¹²⁴⁷ Interview at Ministry of Internal Affairs, 5 July 2011, Tbilisi.

Reintegration Assistance in Practice

There are various projects currently being implemented in Georgia under the thematic programme funded by the EU on migration issues and first steps have been taken to coordinate all the activities to prevent overlaps and to increase the effectiveness of all the activities in their framework¹²⁴⁸. Reintegration assistance has been granted to more than 1,270 Georgians¹²⁴⁹. At the moment, MC has 195 contacts and 125 beneficiaries have received individual counselling.

Table 32: Overview of Main Existing Programmes and Activities in Georgia

Project Name	Implementer	EU Partner	Timeline
IOM AVRR projects	IOM	AT, BE, FI, DE, IE, NL, PL and CH	2003 – ongoing
Support reintegration of Georgian returning migrants and the implementation of EU – Georgia readmission agreement (Targeted Initiative Georgia - TIG)	Czech Republic (Ministry of Interior)	BE, FR, DE, IT, NL, PL, RO, SE & IOM	2011 - ongoing
Integration of Georgian Migrants into Labour Market ¹²⁵⁰	GEA & Bildungswerk der Wirtschaft GmbH		2009 - 2010
Enhancing Return Migration (Providing legal services) ¹²⁵¹	GLYA & DRC		2010
Consolidated reintegration activities of Georgia (CRAG)	DRC	ICMPD, MRA, CRA, MFA and NALAG	2011-2012

In order to develop the capacities of MIDPOTAR to perform its tasks, two projects were funded under the EC Thematic Call 2006 and 2007:

- “Towards durable reintegration mechanisms of Georgia¹²⁵²”: The aim of the project was to increase the capacities of MRA and other focal agencies; renovate the structural organisation; plan information campaigns; offer instruments of local and international cooperation and communication; address the needs of data provision and provide the basis for the development of policy documents¹²⁵³.

¹²⁴⁸ Written interview, Targeted Initiative for Georgia, 4 August 2011, Tbilisi.

¹²⁴⁹ This includes 1200 by IOM, 32 received only legal assistance (GYLA), and 140 receiving only training (GEA).

¹²⁵⁰ A total of 140 Georgians were reintegrated.

¹²⁵¹ The project focussed on providing legal assistance to returnees and representing them in court. For example, cases where the returnees needed to legalize the documents of children born abroad. 30 returnees have been assisted.

¹²⁵² The project was implemented by DRC together with ICMPD, MRA, Caucasus Research Support Centre, and NALAG.

¹²⁵³ Interview with DRC, 6 July 2011 Tbilisi; see also <http://www.migration4development.org/fr/content/toward-durable-re-integration-mechanisms-georgia-0>.

- “Enhanced return to Georgia operationally (ERGO)¹²⁵⁴”: The overall objective of the project ERGO was to increase the capacities of competent authorities and civil society in Georgia to actively support dignified sustainable return and reintegration, whether spontaneously or on the basis of readmission agreements, through enhanced cooperation and networking. The specific objectives of the project were to: 1) contribute to the negotiation and practical implementation of readmission policies and procedures by establishing sustainable working relations between each participating EU Member State and the Georgian government; and 2) translate sound return and readmission policies and procedures into a viable support system for returnees at the local level.

It is important to note that while these two projects were key in developing future reintegration assistance they **did not include reintegration** elements.

In addition to the above-mentioned projects, the EC, under the Thematic Programme 2008, awarded the project “Consolidated reintegration activities of Georgia (CRAG)” to DRC and ICMPD. The project aims to support the Georgian government in the development of a policy on reintegration and increase opportunities for economic reintegration for returning migrants¹²⁵⁵.

Different reintegration services are provided, depending on the project implemented. The type of available reintegration assistance is disentangled into activities provided under different programmes.

The **TIG project** focuses on post-departure reintegration activities for returnees. Assistance mainly includes:

- temporary accommodation after arrival;
- assistance in increasing qualifications including language courses;
- assistance in finding a job;
- assistance in seeking health treatment;
- business start-up assistance.

For the purpose of this project, a mobility centre was established on the premises of MIDPOTAR and serves as an information hub to all Georgian returnees¹²⁵⁶. Its main task is to provide its beneficiaries with proper information on different services available in Georgia.

Returnees can request assistance by contacting TIG for on-line communication with counsellors through the website or via Skype. Apart from the counselling available at the mobility centre, TIG representatives regularly visit Tbilisi airport. All Georgian returnees returning under the

¹²⁵⁴ EC-funded project with co-funding provided by the DRC, MFA of the Netherlands, MoI of Poland, MoI Estonia and was implemented by DRC in partnership with ICMPD, Estonia, the Netherlands, Poland and in co-operation with Georgian authorities: Ministry of IDPs from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees, MFA, Office of Euro Atlantic Integration, MoI, MoJ/CRA, State office of Diaspora and GYLA.

¹²⁵⁵ Interview with DRC, 6 July 2011, Tbilisi. Implementation period: January 2011-June 2012. Project Partners: ICMPD, MRA, CRA, MFA and NALAG.

¹²⁵⁶ Written interview, Targeted Initiative for Georgia, 4 August 2011, Tbilisi.

readmission agreement are provided with initial information about the services available in the mobility centre upon their arrival in Tbilisi. During the implementation of TIG, four labour market surveys in four regions in Georgia will be conducted by IOM. DRC will also be implementing labour market surveys. The duration of the assistance depends on the type of assistance provided. Finally, apart from specific reintegration assistance for returnees, which also includes assistance to victims of trafficking, a reintegration manual collecting all the available information is under development, as part of the TIG project¹²⁵⁷.

Under IOM projects, the main assistance granted since 2003 includes¹²⁵⁸:

- in-kind business assistance – mainly trade, animal farm, transportation, land cultivation and baking;
- arrival assistance;
- medical treatment – liver, hepatitis, methadone substitution programme, psychological;
- cash grants;
- training – mainly business start-up, accounting, computer and English;
- accommodation.

Under **IOM programmes**, reintegration assistance has been granted to more than 1200 Georgian returnees. Pre-departure assistance information is provided through IOM's website, where returnees have access to all the programmes running. Soon after their arrival in Georgia, returnees are provided with a consultation and the first necessities are covered. Returnees are referred to the appropriate facilities, such as job centres and doctors. Cash grants are exceptionally given to few returnees and they are mainly used for the daily supply of the returnee upon his arrival. The business start-ups are based on the experience and knowledge of the returnees as well as their network.

Business start-ups and cash allowances are the most attractive reintegration assistance for most returnees. In fact, upon their return to Georgia, returnees face various difficulties – mainly finding employment. Returnees encounter difficulties in continuing to support themselves and their businesses, as the savings they bring back with them run out in a short period of time.

For IOM projects, assistance is provided for up to three months, and in some cases up to six months. The duration of TIG assistance depends upon the type of assistance provided.

The **Integration of Georgian Migrants into the Labour Market project** provided the possibility for returnees and IDPs to attend individual training for a period of 1-2 months in selected Georgian enterprises. The project focused on enhancing the labour skills of qualified migrants and IDPs¹²⁵⁹.

¹²⁵⁷ Written interview, Targeted Initiative for Georgia, 4 August 2011, Tbilisi.

¹²⁵⁸ Interview with IOM, 7 July 2011, Tbilisi.

¹²⁵⁹ Interview with GEA, 5 July 2011, Tbilisi.

The Enhancing Return Migration project provided legal assistance to returnees and represented returnees in court. The project covered both cases of voluntary and forced return. GYLA also conducted information campaigns at the airport and on local television stations¹²⁶⁰.

There is currently no state funding for victims of trafficking. A national referral mechanism was implemented in 2006 and training was provided to all the relevant agencies¹²⁶¹. Vulnerable groups are provided with specific assistance according to the country they are returning from. Under IOM projects, the following assistance is provided: food; kindergarten and additional cash. Those returnees needing medical treatments are accompanied or referred by IOM to rehabilitation centres or medical institutions. In the meantime the government organised a gathering of high-level people, who went on a fact-finding mission to Italy to view rehabilitation centres for drug addicts. There are currently active discussions with donors to see if similar centres could be opened in Georgia¹²⁶².

Reintegration Assistance and Sustainable Return

Benefits

- CRA, which also plays a role of secretariat for the SMC, is currently working on a preparatory project with ILO, providing incentives for returnees to stay home. The idea is to develop incentives in different areas. There is also the idea of planning an agricultural project through a cycle of long-term training and equipping people with better knowledge and skills on how to plan a project. Ideally the guidebook prepared in relation to, for example, the agriculture project plan would be written using simple language and also translated, so it is understandable for everyone¹²⁶³.

Challenges

- An adequate government policy on reintegration is needed, so as to make it more sustainable. The number of reintegration activities has increased significantly over the last few years. Only a small part of the returnees is ready to settle down back in Georgia. A more formally institutionalised mechanism of reintegration could help provide the returnees with more information and access to services¹²⁶⁴.
- Returnees find difficulties reintegrating after being away from their home country for a long period of time and thus find themselves in a new employment system with different requirements to the EU. In Georgia, there are high-profile jobs available, but returnees often do not have the right profile¹²⁶⁵.

¹²⁶⁰ Interview with GYLA, 6 July 2011, Tbilisi.

¹²⁶¹ Interview with the European Commission, 7 July 2011, Tbilisi.

¹²⁶² Interview with the European Commission, 7 July 2011, Tbilisi.

¹²⁶³ Interview with MRA, 5 July 2011, Tbilisi.

¹²⁶⁴ Interview with the NALAG, 6 September 2011, Tbilisi; Interview with Faculty of Economics and Business, 7 July 2011, Tbilisi.

¹²⁶⁵ Interview with GEA, 5 July 2011, Tbilisi.

- Most of the returnees try to set up businesses with the money they have saved while working outside Georgia, yet they face several difficulties when keeping the business running due to lack of funding or lack of skills¹²⁶⁶;
- People who have returned forcefully are sometimes people without any qualifications. They face high unemployment, a lot of competition and few opportunities¹²⁶⁷.
- There is not enough information about the services available to returnees¹²⁶⁸;
- Budget available is limited but enough for the number of returnees and for the targeted number of people who will want to make use of the Mobility Centre¹²⁶⁹;
- Vulnerable groups seem to be better integrated yet there are not enough facilities for drug users.

¹²⁶⁶ Interview with Faculty of Economics and Business, 7 July 2011. Most of the returnees try to set up businesses with the money they have saved. Georgian law is liberal but Georgians face a lot of problems when organising businesses. It is important that associations support returnees when starting up businesses. The second step would be to consolidate all reintegration activities. Access to the local market is high, but if someone succeeds, the monopoly would try to keep competing business away. This is one of the biggest obstacles for returnees. Lots of those who return will try to emigrate again. One of the recommended attempts would be to support the self organisation of migrants. Further, it is recommendable to support the creation of organisations that would form interest groups, who would defend the real interest of the migrants.

¹²⁶⁷ Interview with the NALAG, 6 September 2011, Tbilisi.

¹²⁶⁸ A high percentage of returnees left Georgia few years back and it is sometimes difficult for them to know where they have to go if they need to apply for jobs, have a health insurance etc.

¹²⁶⁹ Interview with the European Commission, 7 July 2011, Tbilisi.

6.5.2.3 Ghana

Introduction and Background

There is no specific migration policy in Ghana, but in the last few years, several efforts have been made in order to elaborate a migration policy which would also include return. It is foreseeable that the Migration Policy will be finalised mid-2012¹²⁷⁰.

The main ministries involved in reintegration activities are the Ministry of Interior, mainly through the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO¹²⁷¹) and Ghana Immigration Service (GIS),¹²⁷² the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration,¹²⁷³ the Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare¹²⁷⁴ and the Ministry of Health. Other important actors in Ghana are IOM, Scholars in Transit¹²⁷⁵ and the Research and Counselling Foundation for African Migrants (RECFAM)¹²⁷⁶ as well as actors who contribute to support the preparation and elaboration of reintegration activities, namely the European Commission (EC)¹²⁷⁷, the Centre for Migration Studies¹²⁷⁸ and the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC)¹²⁷⁹.

In 2011, Ghana has received more than 18,000 returnees from Libya. The European Commission, IOM, NADMO, GIS, and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have been crucial for the safe return of Ghanaians from Libya who, upon arrival, were registered and small cash grants as transportation allowance, so as to be able to go back to their homes. IOM and UNDP are currently supporting reintegration activities for returning migrants in the Brong Ahafo region. Two studies were carried out on Ghanaians returnees from Libya, with a focus on the Brong Ahafo region where the majority of Ghanaians returned (52%). The studies, conducted by Takyiwaa Manuh in coordination with NADMO, UNDP, IOM, and the Centre for Migration Studies, provided information on the profile of the returnees¹²⁸⁰. The

¹²⁷⁰ The Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana, has been contracted by the Mol to lead the elaboration of the Migration Policy and support the preparation and drafting process. Interview with Centre for Migration Studies, 8 September 2011, Ghana.

¹²⁷¹ The National Mobilisation Programme (NMP) - established after the 1982 - 1983 crises of drought, bushfires, famine and the deportation of 1.2 million Ghanaians from Nigeria - has been one of the main reintegration efforts provided in Ghana. NMP served as the implementing Agency of the Disaster Relief Committee until 1994. In Ghana, the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) is now the constitutionally-mandated government agency to coordinate the management of disasters and other emergencies, including reintegration assistance.

¹²⁷² Interview with GIS, 7 September 2011, Ghana.

¹²⁷³ Interview with MFA, 6 September 2011, Ghana.

¹²⁷⁴ Interview with Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare, 8 September 2011, Ghana.

¹²⁷⁵ Interview with Scholars in Transit, 7 September 2011, Ghana.

¹²⁷⁶ Interview with RECFAM, 7 September 2011, Ghana.

¹²⁷⁷ Interview with EC, 6 September 2011, Ghana.

¹²⁷⁸ Interview with Centre for Migration Studies, 7 September 2011, Ghana.

¹²⁷⁹ Interview with NDPC and former director GIS, 7 September 2011, Ghana.

¹²⁸⁰ Interview with EC, 6 September 2011, Ghana.

studies propose recommendations for the development of interventions in the area of reintegration.¹²⁸¹

Returnees

Table 33: Profile of Returnees from Libya in 2011

Main places of return	Dorma Municipality; Nkoranza South District
Age range – majority	25-29
Gender	Predominantly male
Main employment in Libya	Masonry/Construction; Domestic Help

Source: Assessment of Libyan returnees in the Brong Ahafo Region Report, 2011

Most of the returnees returning from Libya had been living there for a number of years and had on and off employment during their stay. According to the study conducted by the Centre for Migration Studies, the male predominance is due to the type of jobs available in Libya and the dangerous mode of travel to cross the Sahara.

The majority of returnees reintegrated by IOM Ghana return from Belgium, Libya and the UK. However return has also taken place from the Czech Republic, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Latvia, Morocco, Malta, the Netherlands and Switzerland. Since 2006, IOM Ghana has provided return and reintegration assistance to an estimated 2,000 Ghanaians¹²⁸².

Cooperation with EU Countries

The UK¹²⁸³, Netherlands¹²⁸⁴ and Italy are the main European countries which support migration issues in Ghana including Diaspora reintegration and circular migration. Some of the main projects dealing with these issues are 'Returning Enterprising Migrants Adding Employment' (REMADE)¹²⁸⁵, Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA I,II,III) Ghana Health Project¹²⁸⁶, and the pilot scheme on circular migration between Italy and Ghana, all of which are implemented in both Europe and Ghana.

The REMADE project is an initiative which focuses on the reintegration of the Ghanaian Diaspora in the Netherlands and the UK who are ready to start their business in Ghana and use

¹²⁸¹ The study is currently not publicly available.

¹²⁸² <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/ghana>.

¹²⁸³ Interview with UK Embassy, 5 September 2011, Ghana.

¹²⁸⁴ Interview with Dutch Embassy, 5 September 2011, Ghana.

¹²⁸⁵ European Union co-funded project - Partners: AFFORD (UK), IntEnt (Netherlands), EMPRETEC, Ghana's leading entrepreneur support agency, Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC) - <http://www.idisc.net/en/Incubator.483.html>; http://www.afford-uk.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=92.

¹²⁸⁶ The project is implemented by IOM in close cooperation with the Ministry of Health of Ghana, the Dutch embassy in Ghana and Ghanaian Diaspora groups in the Netherlands, UK and Germany.

a good portion of their capital¹²⁸⁷. The specific objective of the project is the establishment of healthy small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by returning migrants, through a more effective use of remittances for economic development and through adequate business support structures. Returnees are provided with a business advisor, who is knowledgeable about setting up businesses internationally, as well as training sessions and support in developing their own business plan until it is at a point where it can be used to attract investment. The returnees also receive support on a market research trip to Ghana.

The IOM MIDA Ghana Health Project (I,II,III)¹²⁸⁸ contributes to the development of human resources in the health sector in Ghana. On the one hand, Ghanaian and other African migrants in EU countries can transfer knowledge, skills and experience through temporary assignments to Ghana. On the other hand, health workers from Ghana have the opportunity to conduct specialised training at healthcare institutions in the Netherlands. Reintegration assistance is provided by IOM through assistance with visa and work permit applications; organising travel and lodgings; providing health and travel insurance and monitoring during assignments and internships¹²⁸⁹.

The MIDA Ghana Health project is a health sector brain-gain, human resource capacity-building initiative that seeks to attract and mobilize Ghanaian and other African health professionals resident in Europe to take up temporary placements in various health institutions in Ghana.

The project also offers opportunities for internships up to three months in UK, Netherlands and Germany for health workers/professionals in the Ghanaian health system. IOM offices in Accra and The Hague Accra matches needs in Ghana with skills available in the Diaspora; facilitates pre-departure arrangements, travel and entry into Ghana. Assignments are monitored and evaluated in collaboration with the field mission, host institutions, and the Resource Persons.

The objective of the project is to utilize the available skills, expertise and experience of Resource Persons (RPs) in the Diaspora to the benefit of the Ghanaian health sector, also to contribute to the capacity-building process in the Ghana's Human Resources Development Strategy in reversing brain-drain in the health sector and build networks with the Ghanaian Diaspora by stimulating cooperation with healthcare institutions in Ghana, UK, Germany and the Netherlands.

Progress reports available indicate gains made so far; 150 temporary inbound assignments by migrant health professionals have been realized; over 180 migrant professionals registered;

¹²⁸⁷ The project focuses on people who have strong business plans, by providing them with support in putting their ideas into action. The project offers two packages: Package 1: £605 for an Individual Entrepreneur – including 10 Business Advice Sessions, payment of 50% of ticket cost to Ghana (for market research / business development). Package 2: £895 each – small mission-style group of six or more entrepreneurs – including 10 Business Advice Sessions, air tickets and accommodation in Ghana for a field trip (for market research / business development) up to 2 weeks.

¹²⁸⁸ The MIDA project has been running since 2005.

¹²⁸⁹ http://www.iomnederland.nl/english/Programmes/Migration_Development/Projects_Migration_Development/MIDA_Ghana_Health_III_Project.

whilst 90 healthcare institutions needs database acquired; 40 Ghanaian institutions spanning all 10 regions in Ghana have been beneficiaries of the project; 10 outbound internships for Ghanaian health professionals from Ghana to Europe have been facilitated; at least 21,000 students and health workers have directly benefited from capacity-building component since 2006.

IOM, through the Labour Migration Project for West Africa (LAMIWA) project¹²⁹⁰, created a pilot scheme for circular migration¹²⁹¹ between Ghana and Italy¹²⁹². As part of the scheme, an initial group of twenty selected Ghanaian migrant workers was selected through coordination between IOM and Labour Department of Ghana and provided with one week of pre-departure cultural orientation. The group eventually departed to Italy, with the Ghanaian workers working in the agricultural sector engaged in the harvest of grapes and apples. IOM has provided the workers with pre-departure counselling, including information on contracts and working conditions. Upon completion of their contracts, the workers will benefit from return and reintegration assistance in Ghana¹²⁹³.

Reintegration Assistance in Practice

The main reintegration projects in Ghana are run by IOM. Since 2002, IOM Accra has been providing reintegration support to 2000 Ghanaian returnees¹²⁹⁴. Other projects focus on different groups of returnees, as mentioned above. Reintegration assistance is also provided to individual returnees by civil society members.

¹²⁹⁰ In 2006, the AENEAS 2006 programme launched the Labour Migration Project for West Africa (LAMIWA). The project aimed at reversing the negative trends of increased irregular migrations from Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal to Europe, with Libya as the main transit country.

¹²⁹¹ Timeline: May 2011-ongoing.

¹²⁹² The pilot project is co-funded by the EU and is led by IOM, together with the Ministry of Labour in Italy and the Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare in Ghana.

¹²⁹³ <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/media/press-briefing-notes/pbnAF/cache/offonce/lang/en?entryId=30098>.

¹²⁹⁴ <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/ghana>.

Table 34: Overview of Existing Programmes and Activities in Ghana

Project's name	Implementer	Partner	Timeline
Assisted Voluntary Rescue, Rehabilitation, Return, and Reintegration of Ghanaian Children Victims of Trafficking for Labour Exploitation in Fishing Communities in Ghana	IOM	Various	2002 - Ongoing
Sponsorship of 200 Trafficked Children in Ghana	IOM	US State Department – Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM); individuals, school and community groups, and religious organisations	2006 - Ongoing
Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme	IOM	Various	2002 – Ongoing

The main reintegration assistance is provided by IOM¹²⁹⁵ and the reintegration assistance varies depending on the country supporting the reintegration programme. Reintegration assistance starts during the pre-departure stage, yet it is, due to certain circumstances, mostly provided post-departure. Returnees are welcomed to visit the IOM offices upon their return to discuss their business plan, together with the advisor from IOM. Reintegration assistance is provided in kind tailored according to the needs and skills of returnees, except for a small amount of money given by credit card (in the UK for example) for the first needs, such as travel expenses and food.

IOM primarily provides:

- Travel assistance;
- Post-arrival information and counselling;
- Business start-up;
- Education and training;
- Vocational training/skills enhancement;
- Medical assistance;
- Temporary accommodation.

The **Sponsorship of 200 Trafficked Children in Ghana** Project¹²⁹⁶ was introduced in 2007. This project aims to provide additional reintegration assistance to rescued trafficked children through sponsorship packages. Interested persons who would like to sponsor rescued children can do so with a minimum contribution of \$25 a month for a minimum period of a year. The sponsorship funds are used to provide the children with the basic needs of food, education, clothing, and healthcare. So far 196 children have benefited from this project through private sponsorships.

The Assisted Voluntary Rescue, Rehabilitation, Return and Reintegration of Ghanaian Children Victims of Trafficking for Labour Exploitation in Fishing Communities in Ghana project began in

¹²⁹⁵ <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/ghana>.

¹²⁹⁶ <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/ghana>.

October 2002¹²⁹⁷. Through the project, 731 children trafficked for labour exploitation along the Volta Lake have been rescued, while 711¹²⁹⁸ have been rehabilitated and reintegrated. 468 parents/guardians and 550 fishermen have benefited from micro-grant assistance¹²⁹⁹.

Specific reintegration assistance for trafficked children includes initiatives to¹³⁰⁰:

- Identify and protect the child;
- Rescue, rehabilitate, return, and reintegrate child victims of trafficking from fishing communities along the Volta Lake in Ghana;
- Provide continuous medical assistance and psychosocial counselling to each sponsored child;
- Establish and expand extracurricular activities designed to further each child's education and further reintegrate the child into the community;
- Search for and evaluate the family in the home country or region;
- Assign a local mentor/tutor to each child to provide encouragement and support;
- Engage children in recreational activities;
- Involve children in sports and cultural events in their respective communities;
- Monitor and evaluate the progress made by the children in order to provide targeted follow-up assistance;
- Conduct a two-year individual follow-up of each child.

RECFAM, together with other NGOs from West Africa, is part of the West Africa Network for the protection of children (WAN)¹³⁰¹ funded by the EC, ECOWAS and the Swiss Development Cooperation. The main aim of this network is to support vulnerable children and provide protection, guidance and sustainable reintegration.

Another reintegration NGO is the **Scholars in Transit**, which provides counselling to returnees who approach them and gives them advice as to what kind of business they could get involved in. They also work with IOM on data collection and skills analysis¹³⁰².

RECFAM provides pre-departure counselling to potential Ghanaians who are planning to leave as well, as return counselling. They provide return counselling through radio programmes, as

¹²⁹⁷ Generous support was provided by the US State Department – Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM). Apart from PRM, the project has also benefited immensely from private donors, including individuals, school and community groups, and religious organisations. <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/ghana>

¹²⁹⁸ Almost 650 of the 711 rescued children over the past eight years continue to attend school or engage in apprenticeships, with the help of private sponsors. Another 20 are in senior high schools, with 6 rescued children having ended their apprenticeships and now working.

¹²⁹⁹ In addition, 48,426 community members in 129 communities have been sensitised on issues pertaining to child trafficking and over 400 government officials, judicial authorities, and social workers have received training to enhance their capacities. All of these accomplishments contribute to reducing the incidence of human trafficking in Ghana.

¹³⁰⁰ IOM information note.

¹³⁰¹ Interview with RECFAM, 7 September, 2011. http://www.resao.org/en/le_reseau_afrique_de_louest.

¹³⁰² Interview with Scholars in Transit, 7 September 2011, Ghana.

well as services at their offices. RECFAM also provides counselling to returnees in Switzerland, the UK¹³⁰³ and Germany, in preparation for their return to Ghana.

As part of contributing to community development and helping realise the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), RECFAM encourages entrepreneurial skill training and assists local initiatives for economic empowerment to returnees and rescued victims; thus being able to provide potential migrants with an alternative to irregular migration. The reintegration assistance has seen a lot of voluntary returnees coming back home to make meaningful livelihoods and bond with family members, as well as other relatives. This is notwithstanding the fact that separated family members are also reunited with members who were previously far apart.¹³⁰⁴

Reintegration Assistance and Sustainable Return

Benefits

- Pre-departure assistance is considered to be key for a sustainable reintegration. The main actors dealing with return and reintegration believe that vocational and psychological preparation are very important to successful reintegration.¹³⁰⁵
- Ghanaians are normally welcomed home upon their return, yet returnees who return home empty-handed are perceived differently in their homes. Good reintegration is thus important to a successful return – it helps returnees return without shame and guilt and gives them an incentive to stay.
- Well-developed reintegration assistance should be based on the needs of the country, thus allowing returnees to find a job following their training or business plan. During the interviews with the returnees, it was clear that more time needs to be spent analysing the best business plan, in order to ensure the success of the business. Linking the local needs of the community to the experience that returnees have gained in Europe may also help open new opportunities for returnees.

Challenges

- In Ghana unemployment is very high and returnees face difficulties when trying to find a job;¹³⁰⁶
- Reintegration provided is not always enough for the returnee to reintegrate in Ghana. A good number of returnees tend to re-migrate¹³⁰⁷;
- Returning back with money is considered to be very important for returnees. Returnees are considered an embarrassment when they return to their family without money and

¹³⁰³ They are also involved in counselling with prisoners in the UK, where RECFAM promotes AVRR solutions to Ghanaian prisoners.

¹³⁰⁴ Interview with RECFAM, 7 September, 2011;

http://www.westafricanetwork.org/fr/system/files/635/recfam_annual_report_2010_pdf_17965.pdf.

¹³⁰⁵ Interview with RECFAM, 7 September, 2011.

¹³⁰⁶ Interview with Ministry of Employment and Social welfare, 8 September 2011, Ghana.

¹³⁰⁷ Interview with Ministry of Employment and Social welfare, 8 September 2011, Ghana.

thus at times they do not have accommodation upon return, since their family does not welcome them back¹³⁰⁸;

- Migration is a pull factor in many villages in Ghana. It is considered a prestige for families who have family outside Ghana and send remittances back home¹³⁰⁹;
- A lot of trafficking happens inside Ghana. Travel agencies are involved in the trafficking business, asking for money in order to provide fake visas¹³¹⁰.

¹³⁰⁸ Interview with Scholars in Transit, 7 September 2011, Ghana.

¹³⁰⁹ Interview with Scholars in Transit, 7 September 2011, Ghana.

¹³¹⁰ Interview with RECFAM, 7 September 2011, Ghana.

6.5.2.4 Kosovo

Introduction and Background

In the Republic of Kosovo, the National Strategy, the Action Plan for the Reintegration of Repatriated Persons and the Criteria for Reintegration were finalised and published in 2011. The coordinating actors are the Department for Citizenship, Asylum and Migration, together with the Executive Board within the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Until the end of 2010, the Department for Social Welfare within the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare was the responsible body for repatriation and reintegration.¹³¹¹

In addition to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the main ministries involved in the field of repatriation and reintegration are the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Local Government and Administration¹³¹² and the Ministry of Health¹³¹³. The work of the Ministry for Communities and Returns mainly focuses on the readmission and reintegration of persons displaced during the last war in Kosovo.¹³¹⁴

Other organisations involved in return and reintegration in Kosovo are among others the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), the Arbeiter Samariter Bund (ASB), the Project "URA 2" ("Bridge 2") and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).¹³¹⁵

Returnees

Table 35: Profile of Returnees to Kosovo

Main countries of destination	Austria, Belgium, France, Germany ¹³¹⁶ , Hungary, Luxembourg, Sweden, Switzerland ¹³¹⁷
Number of persons returned ¹³¹⁸	1171 ¹³¹⁹

¹³¹¹ Interview with Ministry of Internal Affairs & Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, 14 September 2011.

¹³¹² Interview with Ministry of Internal Affairs, 14 September 2011.

¹³¹³ Interview with Ministry for Communities and Returns, 15 September 2011.

¹³¹⁴ Interview with Ministry for Communities and Returns, 15 September 2011.

¹³¹⁵ Interview with Ministry of Internal Affairs, 14 September 2011.

¹³¹⁶ Germany is the main country of return for migrants from Kosovo.

¹³¹⁷ Interview with Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry for Communities and Returns, the International Organization for Migration and Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

¹³¹⁸ According to figures provided by IOM for the period 1 January – 31 August 2011, in total, 1,171 persons from different Western European countries were returned to Kosovo. Among those, 70% were male and 30% female, including 74% at the age of 18+, while 26% were under the age of 18. With regard to ethnicity, 58% of the returnees were Albanian, 24% were Roma, Ashkali or Egyptian (RAE), 16% Serbs and 2% from other communities.

¹³¹⁹ Interview with the International Organization for Migration, 19 September 2011.

Age range – majority	Over 18 ¹³²⁰
Gender	Predominantly male ¹³²¹
Main nationality of persons returned	Albanians ¹³²²

The Ministry of Internal Affairs maintains an excel database, containing all relevant information on the returnees.¹³²³ As an improvement to the current system, an online database will be launched in November 2011, which will be accessible for all governmental actors including Ministries, Municipalities and the Offices for Reintegration.¹³²⁴

Prior to their return to Kosovo, returnees usually receive only limited information on the political, economic and social situation in Kosovo. Brochures and leaflets with relevant information are normally distributed only after their return to Kosovo. The Ministry of Internal Affairs has a reintegration office at the airport where returnees can get first information and counselling with regard to their reintegration. This mainly includes the distribution of the “Reintegration Guide”, in which services and requirements for reintegration are explained. This document provides information to returnees on civil registration, registration in the educational system, access to health institutions, courses and vocational training, job placements, business set-ups as well as accommodation, sheltering and support with food and hygienic packages.¹³²⁵

Returnees seek different opportunities upon their return to Kosovo, mainly:

- private businesses in the fields of tourism and agriculture;¹³²⁶
- car mechanics;
- car electricians;
- hair dressing;
- plumbing;
- construction.¹³²⁷

Vocational training for returnees often includes, amongst other things, the provision of driving lessons, language courses and courses in accounting and basic business administration.¹³²⁸

Cooperation with EU Countries

Kosovo has signed readmission agreements with 14 European and other countries^{1329 1330}. The foundation for the respective readmission agreements was laid during the time when the

¹³²⁰ Interview with the International Organization for Migration, 19 September 2011.

¹³²¹ Interview with the International Organization for Migration, 19 September 2011.

¹³²² Interview with the International Organization for Migration, 19 September 2011.

¹³²³ Profiles of returnees are very different.

¹³²⁴ Interview with Ministry of Internal Affairs, 14 September 2011.

¹³²⁵ Interview with Ministry of Internal Affairs, 14 September 2011.

¹³²⁶ Interview with Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, 14 September 2011.

¹³²⁷ Interview with the International Organization for Migration, 19 September 2011.

¹³²⁸ International Centre for Migration Policy Development, Vienna, 29 September 2011.

Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare had the leading role in the process of repatriation and reintegration. Most readmission agreements were signed when the Ministry of Internal Affairs took the mandate for the management of the process of repatriation and reintegration.¹³³¹

Not all countries which have signed readmission agreements with Kosovo have reintegration programmes in place. In the case of the readmission agreements with Montenegro and Slovenia, for example, reintegration programmes for returnees are not included. Germany, Austria and Norway, on the other hand, implement and finance various reintegration programmes in Kosovo.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs cooperates closely with all countries or organisations that implement reintegration programmes. Organisations such as UNHCR, OSCE, UNICEF and IOM have supported the Ministry of Internal Affairs with drafting and finalising the National Strategy, the Action Plan and the Criteria for Reintegration, as well as preparing information brochures for returnees.¹³³²

In practice, the deporting country sends a list with names of persons to be repatriated in Kosovo in order to confirm the Kosovo citizenship of a person. Upon verification, Kosovo is obliged to readmit this person and subsequently, return reintegration measures are immediately to be applied.¹³³³

Reintegration Assistance in Practice

Table 36: Overview of Main Existing Programmes and Activities in Kosovo

Project Name	Implementer	EU Partner	Timeline
Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme (AVRR) ¹³³⁴	IOM	Various	Since 1999
Reintegration in Kosovo – Co-operation with Micro-credit Institutions (ReKoKO)	ICMPD	Austria	September 2010 - ongoing
URA 2	Federal Office for Migration and Refugees	Germany	January 2009 - ongoing

¹³²⁹ The following countries have signed readmission agreements with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kosovo: Albania, Austria, Belgium, The Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Luxemburg, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, The Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland. Currently the readmission agreements with Croatia, Hungary, Finland and Latvia are in drafting process. Negotiations of readmission agreements with the United Kingdom, Portugal, Lithuania, Poland, Ireland and Estonia have been initiated. (Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kosovo, 6th June 2011: 100 Working Days Report of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kosovo).

¹³³⁰ Interview with Ministry of Internal Affairs, 14 September 2011.

¹³³¹ Interview with Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, 14 September 2011.

¹³³² Interview with Ministry of Internal Affairs, 14 September 2011.

¹³³³ Interview with Ministry of Internal Affairs, 14 September 2011.

¹³³⁴ http://www.iomkosovo.org/AVR_Project.html, 29th September 2011.

As outlined in the National Strategy, the Action Plan and the Criteria for Reintegration, the foreseen duration for reintegration assistance for returnees is 6+6months¹³³⁵ in Kosovo depending on the individual needs of the returnee. Following the distribution of the “Reintegration Guide” at the reintegration office at the airport returnees can get in contact with the respective Municipal Office for Return and Reintegration for immediate assistance and support following their return to Kosovo.¹³³⁶

Reintegration assistance in Kosovo provided by the Ministry of Internal Affairs focuses on short-term and long-term reintegration. **Short-term assistance** mainly includes provision of emergency accommodation and food and hygienic packages. **Long-term assistance** includes support for house reconstructions, job placements and business set-ups. With regard to the latter, the Ministry of Internal Affairs can support returnees with an amount of up to €2,000.¹³³⁷ In general, most beneficial for sustainable reintegration is the person’s economic integration, including access to the job market and the possibility of establishing a private business.¹³³⁸

IOM implements the ‘**Assisted Voluntary Return Programme**’ (AVRR), focusing on the readmission and reintegration of Kosovar citizens returning mainly from Western European countries. This programme has benefited approximately 200,000 persons. Most returnees are provided with reception assistance upon arrival and onward transportation to their final destinations. Within this programme, IOM foresees all necessary measures for reintegration **starting after the arrival** of readmitted persons in Kosovo.¹³³⁹ As a first step, the AVR programme usually covers the immediate needs, such as transportation and accommodation. Returnees supported by IOM are usually met at Pristina airport, where the first contact is established and where returnees are informed about the services, assistance and support that IOM can offer for their reintegration. Following this first contact and information exchange, a second meeting is arranged including a visit to the returnee’s family. During those meetings the returnees are continuously informed and supported based on the individual needs of the person.¹³⁴⁰ The duration period for assistance provided by IOM for a returnee is 6 months. After 6 months the AVR programme invests another 6-12 months of evaluation and monitoring of the individual reintegration process.¹³⁴¹ IOM operates various types of reintegration services and activities, such as: setting up small businesses; on-the-job trainings; employment opportunities

¹³³⁵ The duration period for reintegration assistance for returnees is 6 months, with the possibility of extension for another 6 months for cases that need more support. During this period, the same services as in the first 6 months of reintegration are offered, always based on the needs of the returnees. (Interview with Ministry of Internal Affairs, 14 September 2011).

¹³³⁶ Interview with Ministry of Internal Affairs, 14th September 2011.

¹³³⁷ Interview with Ministry of Internal Affairs, 14th September 2011.

¹³³⁸ Interview with Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, 14th September 2011.

¹³³⁹ Interview with the International Organization for Migration, 19 September 2011.

¹³⁴⁰ Interview with the International Organization for Migration, 19 September 2011.

IOM provides, in the framework of the AVR programme, counselling for various fields such as psychological counselling, counselling for business set-up, counselling with regard to civil registration, access to the health and education system, etc. (Interview with the International Organization for Migration, 19 September 2011)

¹³⁴¹ Interview with the International Organization for Migration, 19 September 2011.

through referrals; vocational training courses; Business trainings; education support, social care, housing, medical support, school fees for children and community projects. These programmes are aiming at improving economic prospects for both the returnees and members of the receiving communities. IOM considers that this approach also aims to some extent, to contribute to build the capacity of receiving communities to continue to absorb, and retain returning migrants.¹³⁴²

Since September 2010, ICMPD has been implementing the project '**Reintegration in Kosovo – Co-operation with Micro-credit Institutions**' (ReKoKO), focussing on individual and tailor-made reintegration measures for Kosovars returning from Austria (Vienna and Styria) to Kosovo. The support provided includes personal coaching, social and administrative assistance, the provision of healthcare services, as well as support for applications for microcredits, job placements, education and vocational training, focusing also on supporting a returnee's children. To date, a total of 30 returnees have received reintegration assistance.¹³⁴³ The duration period for assistance provided by ICMPD was, until 31 August 2011, 6 months; as of 1 September the duration is max. 12 months.¹³⁴⁴

The National Strategy and Action Plan also foresee describe the special measures, activities and services that can be provided for vulnerable groups such as children, minorities, elderly persons and pensioners, disabled persons and other categories.¹³⁴⁵

Reintegration Assistance and Sustainable Return

Benefits

- Sustainable return is facilitated if a country can ensure political and economic stability, freedom of movement and access to all public services.¹³⁴⁶ The National Strategy, the Action Plan and all reintegration measures foreseen by the Kosovo Government aim at contributing to sustainable reintegration in Kosovar society and the avoidance of re-emigration.¹³⁴⁷
- The readmission agreements signed with several European and other countries foresee the prevention of re-emigration.¹³⁴⁸ Moreover, **greater assistance with projects, policies and best practices for reintegration** by deporting countries would facilitate not only the reintegration of returnees, but also contribute to more sustainable local development in Kosovo and would help to prevent re-emigration.¹³⁴⁹

¹³⁴² IOM, comments sent to Matrix on 2 November 2011.

¹³⁴³ Some of the returnees are still receiving reintegration assistance. In total, 22 men, 2 women and 6 children have participated in this project.

¹³⁴⁴ International Centre for Migration Policy Development, Vienna, 29 September 2011.

¹³⁴⁵ Interview with Ministry of Internal Affairs, 14 September 2011.

¹³⁴⁶ Interview with Ministry for Communities and Returns, 15 September 2011.

¹³⁴⁷ Interview with Ministry of Internal Affairs, 14 September 2011.

¹³⁴⁸ Interview with Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, 14 September 2011.

¹³⁴⁹ Interview with Ministry of Internal Affairs, 14 September 2011. IOM is currently designing and drafting a project proposal supported by the European Commission, aiming at creating measures and services to prevent re-emigration or

- According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, reintegration is sustainable if it covers the most important needs of the returnee, such as education, health, social welfare and economic needs.¹³⁵⁰ It is important to underline the importance of applying an **individual approach** for each case, taking into account all the specific characteristics such as age, gender, single person or family, profile and time spent abroad. For example, different age cohorts have different special needs:
 - Children: registration and access to the educational system;¹³⁵¹
 - Between 18 - 45: finding a job or establishing a private business;
 - Over 45: social assistance and health assistance.
- Returnees who benefit from reintegration programmes can potentially, within a short period of time, support the development of the local market and the economic system. The experience of returnees gained in Western European countries is needed and can be well-used in Kosovo.¹³⁵² Some examples provided by IOM illustrate well how **returnees benefiting from reintegration programmes can contribute to overall local development**. Examples of what is possible within the framework of reintegration programmes include employing relatives in private businesses and the expansion of already-existent family businesses.¹³⁵³

Challenges

- Experience, knowledge and skills acquired during emigration to a Western country can certainly contribute to local and national development, yet if the capacity of returnees is not used properly, it can also make the overall situation in the country more difficult.¹³⁵⁴ Therefore, it is necessary to engage and involve returnees in the Kosovar market as soon as possible.¹³⁵⁵
- Information about available services and assistance for reintegration and social inclusion provided prior to return sometimes does not correspond with reality and is inconsistent. This situation creates disappointment and frustration amongst returnees and can hamper the reintegration process.¹³⁵⁶
- Information about social welfare, education and the health system is often inconsistent, creating misunderstandings about the measures that are offered to returnees after return and their expectations prior to return.¹³⁵⁷

emigration of Kosovar citizens to Western European countries. (Interview with the International Organization for Migration, 19 September 2011).

¹³⁵⁰ Interview with Ministry of Internal Affairs, 14 September 2011.

¹³⁵¹ Interview with IOM, 19 September 2011.

¹³⁵² Interview with Ministry for Communities and Returns, 15 September 2011.

¹³⁵³ Interview with IOM, 19 September 2011.

¹³⁵⁴ Interview with Ministry of Internal Affairs, 14 September 2011.

¹³⁵⁵ Interview with Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, 14 September 2011.

¹³⁵⁶ Interview with Ministry of Internal Affairs, 14 September 2011.

¹³⁵⁷ Interview with Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, 14 September 2011.

- Repatriation of many people at the same time is a serious challenge for Kosovo for several reasons. Managing the inflow of returns becomes more difficult and the chances of benefiting from reintegration programmes in Kosovo reduced.¹³⁵⁸
- Unemployment is among the strongest domestic factors which pushes migration. According to the 2010 World Bank Country Brief,¹³⁵⁹ the Republic of Kosovo has a very low employment rate (47%) and the weakest employment track record in Europe. Kosovo's 53% labour participation rate among the working age population is substantially below the average among all transition economies (65%).

¹³⁵⁸ Interview with Ministry of Internal Affairs, 14 September 2011.

¹³⁵⁹ The World Bank report is available at:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/ECAEXT/KOSOVOEXTN/0,,contentMDK:20629286~menuPK:297777~pagePK:141137~piPK:141127~theSitePK:297770,00.html>

6.5.2.5 Sri Lanka

This Case Study is compiled using desk research, interviews with the main actors responsible for and actively involved in reintegration activities in Sri Lanka, as well as interviews with selected returnees. The main actors involved are the Department for Immigration and Emigration (DIE)¹³⁶⁰, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Resettlement¹³⁶¹, the Sri Lankan Bureau for Foreign Employment (SLBFE)¹³⁶² and IOM Colombo¹³⁶³.

The returnees interviewed returned from France, Switzerland and the UK and received reintegration assistance from IOM.

Introduction and Background

There is no general government policy regarding reintegration. Returns are mostly managed at an operational level by the Department of Immigration and Emigration (DIE)¹³⁶⁴ and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The DIE operates pre-return to confirm the nationality of persons without papers and at the airports. Return of population displaced to India or other regions of the country is coordinated by the Ministry of Resettlement, in cooperation with UNHCR. Other governmental entities involved are the DIE, the Registrar General's Department, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Customs. The Sri Lanka Bureau for Foreign Employment (SLBFE) provides some assistance to migrant workers returning and their families and IOM Colombo runs assisted voluntary return and reintegration programmes in partnership with their offices worldwide.

Except the IOM projects, there is no reintegration assistance targeted at returnees from the EU. According to representatives from the authorities, those returnees do not need help, as they were living in industrialised countries, they do not have financial problems and they have sufficient contacts in the country to settle back.

Returnees

Migration from Sri Lanka can be divided into three distinct categories¹³⁶⁵:

- Labour migrants
- Asylum seekers
- Professionals and students

As far as the first category is concerned, migrant workers have to register with the Sri Lankan Bureau for Foreign Employment (SLBFE)¹³⁶⁶, a government-affiliated agency created in 1985,

¹³⁶⁰ Interview with DIE, 14 September 2009.

¹³⁶¹ Interview Ministry of Resettlement, 13 September 2011.

¹³⁶² Interview with the SLBFE, 14 September 2011.

¹³⁶³ Interview with IOM, Migration management and Assisted Voluntary Returns Unit, 14 September 2011.

¹³⁶⁴ Interview with DIE, 14 September 2009.

¹³⁶⁵ Collyer M. et al, *return migrants in Sri Lanka*, Institute for Public Policy Research, London, 2009.

prior to departure. There are almost 2 million workers registered with the SLBFE as living abroad, which amounts to 10% of the total population of the country. Labour migrants' primary host countries are located in the Middle-East and to a more limited extent in Asia. In 2009, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, U.A.E. and Jordan were the major receiving countries of Sri Lankan migrant workers.¹³⁶⁷ The only EU countries that received Sri Lankan migrant workers in 2009 were Cyprus (2,929), Greece (139), Romania (119), UK (64), Italy (22) and Ireland (2). In Cyprus, the vast majority were female housemaids. The average migration period is two years and in many cases, people migrate more than once.¹³⁶⁸

Sri Lanka was affected by a civil war between 1983 until 2009, when the government announced that they had defeated the Tamil Tigers (LTTE)-led separatist rebellion. Sri Lanka is composed of a majority of Buddhist Sinhalese and a minority of Hindu Tamil, mostly living in the east and the north of the country. In addition, there is a smaller minority of Christian Sinhalese and Tamil-speaking Muslims.

The two-decades long war led to an important number of people fleeing to neighbouring India and being internally displaced (about 100,000 people, according to Ministry of Resettlement estimates¹³⁶⁹), as well as to industrialised countries. By the end of 2009, there were about 40,000 Sri Lankan refugees¹³⁷⁰ in the EU, mostly in France, Germany and the UK. Though 2009 marked the official end of the conflict, there were still more than 3,000 asylum applications by Sri Lankan nationals in France that year. Between 1983 and 2002 (year of a formalised cease-fire), there have been between 5,000 to 15,000 asylum applications a year in France, Germany and the UK, with a peak of almost 25,000 in 1985¹³⁷¹. Since the end of the conflict, the government has been working to resettle most of the internally displaced persons as well as those living in camps in South India.

Finally, a significant number of Sri Lankans have migrated for highly qualified employment or education since the 1960s. The UK is one of the main recipients of these migrants, and Collyer (2009) notes that the British Council office in Colombo has a unit coordinating information sessions on UK universities.

The number of returnees from Europe is rather small, especially when compared to the number of returnees from the Middle East.¹³⁷² A number of returnees from the EU were benefitting from international protection or were seeking asylum¹³⁷³. Some stakeholders expressed concerns that former refugees or asylum seekers might face repression upon return, especially those involved with the Tamil rebellion. The Department of Immigration and Emigration referred to the

¹³⁶⁶ Interview with the SLBFE, 14 September 2011.

¹³⁶⁷ SLBFE, *Annual Statistical report of Foreign Employment*, 2009, <http://www.slbfe.lk/downloads/annual>.

¹³⁶⁸ Interview with the SLBFE, 14 September 2011.

¹³⁶⁹ Interview Ministry of Resettlement, 13 September 2011.

¹³⁷⁰ UNHCR, *Global trends 2010*.

¹³⁷¹ Collyer M. Et alii, *opus cite*.

¹³⁷² Interviews DIE and SLBFE.

¹³⁷³ Interviews with DIE and IOM.

IOM for statistics, though as IOM is not involved in forced returns, they only have records of returns through AVRs. In 2010, 342 persons returned to Sri Lanka through IOM's assisted voluntary programme, among which 168 from the UK, 55 from France and 54 from Switzerland. In the same year, IOM provided reintegration assistance to 206 returnees from Europe¹³⁷⁴. Most returnees are male¹³⁷⁵.

Cooperation with EU Countries

Sri Lanka signed a readmission agreement with the European Union in 2004, which entered into force in 2005. However, this agreement is not yet fully operational, as no bilateral implementing protocols¹³⁷⁶ have yet been signed¹³⁷⁷. Therefore, no return has taken place under this remit. The European Commission, through its delegation in Colombo, is continuing talks on the issue with the government of Sri Lanka, in particular to set up a Joint Readmission Committee to discuss the implementation of the agreement.

In 1999, Sri Lanka has signed a readmission agreement with the UK to facilitate and make provision for the return to Sri Lanka of Sri Lankan citizens who do not have the right to enter or remain in the United Kingdom.¹³⁷⁸ In general return issues are covered under a number of bilateral agreements signed with other individual Member States.¹³⁷⁹

The European Commission has awarded a grant to IOM in Sri Lanka (and Pakistan) to carry out a project to support the governments of Pakistan and Sri Lanka for the implementation of the EU Readmission Agreements.¹³⁸⁰ The project, which is planned to run from January 2011 to the end of 2012, aims to build the administrative and technical capacity of those governments; assist them in setting up inter-ministerial coordination structures and process for readmission, including for reintegration; promote dialogue and cooperation on readmission with the EU and support the fight against irregular migration and human smuggling¹³⁸¹. In this framework, a National Coordination Committee on Readmission (NCCR) has been established which comprises representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Immigration and Emigration, the Registration of Persons Department and the Police Department.

The project foresees reintegration activities through financial and psycho-social assistance to people who returned under the readmission agreement. IOM is not involved, as a matter of policy, in forced return, but can provide reintegration to any type of returnees after their arrival in

¹³⁷⁴ Reintegration assistance can also be granted to returnees who did not return through IOM programmes.

¹³⁷⁵ Information provided by IOM Colombo, AVR unit.

¹³⁷⁶ For EU readmission agreements to be implemented, each Member State needs to sign implementation protocols with the third country concerned and a Joint Readmission Committee between Member States, the EC and the country needs to be set up.

¹³⁷⁷ Interview with the EC delegation to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, 12 September 2011.

¹³⁷⁸ IOM (Sri Lanka), on 17 November 2011

¹³⁷⁹ Neither the DIE nor IOM were able to confirm which agreements are currently in force.

¹³⁸⁰ Interview with the EC delegation to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, 12 September 2011.

¹³⁸¹ Interviews with the EC Delegation and IOM.

Sri Lanka. A €500 reintegration grant will be allocated to the returnees to cover short-term needs such as transportation within Sri Lanka, food, clothing, medicine, etc. Further assistance, such as training and business development programmes, will be coordinated with local authorities and NGOs.

The project is currently being monitored by the EC Delegation through a “Result Oriented Monitoring” (ROM) mission.

Reintegration Assistance in Practice

Table 37: Overview of Main Existing Programmes and Activities in Sri Lanka

Programme/ project name	Implementer	EU partner	Timeline
Enhanced Capacity Building in Migration Management to Support Effective Return and Sustainable Reintegration of Returnees to Sri Lanka	IOM	IOM national offices	2006-2008
Assisted Voluntary return and reintegration programme:	IOM	IOM national offices	Depending on EU counterparts
Reintegration assistance	SLBFE	N/A	ongoing
Return and reintegration of refugees	UNHCR	UNHCR offices	N/A

There is no global programme for returnees in Sri Lanka.

Through the DIE¹³⁸², the government has established a procedure to assist people in obtaining the necessary documents to come back and in “identifying” the persons at the airport. In the cases where migrants willing to return do not have papers anymore, the DIE assist the embassy in verifying the nationality of the person, in order to issue them travel documents. In case of doubt, further verification is made at arrival.

The Ministry of Resettlement¹³⁸³ has established programmes for refugees from camps in south India. They assist families to give their children access to school, people are authorised to bring back up to 100kg of goods, and the Ministry coordinates with other Ministries (Fishery, Housing, Education) to propose some reintegration assistance. This assistance can be, for instance, through micro-finance or housing programmes.

UNHCR¹³⁸⁴ has also developed a return and reintegration assistance programme for refugees who wish to return voluntarily. Refugees contact the local UNHCR office in their host country and they provide them with information and travel arrangements. UNHCR staff is present at the airport when returnees arrive to register them and open a bank account¹³⁸⁵, in order for them to receive the reintegration grant. The reintegration grant amounts to 10,000 SLR (about €60) per

¹³⁸² Interview with DIE, 14 September 2009.

¹³⁸³ Interview Ministry of Resettlement, 13 September 2011.

¹³⁸⁴ <http://unhcr.lk/srilankanrefugeeselsewhere.php> and written response from UNHCR, October 2011.

¹³⁸⁵ A new bank account is opened for each returnee household at the state-owned Bank of Ceylon, at the airport.

adult and 7,500 SLR (about €50) per child under the age of 18. Returnees are then provided with a small cash grant to cover transportation¹³⁸⁶ to their homes. Finally, after their arrival in their home district, returnees can claim a “non-food items” pack (e.g. basic household items, hygiene pack, tarpaulin kit and return tool pack) from the local UNHCR office. In addition, some clothing can be provided upon request. UNHCR also provides information and referrals to the relevant services.

The SLBFE¹³⁸⁷ was established in 1985 as the main regulatory body for employment. One of its objectives is to ensure the welfare of the migrants and their families during and after their time abroad. SLBFE provides some assistance for returnees to reintegrate, including helping them to establish themselves as self-employed. SLBFE also runs awareness programmes pre-departure at the local level, informing about possible reintegration assistance once the migrant returns.

As very few migrant workers registered with the SLBFE live in Europe, there are no data on the numbers of those who return. At the moment, the SLBFE focuses on migrants in the Middle East and has established a specific programme for migrants going to South Korea¹³⁸⁸.

IOM Sri Lanka¹³⁸⁹ has a well-established Assisted Voluntary Return Unit. The unit works as counterpart of IOM offices in the EU to implement the post-arrival reintegration component. Most returnees from the EU come from the UK, Switzerland, France, Norway, the Netherlands and Belgium. The assistance provided depends on the host country programmes but always involves counselling, as well as financial and in kind support for business start-up or education/training.

From 2006 to 2008, IOM Colombo also carried out reintegration assistance for asylum seekers and irregular migrants from EU countries and stranded in transit countries as part of an EU funded project. Support included a livelihood assistance programme and socio-cultural reintegration assistance. The project also provided for social infrastructure development for a number of returnees and their communities.¹³⁹⁰

Reintegration Assistance and Sustainable Return

The absence of a general programme makes it difficult to evaluate the reintegration possibilities offered to returnees. Assistance depends on the status of the returnee (refugee, displaced person, migrant worker, etc) and on the institution providing it.

¹³⁸⁶ Transportation has to be organised by the returnee himself.

¹³⁸⁷ Interview with the SLBFE, 14 September 2011.

¹³⁸⁸ “Happy Returnee Programme”: migrants workers going to South Korea are requested to open an account where to send remittances that can then be used upon their return to invest in a small scale business or self-employment with support from the SLBFE.

¹³⁸⁹ Interview with IOM AVR unit, 15 September 2011.

¹³⁹⁰ IOM comment sent to Matrix in 2 November 2011.

Benefits

- IOM's representative¹³⁹¹ defined sustainable return as a long commitment between the different parties involved, in addition to elements of passion and action. Returnees interviewed all expressed their satisfaction over the commitment and involvement of the IOM staff and one explained that without their motivation push he would have abandoned his reintegration project.
- IOM considers¹³⁹² the link between their offices in the host countries and themselves important, particularly the assistance to returnees pre-departure. Through pre-departure counselling and information, the returnees are better prepared. They can make informed decisions and develop a return plan. IOM also believes that potential returnees could be offered some training (in language, IT or other technical skills) in the host country prior to return that would increase their chance of finding employment available in their country of origin.¹³⁹³

Challenges

- Except from IOM, assistance available for returnees from Europe is very limited, or non-existent. Governmental actors admitted that return and reintegration is not a priority in a country that has to deal with post-conflict and post-tsunami¹³⁹⁴ reconstruction. Some actors also claimed that returnees from Europe do not need assistance.
- IOM's activities largely depend on the criteria and constraints set by their funders; in programmes, the EU and Member States.
- Relations between EU countries and Sri Lanka in terms of return and reintegration are limited. The DIE stated¹³⁹⁵ that there is a good collaboration with the sending countries through embassies and High Commissions, but this relates only to consular matters.
- Limited development aid to the country is necessary to improve infrastructures, housing construction and economic sectors such as agriculture. Those improvements would trigger the return of more Sri Lankans.
- The Center for Women's Research (CENWOR)¹³⁹⁶ challenges the sustainability of returns of migrant workers, especially the one of female domestic workers. CENWOR indicated that though there is a workers' register maintained by the Bureau for Foreign Employment, their contracts are not checked and sometimes they are not enforceable in the country of destination, so they might be exposed to abuse and low payments. There are also no agreements in place to enable the workers to gather pension funds.

¹³⁹¹ Interview with IOM AVR unit, 15 September 2011.

¹³⁹² Interview with IOM AVR unit, 15 September 2011.

¹³⁹³ IOM comment sent to Matrix in 2 November 2011.

¹³⁹⁴ The 2004 tsunami that affected many South East Asian countries, also hit Sri Lanka hard. UNEP reported between 31,000 and 37,000 casualties and nearly 100,000 houses destroyed, see http://www.unep.org/tsunami/reports/tsunami_srilanka_layout.pdf.

¹³⁹⁵ Interview with DIE, 13 September 2011.

¹³⁹⁶ Interview with CENWOR, Migration Department, 14 September 2011.

- The attitude of some returnees, including the state of dependence that some former asylum seekers are in or the difficulty to re-adapt to the functioning of a developing country.¹³⁹⁷

¹³⁹⁷Interview with IOM AVR unit, 15 September 2011.

6.5.3 Stories of Return

6.5.3.1 Ecuador Stories

The SENAMI does not keep a database of the persons assisted and it is therefore difficult to contact them. For logistical reasons, at the time of the research, it was not possible to meet with returnees from IOM programmes. Among the five people from Quito that HIAS assisted, they managed to contact three. Two were prepared to be interviewed.

Interview 1

Interview Date: 23 August 2011

Background: A.C. arrived illegally in Belgium and stayed there for nine years. He came and lived alone. He applied for regularisation but his application was still pending when he decided to return to Ecuador. He returned to Ecuador in with the support of Caritas Belgium and HIAS Ecuador.

Situation before return

A.C. went to Belgium for economic reasons but stated that after nine years in an irregular situation, he found it very difficult. He also got arrested three times because of his irregular status. This included a two-week-period in a detention centre dedicated to repatriations.

A.C. explained that he was tired of waiting for his regularisation application to be processed and went to Caritas Belgium to ask for information. He knew about Caritas because he used to pass by their offices every day. His return was organised within two to three weeks, though he only received a one day notice prior to his flight. He therefore did not bring back any of his belongings.

Situation after return

A.C. was not assisted at the airport in Belgium or in Ecuador. He made his way home alone. He had contacted his wife and family prior to his departure, thus they were expecting him at home. After a while, he contacted HIAS, Caritas' partner in Ecuador, to start his reintegration project.

Reintegration

A.C. developed his reintegration project once he arrived in Ecuador. He met with the HIAS counsellors about four times and they helped him in establishing himself as a private taxi driver, working within a cooperative. He thought that the reintegration assistance and support from the implementing organisations were good. However, he admitted that he was facing a number of challenges in his business, including registration difficulties with the local authorities and problems in getting additional support from them. He also mentioned that he required additional funding.

Current situation

A.C stated that his current situation was satisfactory and that he was happy in Ecuador, despite things not always being easy.

He mentioned that he could gather the necessary money for his business by going back and working in Belgium for two years. However, this was currently impossible, due to his having signed an agreement not to return to Belgium or the EU for a certain amount of years. He said that he might consider re-migrating for a short period after these ten years.

Interview 2

Interview Date: 23 August 2011

Background: L.C. is 65 years old and came back to Ecuador in March 2011, with the assistance of Caritas Belgium and HIAS Ecuador. He lived in Belgium for 4.5 years, together with his wife, who obtained a residence permit. He also has two daughters and a number of relatives living there, most of them in a regular situation.

Situation before return

L.C. went to Belgium with the aim to earn enough money to save for his pension. He applied for regularisation through work sponsorship¹³⁹⁸. In the meantime, he lived with his wife, who worked part-time as a domestic worker. L.C. did not manage to get a work contract in the allocated time. The salary of his wife not being sufficient to cover for their rent, they moved to their daughter's house. He explained that the situation became too uncomfortable for him, his wife and his daughter's family, and as he could not regularise his stay, he decided to return to Ecuador, where he has two other children. He sought advice at the Ecuadorian Embassy, which gave him information about assisted voluntary return programmes and contact details of Caritas. He also knew about some other people, including one of his brothers, who had benefited from these programmes. His return was organised within eight days. He requested another eight days to be able to close the contracts related to his apartment and other services and subsequently prepare for his return. Caritas provided him with information on the reintegration programme and assistance for his travel.

He already had an idea of the business he wanted to set up (window frames) but could not develop the business plan in Belgium, given the short amount of time. He explained that he did not know the prices of the necessary materials and had to research and ask for quotes. L.C. already has the necessary training and experience in this type of business. Prior to his departure, he was met at the airport by a staff member of Caritas who assisted him and handed him his ticket and some cash.

¹³⁹⁸ Since 2009 and the establishment of new criteria for regularisation, an illegally-staying third country national can apply for regularisation, if he has lived continuously in Belgium since March 2007 and can produce a work contract, of a minimum duration of one year.

Situation after return

At his arrival, L.C. was greeted by his whole family. After a month, he got in touch with HIAS to start the reintegration programme. He now lives in his former house with the one his son's family and has started renovating the place. With the support of her daughter and son-in-law, his wife came to be with him for a couple of months. L.C. did not bring all of his belongings and machines, because of the associated cost. They either sold or gave away their furniture, household items and professional materials. He heard about the customs-waiver programme of the SENAMI and requested all the necessary information from them but he still considers it too expensive to pay for the transportation. He also heard of stories of people asked by the custom officers to still pay large amounts of money to retrieve the packages and he is afraid he would not be able to afford it if this happened.

Reintegration

Though his reintegration support is still in progress, he has already met with HIAS counsellors five or six times. Together, they developed a business plan and L.C. already bought the machines he will need. He is still looking for premises to establish his workshop. He is also applying for some loans to complement the reintegration assistance of Caritas/HIAS, but has not yet been successful because of lack of guarantees or own capital. He explained that the business has some challenges because of competition. He also wants to apply for the grants offered by the SENAMI ("Cucayo Fund"). However, the SENAMI requests that he has a webpage for his business, which he cannot currently have, because he needs to wait six months before he can have internet at home.

Current situation

L.C. considers his situation in Ecuador better than in Belgium. He is thankful for the reintegration support, especially as he was able to buy some good quality machines for his business. However, he still has a number of challenges to face, including finding premises and really starting his business. His family situation also remains delicate, as his wife is still living in Belgium and does not want to leave, as she would lose her residence permit and would not be ensured to be granted visas to visit her daughters, grandchildren and relatives in Belgium. He signed an agreement that he would not go back to Belgium for five years, and given his age, he is not reconsidering migrating after this period. He would, however, like to go back to visit his family and might apply for a residence permit if his daughter (who married a Belgian citizen) is granted Belgian nationality.

6.5.3.2 Georgia Stories

Interview 1

Interview Date: 6 July 2011

Background: N., female and around 35 years old, left Georgia in 1997, together with her husband's family. She was legally staying in Greece and returned voluntarily in 2008. N. stated that the family had moved to Greece because of the Soviet Union crisis.

Situation before return

N. had obtained a medical education in Georgia as a nurse. The qualification was useful during her time in Greece. For two years she worked as a nurse and later in a rehabilitation centre, where the wage was better. During her last year in Greece, she was working in a restaurant, cleaning dishes and helping in the kitchen.

Situation after return

Following the death of her husband in Greece, N. contacted the Georgian embassy in Greece. They provided her with support, legal consultancy and also helped her with her paper work. N. decided to return voluntarily to Georgia without applying to any voluntary return programme. Before her return to Georgia, N. started saving money so as to have some financial stability once back.

The Georgian president had made an appeal for people to return. When back in Georgia, N. applied to local councils/districts asking for help in finding employment. She was asked to learn English when she arrived in Georgia and thus started attending English language courses. She was informed that knowing English could get her better employment. Prior to the last elections in Georgia, municipal units were gathering qualified people's CVs. However, nothing happened in the following months and N. remained unemployed.

After her return to Georgia she initially lived with her parents. Afterwards, she started renting a house. N. did not have any access to health care (this was expensive and she could not cover the costs). N. was provided with a widow's pension of 65 Liari a month.

Reintegration

In January 2011, N. discovered an employment website. N. completed her application, indicating that she was seeking employment as a nurse. N. was invited to attend an interview with the Georgian Employers Association (GEA), who offered her a reintegration programme if she agreed to widen her area of interest.

N. agreed to attend various courses. These included a two-week course on hospitality training (managing in hotels), one week of business start-up training and a four-week cooking course (including two weeks of practical experience) at one of the biggest supermarkets in Georgia.

Due to her previous experience in Greece and her work in restaurants, N. felt she could start using the skills she had learnt. N. was eventually employed at the supermarket where the training had been conducted in March 2011 and has been working there since.

Current situation

N. is doing well in her new job. N. believes that she found a job because she accepted to conduct training, while most returnees would prefer to skip this and get a job immediately. N.'s son is 13 years old and has been integrated into a new school. N. expressed her wish to be given the opportunity to work as a nurse again. N.'s current monthly salary in Georgia is equivalent to one week's salary in Greece. N. thus feels that she has to limit her social activities to be able to sustain herself in Georgia.

In the weeks prior to the interview, N. had started looking at the possibility of moving to another European country, in order to provide a better education for her child and better employment. N. thinks that other European countries can offer more than Georgia, yet admits that she is happy to be back in Georgia with her family.

Interview 2

Interview Date: 7 July 2011

Background: G. (male, around 40 years old) went to Ireland in 2007, where he lived illegally for four years before returning to Georgia in February 2011. G. went to Ireland because he knew that wages were better than those in Georgia.

Situation before return

G. went to Ireland together with his family. Before moving to Ireland, he was working as a journalist. Due to the nature of his work, he travelled a lot and during this time, he discovered that Irish wages were better than those in Georgia. He lived in an apartment during his time in Ireland and worked illegally in many different places. He was employed as a security guard, in the construction business and by well-known computer companies. In 2011, he was introduced to IOM by one of his friends, who mentioned the possibility of participating in a reintegration programme. G. visited the IOM offices and was provided with information about reintegration assistance. Soon afterwards, he decided to return. He had begun to become nostalgic whilst in Ireland and was happy to return to Georgia. Before returning to Georgia, he read about its situation.

Situation after return

Upon arrival, G. immediately registered his children so that they could start attending school. He was picked up from the airport by a friend, who then took him to a family house.

Reintegration

IOM gave G. a grant so that he could open a business. He bought shares in, and was employed by, a company. He now works in an Internet development company.

Current situation

G. stated that he is very happy to be back. His wife is currently not working, as she is taking care of the baby. The reintegration assistance has helped G. a lot, but he stated that ideally, the reintegration package should be bigger. One day, he would like to open his own business in Georgia. G. stated that he keeps in touch with his friends in Ireland and IOM contacts him regularly to see how he is doing.

Interview 3

Interview Date: 7 July 2011

Background: J. (male, 35 years old) left Georgia in 2004 and went to the Netherlands together with his wife. He returned to Georgia by forced return in June/July 2010. Prior to leaving to the Netherlands, J. had already lived in Ukraine and Russia together with his family. When J. went to the Netherlands he had a legal status (medical status).

Situation before return

J. was staying together with his family in a refugee camp in the Netherlands. During that time, they had two children and were provided with health services, as J. had a medical condition. The medical status eventually expired and J. filed an application for refugee status. This was declined¹³⁹⁹. During this time, J. and his family lived in an asylum centre. Upon receipt of the rejected application, they were asked to return voluntarily. The Dutch authorities informed them that they could be provided with reintegration assistance back in Georgia, on the basis of the readmission agreement. Several organisations had approached J. and his family, inviting them to leave with Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR). In 2008, they were about to be deported, but everything was cancelled because of the instability in Georgia. J. spent his last 9 months in the Netherlands in a detention centre. Before leaving for Georgia, he was allowed to stay with his family for five days. He was then deported to Georgia and was given no possibility to collect his documents or luggage. They rest of the family were finally deported in 2010. Prior to going to the Netherlands, J. did not have a job. He never worked in the Netherlands.

Situation after return

J. was allowed to take only the belongings he had in the detention centre. When J. returned to Georgia, he met his brother at the airport and was accommodated by friends and relatives.

¹³⁹⁹ Even though the returnees' application was rejected, one of his children was allowed to stay in the Netherlands legally.

Reintegration

J. was deported prior to his wife, who had in the meantime applied for AVR with IOM in the Netherlands. She received accommodation upon her return to Tbilisi. J. slept at a friend's house. IOM offered them reintegration assistance: accommodation, medical assistance, covering their Dutch debts and also providing training. Since returning to Georgia, IOM has provided J. and his wife with advice on their reintegration and job possibilities. J.'s family contacted the Mobility Centre Counsellor, but their business plan was not approved and they were only provided with health care assistance.

Current situation

J. is currently unemployed. J. stated that he would like to obtain a driving license so he could drive taxis, but his efforts are focused on getting a visa so that he can leave Georgia. Unfortunately, Georgia has a public administration age restriction, so his wife, who trained as a teacher, cannot be employed due to being 35 years old. J. stated that he felt abandoned and that no one had really helped him since his return to Georgia.

Interview 4

Interview Date: 7 July 2011

Background: K. (male, 36 years old) left Georgia in 2010 and went to live in the Netherlands for one year. In June 2011, K. decided to return to Georgia voluntarily. K. had a legal status for most of his stay in the Netherlands and was living in an asylum centre. A few years before going to the Netherlands, K. tried to go to Poland with his family, but his application was rejected. K. stated that he could not afford to go to the Netherlands with his family and that is why he went alone.

Situation before return

K. was living legally in the Netherlands for most of the time. In the Netherlands he was alone and unemployed because he had no right to work. The authorities had informed him that his permit to stay was going to expire and suggested that he leave voluntarily. They explained to him that, should he decide to leave with IOM, he would also be provided with a flight ticket. Whilst in the Netherlands, K. made contact with several organisations on reintegration possibilities. The office of migration in the Netherlands informed him that his permit was not going to be prolonged. K. then applied for a different legal status in the Netherlands. This was rejected. After 20 days, he decided to leave voluntarily with IOM. IOM organised a taxi for him in the Netherlands and also met him at the airport. He had no luggage restriction and K. had the right to call his family before leaving. Prior to his departure, K. was staying in an asylum centre.

Situation after return

He received no information of what was awaiting him in Georgia. IOM gave him a €200 debit card upon his return to Georgia. Upon arrival, he took a taxi and went home.

Reintegration

Since K. returned, IOM has provided him with a small grant. He now has a small business selling sunglasses. He also received medical reimbursement. In the days following the interview, K. was to undergo an operation in Georgia, which would be covered by IOM funds. K. has not been informed regarding the length of the support he will receive from IOM. K. stated that he does not have much contact with IOM and does not think he will receive further support.

Current situation

According to K., the support being granted is not sustainable, yet he stated that he does not have financial difficulties in comparison with others. Even though K. expressed his happiness in seeing his family again, he wishes to leave again, to the Netherlands or to France.

Interview 5

Interview Date: 7 July 2011

Background: M. (female, 36 years old) went to the UK in 2006, where she stayed for 5 years until she was asked to return.

Situation before return

M. moved to the UK together with her husband. After some time, they separated, but continued to live together. Before leaving Georgia, M. used to work in an embassy. M. did not have a work permit, but found work illegally in coffee shops. M. contacted IOM via the internet and asked them to help her return. M. was given three days to decide if she wanted to return, eventually agreeing. IOM helped her to get all of the necessary documents.

Situation after return

Her family was waiting for her at the airport and welcomed her back home on her return to Georgia.

Reintegration

IOM offered her reintegration in kind. M. bought a business shop, which is doing well.

Current situation

M. has not managed to reintegrate in Georgia and is trying to get a new citizenship (her mother is a Russian born in Lithuania) and leave Georgia.

Interview 6

Interview Date: 7 July 2011

Background: In October 2010, X. (male, 50 years old) went to Istanbul, together with other Georgian men, to work for a company for three months. All arrangements were made by a man in Georgia, who X. paid before going to Istanbul. After two months, in December 2010, X. decided to return, since he had not received any money. While at the airport, he accidentally met IOM representatives and was identified as being a victim of labour exploitation.

From 1992 to 2000, X. had lived in Germany, together with his family (wife and two children). Here, he had applied for asylum and had been accepted. He was legally working in Germany and returned to Georgia in 2000.

Situation before return

In 2008, a hailstorm demolished the greenhouse he had been working at in Georgia. X. then started looking for alternative ways to generate income. X. met a Georgian man who was taking people to Turkey and he thought that this would be good for his family. In total, six people agreed to leave and work in a garment factory in Turkey. At the time, this seemed like a good opportunity, especially since there was no visa obligation for the first three months and X. felt he would thus not face any problems. After two months working without getting paid, in December 2010, X. decided to return to Georgia. When he arrived at the border between Turkey and Georgia, X. accidentally met a team of IOM interviewers, who were checking if there were victims of trafficking among the people leaving. X. saw the IOM leaflet and contacted the police. It was then concluded that the returnee was a victim of labour exploitation.

Situation after return

X. returned voluntarily and went back to his family in Georgia.

Reintegration

In April 2011, IOM provided 3600 Liari to X. X. also contacted the Targeted Initiative Programme in Georgia.

While in Germany, X. worked with a cucumber farmer, acquiring skills he wished to then apply in Georgia. Together with an IOM business consultant, he developed a business plan to grow cucumbers. In order to receive the grant, X. was asked to keep the bills and all forms of payment. IOM informed X. that it might be possible to provide him with further assistance.

Current situation

X. stated that the reintegration package is good, since it is planned together with IOM. X. has already seen a good harvest and is looking forward to improving the conditions of the greenhouse, in order to produce more crops. X. is very thankful for the reintegration and support

received by IOM, yet due to the increase in prices and fertilisers, X. feels that the reintegration support should be higher, so that he can cover the costs.

X. stated that he is feeling happy and is not planning to return. Yet if X. and his family could have another chance of going back to Germany legally, they would consider it.

6.5.3.3 Ghana Stories

Interview 1

Interview Date: 8 September 2011

Background: The returnee (male, 35 years) left Ghana in 2000 and returned in October 2009, after living in the UK for nine years. He had applied for an EU dependency permit. After it was approved, he went to live with his brother in Scotland.

Situation before return

During his time in Scotland, the returnee managed to obtain a work permit and started working as an assistant in a warehouse. He eventually applied for an EU residence permit and was told he had to wait for two years. He wanted to go and see his fiancée, who lived in Germany, and tried crossing the border using his brother's passport, since his passport was with the Home Office in view of his residence permit application. He was caught at the border and sent to prison. During his time in prison, he was approached by IOM. He already had an overview of the benefits of returning voluntarily, since some of his friends had returned to Ghana with the help of IOM. It took four months to have all the preparations for departure settled. Since he left the UK from prison, he was not allowed to take his belongings from home and was given a small amount of cash through an IOM credit card. During his time in prison, he was provided with pre-departure counselling by a UK NGO.

Situation after return

The returnee was greeted by a relative at the airport, who provided him with temporary accommodation. At first, he had difficulties getting in touch with his relatives, since they had high expectations, meaning he did not receive a lot of support from them. Upon his return, he wanted to go back to London but since he had no cash with him, preferred to go for the reintegration support provided by IOM.

Reintegration

A few days after his arrival, IOM provided him with a small sum of money, which he used to pay for his accommodation. He spent 1.5 months preparing the business plan with the support of IOM and opened a clothes shop with the money provided to him as support for his business¹⁴⁰⁰. The business did not last long, since there was a lot of competition. He had to close his shop a few months after opening it.

Current situation

Since his business failed, the returnee decided to sell the car he had in the UK and rent a bigger shop importing second-hand technical equipment. The business opened six months prior to the

¹⁴⁰⁰ The returnee was provided with £5,000 reintegration assistance in kind.

interview and is now doing well, yet he has no more additional capital to keep the business running. During this time he has kept in touch with IOM, hoping to receive some additional reintegration assistance. However, he was not given additional financial support. The returnee feels that more assistance should be available for people who fail in their first business. He also stated that he feels very happy for having been released earlier from prison by accepting to return with IOM.

Interview 2

Interview Date: 8 September 2011

Background: The returnee (male, 35 years) left Ghana in 2000 and returned in October 2009, after living in the UK for nine years. He had applied for an EU dependency permit. After it was approved, he went to live with his brother in Scotland.

Background

The returnee (female, 30 years old) left Ghana in 2006 and returned in October 2009 after living for in London for three years. She had applied for a two-year residence permit. When this was accepted, she moved to the UK. Prior to going to the UK, she was working as a nurse.

Situation before return

The returnee wanted to leave Ghana so as to try a new working and living experience. Since she did not have a work permit, she had difficulties in trying to find a proper job in the UK and did odd jobs at hotels and restaurants. She was caught with an expired residence permit while working in a picking and packing fruit company and was sent to prison. During her time in prison, she decided she wanted to go back to Ghana and spoke to IOM, who were visiting the prison. The procedure to leave took some weeks to be completed and she was given a small amount of cash through a credit card by IOM, which she could use in Ghana. She was allowed to take her belongings before going back to Ghana.

Situation after return

Her family greeted her at the airport. In the next few days, she contacted IOM to start her reintegration process. She also started to feel better, since when she was in prison, she was very depressed and the family supported her upon her return to Ghana.

Reintegration

Due to some paper work issues, the reintegration process started only five months after she returned. She eventually opened a small shop where she buys and sells items and the business has been running for a year and a half¹⁴⁰¹.

Current situation

The returnee is doing well in her business, thanks to the support from her brothers, who live in the UK and send her money. The reintegration assistance was only enough for a short period of time. In the meantime, she has also found a part time job as a nurse. The returnee has kept in touch with her family and friends who live in the UK and does not plan on going back. She also stated that the reason why many returnees do not choose to return with IOM is because they have difficulties in trusting them, since they think that they will not receive the assistance upon return.

Interview 3

Interview Date: 8 September 2011

Background: The returnee (female, 30 years old) left Ghana in 2005 and returned in October 2009 after living for in London for three years. After finishing her studies in Ghana and graduating in nutrition studies, she applied for a working holiday visa to the UK, which was approved.

Situation before return

The returnee started working as a social worker in the UK. During her time in the UK, her visa expired and she asked to extend her visa through a solicitor. He provided her with a new visa for which she paid £1,000. She was living in a flat when the immigration officers came and informed her she had a fake visa. She was imprisoned for 6 months. The returnee faced several difficulties whilst in prison. During this time, she was asked to complete a form so that she could return voluntarily, but no more details were given to her regarding her return. She was later sent to a detention centre, where she met IOM and she was asked once again to complete a voluntary return form. In the following days she was informed she would return and was allowed to pack a small luggage bag. IOM informed her that her reintegration would start after her return in Ghana.

During the time she spent in the UK she sent remittances back to Ghana.

¹⁴⁰¹ The returnee was provided with £5,000 reintegration assistance in kind.

Situation after return

The returnee was welcomed by her family when she arrived back in Ghana. She then went to the IOM offices to discuss the reintegration but did not receive much support. She completed a business plan application, which she sent to IOM to start a 'buy and sell' shop.¹⁴⁰²

Reintegration

The reintegration money was not enough to start the business, so she made use of her mother's existing shop. After the first consignments, she did not enjoy the business anymore. Six months later, she changed the business and started selling cosmetics.

Current situation

The cosmetics shop has been doing marginally well and it has been open for one and a half years. Even though the business is still running, she thinks it will not survive for too long. She has no intention of going back to the UK but keeps in touch with her friends in the UK. She would like to go back to school but does not have enough money to apply. There is not much contact between IOM and her but she feels that reintegration was a win-win situation.

Interview 4

Interview Date: 8 September 2011

Background: The returnee (male, 34 years old) left Ghana in 2007, lived in the UK for three years and returned in September 2010. He lived with his uncle, who had been living in the UK for some years prior to the returnee's arrival. He had applied for a short term visa (six months) which was immediately approved. Before leaving Ghana, the returnee worked as a contractor.

Situation before return

The returnee did not have a work permit but found a job with a contractor and worked with him for two years. In the meantime he tried to apply for an extension of his visa but this was refused. He eventually got injured and was unemployed for some time. He decided to change his name in fear of being returned and started applying for other jobs. During one of the job interviews he was caught with false documents and was arrested. Initially he was sentenced to three months in prison, which were further extended to 14 months, since he had failed to pay rent and the landlord filed a complaint with the police. He had limited phone access and he felt that the authorities were not very helpful when he asked them if he could return to Ghana. Eventually he met IOM, who tried to help him in getting his true documents so that he could return. He faced some problems when interviewed by the Ghana High Commission representative, who did not believe he was Ghanaian. Eventually everything was sorted out and he was allowed to take his belongings before returning to Ghana.

¹⁴⁰² The returnee was provided with £3,000 reintegration assistance in kind.

Situation after return

He returned to Ghana in September 2010 and was welcomed by a friend at the airport. The first 3-4 months were not very easy and he had difficulties restarting his life in Ghana. Eventually, he contacted IOM and completed a business plan application.

Reintegration

The business plan took three weeks to be approved, after which he started a small construction company, which is doing well.¹⁴⁰³ In the meantime, he also found accommodation and started rebuilding his life in Ghana.

Current situation

The returnee continues to take care of his family and provide support. He has also found a part-time job where he supplies cocoa. Since returning, he has tried contacting some friends he has in the UK and invite them to return but none are interested, since they believe they will not find a job in Ghana.

Interview 5

Interview Date: 8 September 2011

Background: The returnee (male, 41 years old) applied for a visa to go to Egypt in 2006, since he wanted to leave Ghana due to some personal problems he was facing in his country. Before he left Ghana, he was selling spare parts. Upon arrival in Egypt, he travelled to Israel, where he had some friends whom he wanted to stay with. He returned to Ghana in June 2011.

Situation before return

The returnee spent 4 years in Israel, where he did several odd jobs (mostly cleaning jobs). During his time in Israel, some of his friends had decided to go back to Ghana with the assistance of IOM and he eventually also decided to return. He informed the police in Israel and contacted IOM so that he could return. IOM provided him with a travel ticket and promised him that he would receive reintegration assistance upon his return to Ghana.

Situation after return

IOM assisted him with all travelling needs and welcomed him at the airport in Ghana. He went to live with his friend and went to seek assistance at the IOM offices so as to start his business.

¹⁴⁰³ The returnee was provided with £5,000 reintegration assistance in kind.

Reintegration

IOM provided him with counselling on the business plan. After completing the application for the business plan he set up a spare parts shop¹⁴⁰⁴. In the meantime, he started looking for accommodation but it was not very easy to find, since he did not have enough money.

Current situation

The returnee feels that reintegration assistance could be improved. The business has just started and he feels that if goes well, he would probably like it. His life in Israel was not easy but he misses the friends he had in Israel. Since returning, his family has been very supportive and he feels happy to be back in Ghana.

¹⁴⁰⁴ The returnee was provided with €800 reintegration assistance in kind.

6.5.3.4 Kosovo Stories

Interview 1

Interview Date: 15 September 2011

Background: B. (male, around 31 years old) left Kosovo in 2010. For 9 months, he lived in Switzerland. After this, he lived in Austria for three months. During this time, he was an asylum seeker and returned to Kosovo in 2011 because his request for asylum was rejected.

Situation before return

Prior to return, B. was placed in an asylum centre, since he was staying in Austria illegally. As he awaited the flight back to Kosovo, his movement was restricted. During that time, he was visited by an NGO providing return counselling and informed of the possibilities of participating in a reintegration programme in Kosovo.

The NGO informed him about the reintegration programme in general, but he only received further details after his return to Kosovo. The information obtained prior to his return differed substantially from the support offered by the reintegration programme in Kosovo, which raised expectations that could not be fulfilled¹⁴⁰⁵.

Following consultations with the NGO in Austria, B. immediately decided to participate in the reintegration programme. Due to his family's vulnerable economic situation in Kosovo he urgently needed support with regard to employment and vocational training.

In the pre-departure phase B. was assisted with transportation from the detention centre to the airport, received a cash amount of €370 and given a flight ticket including breakfast and drinks. B. stated that he was not allowed to take some of his personal belongings to Kosovo.

Situation after return

At the airport in Prishtina, B. was met by representatives of the reintegration programme. They informed him in more detail about the support that could offer and provided him with transportation back home. His family was informed about his return.

Reintegration

B. received a food and hygienic package, vocational training as a cook for three months (including practical lessons in a restaurant), German language courses, transportation to attend vocational training, psychological counselling twice a week, transportation to attend psychological counselling and payment for a health certificate required for vocational training as a cook and job applications.

¹⁴⁰⁵ During preparation for his return Mr. B. was told that he would be assisted with construction materials for rebuilding his house, with up to 3500 EUR in cash and with employment in the security or tourism sector.

Current situation

B. is in contact with the representatives of the reintegration programme almost every day. Meetings and visits to his house or to the office in Prishtina also take place.

B. participated in the last war in Kosovo and in two other conflicts in Macedonia and Southern Serbia. Most of his life he was away from his family: he left society and his friends. B. says that he lost a sense of reality and often had nightmares as a consequence of the war in Kosovo. B. positively evaluates the reintegration assistance provided so far. However, due to his past and his personal situation, he still requires a lot of support.

As an advantages of the reintegration programme, he mentions the individual assistance provided to him that made him feel more useful and included in social life. As a disadvantage, he underlines the short duration of reintegration programmes, because it does not allow for comprehensive reintegration into Kosovar social life. Furthermore, more focus should be put on employment and support for the opening of private businesses.

B. does not want to live abroad anymore because he is gradually rebuilding his life in Kosovo with training and courses that will help him to find a job and take care of his family. Recently, B. has met a girl in Kosovo and got engaged, intending to soon get married and have a family. He only wants to return to Europe as visitor or tourist, but not as an asylum seeker.

Interview 2

Interview Date: 26 August 2011

Background: D. (male, around 25 years old) left Kosovo in 2006 and returned in 2011. For the entire time, he remained in Austria illegally. He left Austria voluntarily, because his request for asylum was rejected. From the moment he signed the application for assisted voluntary return, it took a week until he returned to Kosovo.

Situation before return

The NGO providing return counselling informed him in general about the reintegration programme, but he received further details after his return to Kosovo. Following those consultations, D. immediately decided to participate in the reintegration programme, because he thought it was very useful and helpful after being away for such a long time. Furthermore, D.'s family in Kosovo was in a vulnerable economic situation and he knew that it would be difficult to find a job.

During his stay in Austria, D. received €40 a month as social assistance. In the pre-departure phase, D. was also assisted with transportation to the airport and given €370. D. was allowed to take all of his belongings back to Kosovo.

Situation after return

At the airport in Prishtina, D. was met by representatives of the reintegration programme. They informed him in more detail about the support that could be offered. Since his family was informed about his return, they picked him up and drove him back home.

Reintegration

D. was provided with a food and hygienic package, vocational training as a car mechanic (though D. decided not to take it up), assistance with job applications and reimbursement for I.D. documents.

Current situation

At least once a week, D. is in telephone contact with the representatives of the reintegration programme and at least once a month, he is visited by them at home. During those visits, the food and hygienic package is delivered to him and the representatives of the reintegration programme advise him on further steps in his reintegration.

D. still needs support, especially with regard to finding a job. Until he finds one, he also needs continuous support with food and hygienic packages. As advantages of the reintegration programme, he mentions that it helps him to better reintegrate himself after return and he highlights the support provided through the food and hygienic packages. As a disadvantage, he underlines the difficulties with finding a job in Kosovo, since he urgently needs one.

D. says that he still has not been well reintegrated in Kosovo, because it was very difficult for him to adapt to the country's situation. Furthermore, the family's economic conditions are not good. D. does not have any plans for the near future, but he might attempt to go to a Western European country again in a few years.

Interview 3

Interview Date: 15 September 2011

Background: M. (male, around 31 years old) left Kosovo in 2005 and returned in 2011. His wife and children remained in Kosovo the whole time. He stayed in Austria as an asylum seeker, working and established his own construction company. He left Austria voluntarily, since the rights and privileges of voluntary returns were favourable and he did not want to lose the right to enter Austria or any other European country as a visitor.

Situation before return

M. spent his last three and a half years in Austria in prison, because of tax fraud and other financial issues related to his company. According to M., he was trapped by some of his friends. The Austrian justice system sentenced him to 5 years imprisonment, but since he agreed to return to Kosovo voluntarily, he was allowed to leave earlier.

During his last three days in detention, M. was visited by an NGO providing return counselling. They informed him about the possibilities to participate in a reintegration programme in Kosovo. He only received details about this programme upon his return to Kosovo. M. also stated that the information obtained in Austria and the information received after his return to Kosovo was not the same.

Following those first consultations in Austria, M. immediately decided to participate in the reintegration programme, because his long stay in prison prior to return made it impossible for him to earn and save any money for his return home. Furthermore, his family lives in a village in the mountain area and their economic situation is not good. Being the oldest child of the family, M. is supposed to be the head of household (additionally, he is married and has two children). Furthermore, his wife was sick and in hospital for some time, leading to further expenses.

In the pre-departure phase M. was assisted with transportation from the detention centre to the airport, €50 for the voluntary return to Kosovo and a flight ticket including breakfast and drinks.

M. was able to take all of his personal items, such as clothes, hygienic articles and his documents, back to Kosovo. However, the equipment, machines and tools of his company, as well as his 3 cars and other possessions in the apartment where he lived before his imprisonment, had to be left in Austria.

Situation after return

M.'s family waited for him at the airport and brought him home. After a few days, he contacted the representatives of the reintegration programme himself, since he did not meet them at the airport. During a first meeting, M. understood that they were not aware about his return, because of a misunderstanding. After a short while, he was informed that he was eligible for being included in the reintegration programme.

Reintegration

M. was provided with vocational training as an electrician for three months, the opportunity to participate in a Business Training Workshop in Prishtina (encompassing funding for transportation, accommodation and meals) and was invited to the follow-up Business Training Workshop in Prishtina (with funding again covering transportation, accommodation and meals).

Current situation

M. requires additional support for his professional education. Following this, he would like to find a job as an electrician and then to open his own workshop as an electrician and sell electrical equipment.

Approximately twice a week, M. is contacted either by phone or through a visit by the representatives of the reintegration programme. He has also visited the office in Prishtina several times.

As an advantage of the reintegration programme, he mentions the vocational training he has received. However, he needs additional support in finding a job. As a disadvantage, he underlines the short duration of reintegration programmes, especially for those who have been living abroad for a long period of time and are not aware of the economic situation, the job market and social life in Kosovo.

M. does not want to return to Europe as an asylum seeker again. The main reason why he returned voluntarily from Austria was because he did not want to limit his right to travel around Europe. M. also wants to be reintegrated in Kosovo, restart his life with his family and educate his children.

Interview 4

Interview Date: 25 August 2011

Background: P. (male, around 20 years old) left Kosovo in 2010 and stayed in Austria illegally for approximately one year. He returned voluntarily, because he could not manage to get a regular job and life in Austria was very expensive. The procedures for his voluntary return took two weeks. He returned together with his cousin.

Situation before return

P. first heard about reintegration programmes via friends and then contacted the NGO, who provided return counselling, himself. They informed him about the possibilities to participate in a reintegration programme in Kosovo. However, he only received details about the programme after his return to Kosovo.

Following those first consultations in Austria, P. immediately decided to participate in the reintegration programme, because he had no other option. P. had no job and no other assistance and therefore no reason to in Austria any longer. He also wanted to be reintegrated in Kosovo and start a new life in his country.

Prior to departure, P. was assisted with transportation to the airport, €50 and a flight ticket.

Situation after return

At the airport in Prishtina, P. was met by representatives of the reintegration programme. They informed him in more detail about the support that could be offered. His family was informed about his return, but could not pick him up. Therefore, the representatives of the reintegration programme brought him home.

Reintegration

P. was provided with a food and hygienic package, English language courses, transportation to attend vocational training, ophthalmological checks, contact lenses, vocational training as an

electrician for three months and the opportunity to participate in a Business Training Workshop in Prishtina, including transportation, accommodation and meals.

Current situation

P. is contacted regularly by the representatives of the reintegration programme, at least once or twice per week through phone and personal visits. Sometimes, he also visits the office in Prishtina.

In general, P. is satisfied with the support provided so far, but he states that more assistance would obviously be appreciated. As an advantage of the reintegration programme, he mentions the overall support provided for his reintegration. As a disadvantage, he mentions the difficulty in finding a job, because Kosovar unemployment is very high. He underlines the importance of helping to create work places, because in his opinion, young people would be less likely to go abroad if they could find a job and live in Kosovo.

Although P. still needs more time to be fully reintegrated in Kosovo, he does not wish to migrate to Europe anymore.

Interview 5

Interview Date: 26 August 2011

Background: G. (male, around 32 years old) left Kosovo in 2005 and stayed in Austria illegally until 2011. He returned voluntarily, because the Austrian authorities refused his request for asylum. Prior to returning, since he had no job and earned no money, he had similar living conditions to Kosovo. Returning to Kosovo meant getting at least some support. Procedures preparing his return lasted one week.

Situation before return

G. was informed by the NGO providing return counselling about the possibility to participate in a reintegration programme in Kosovo. However, details about the programme were only received after his return to Kosovo. Following those first consultations in Austria, G. immediately decided to participate in the reintegration programme.

During his stay in Austria, G. received €40 a month as social security. In the pre-departure phase, G. was provided with transportation to the airport (though he instead decided to pay for a taxi using his own expenses), €370 and a flight ticket.

Situation after return

At the airport in Prishtina, G. was met by representatives of the reintegration programme. They informed him in more detail about the support that could be offered. They also provided him with transportation to the house he used to live in prior to his departure to Austria.

Reintegration

G. was offered a food and hygienic package, German language courses, transportation to attend vocational training, assistance with job applications and employment in a company.

Current situation

G. is contacted regularly by the representatives of the reintegration programme (at least once or twice per week through phone and personal visits). Sometimes, he also visits the office in Prishtina.

In general, G. is satisfied with the support provided so far, because it helped him in his reintegration. As a disadvantage, he mentions finding a job, because there are not enough jobs available in Kosovo.

Although G. still needs more time to be fully reintegrated in Kosovo, he does not want to return to or live in Europe again.

6.5.3.5 Sri Lanka Stories

There are no databases of returnees managed by the authorities. The Bureau for Foreign Employment keeps a registry of all migrant workers, but as very few people return from Europe, it was not possible to meet this type of returnees.

IOM implements many return and reintegration programmes from Europe and facilitated interviews with three returnees they assisted: M. A., a Tamil speaking Muslim who owns a small shoe workshop; P. M., a Tamil owning a small photo studio and C. J. J., a Sinhalese managing a construction business. All interviews were carried out in English.¹⁴⁰⁶

Interview 1

Interview Date: 15 September 2011

Background: M.A. lived in France for seven years without a residence permit. He went to France alone, leaving a wife and three children in Sri Lanka. He decided to return as there was no immediate perspective for him to be regularised and he wanted to reunite with his family. M.A. returned to Sri Lanka with the support of the French Agency for Immigration and Integration (OFII), but he applied for reintegration assistance only after his return.

Situation before return

M.A. made the decision to return on his own and went to the police to seek information on ways to return. The French police directed him to the OFII, who arranged for his voluntary return. However, M.A. was not informed of reintegration programmes prior to his return. On the plane back to Sri Lanka, he met another returnee, who told him about the assistance offered by IOM in Sri Lanka and gave him the address of the IOM office.

Situation after return

M.A. was not assisted at the airports and was greeted by his family upon arrival.

After two months, he went to the IOM office to get information about their reintegration assistance. He met twice with the IOM staff to apply for post-return reintegration assistance¹⁴⁰⁷.

Reintegration

M.A. brought some savings from France and had some financial support from his family to set up a business. M.A. used to work in a factory producing bags and had developed strong

¹⁴⁰⁶ IOM has a limited number of staff speaking Tamil and they usually converse with Tamil-speaking returnees in English, though language can be a barrier. The third person returned from the UK and had a very good knowledge of English.

¹⁴⁰⁷ The OFII can also fund reintegration projects of returnees from France who apply after their return.

experience in this field. He had the plan to open a shoemaking workshop, in partnership with a cousin.

He met with IOM about 10 times to develop his business plan and to attend training on business development. IOM's reintegration fund was used mainly to buy materials, as the workshop's main costs are materials and manpower.

Current situation

M.A. is now running a workshop employing 25 people. He buys his materials from China. They are then assembled in the workshop to make men's shoes and subsequently distributed in Colombo's main bazaar district, Petah.

M.A. is supporting his family with the business and was able to send his three children to study. He expressed his gratitude towards IOM's assistance. He still has to face some challenges to develop his business, such as finding funding to buy a van or a truck to transport his merchandise. Currently, he needs to expensively outsource all transportation requirements.

M.A. stated that his life is better now and he has no plan to re-migrate. He is thinking of using his contacts in France and other European countries to export his merchandise.

Interview 2

Interview Date: 15 September 2011

Background: P.M. is a young Tamil who left Sri Lanka for Switzerland, alone, because of the civil war. He lived in Switzerland for 7 months before returning to Sri Lanka with the help of IOM.

Situation before return

P.M. applied for asylum in Switzerland and was accommodated in a reception centre in the canton of Lucerne. His asylum application was rejected on the basis that he had no individual fear of persecution and that the situation in Sri Lanka had improved with the end of the conflict. A counsellor¹⁴⁰⁸ informed him that he had to leave the country and presented him the possibilities offered by the assisted voluntary return and reintegration programmes, such as business development assistance.

The application process to the reintegration programme took about two weeks and then P. M. stayed in Switzerland for another three months prior to his departure, because he needed to obtain travel documents.

P.M. already had an idea of the kind of business he wanted to develop and with the help of contacts in Sri Lanka; he had already found premises and obtained quotes.

P. M. had some skills in photography and graphic design that he improved through training during his time in Switzerland.

¹⁴⁰⁸ For more information on the Swiss system, see the Switzerland case study.

He was assisted by IOM staff prior to his flight at the airport, during his transit in UAE and upon arrival in Colombo. Upon arrival he was met by IOM, who took him to their offices to clear some paperwork and then to his home.

He was able to bring all of his belongings thanks to an extra baggage allowance included in his return assistance.

Situation after return

P.M. did not handle his return very well at first and had to face many difficulties. He expressed his gratitude to his contact person at IOM Colombo, who helped him find the motivation to start his business plan.

Being Tamil-speaking, P.M. had to face a language barrier, as the majority of the city is Sinhala-speaking. He stated that he could not manage to learn the language and therefore initially could not start his business.

Reintegration

With the support of IOM, he found premises in a Muslim neighbourhood, therefore resolving the language issue. He met with IOM counsellors about five times to develop his business plan and buy the materials he needed (computers).

Current situation

P.M. said he is satisfied with his current life, though he hopes for an improvement of his economic situation. He now has a small internet cafe/photo studio and mainly produces wedding and celebrations cards. He lives with his wife and their two-year-old son.

P.M. feels that the IOM reintegration assistance was very helpful. His only recommendation to IOM would be to hire more Tamil-speaking staff in Colombo – they only have one at the moment – as many returnees are Tamil-speaking and often do not speak any Sinhala or English.

He said that the situation in Sri Lanka had improved for Tamils. In Colombo, he can now move freely in the city without having to go through numerous checkpoints and needing specific passes. He is not considering re-migrating and is confident that Sri Lanka will now develop fast.

Interview 3

Interview Date: 15 September 2011

Background: C.J.J. (female, 26 years old) lived in the UK for 5 years (2005-2010), where she was an asylum seeker. She went to the UK alone and was living there with a friend from Sri Lanka. She is Sinhalese.

Situation before return

As an asylum seeker in the UK, C.J.J. had to report once a week at a UK Border Agency centre. There, she saw an IOM poster on their voluntary return programmes.

C. J.J. contacted IOM because she was told that the consideration of her application could take up to 10 years, during which she had no right to work. She did not want to wait so long, as she also wanted to get married. It took one month to prepare her return, mainly because she needed to get a passport.

At the airport, she was assisted by an IOM staff member until she boarded the plane and was also met upon arrival in Sri Lanka, to go through immigration control. She was then greeted by her family.

Situation after return

C.J.J. was able to bring most of her belongings with her, thanks to extra luggage allowances. She shipped the rest by cargo. She settled in her family home in Colombo's suburbs.

C.J.J. contacted IOM Colombo within one week of her return. She met with IOM, who suggested that she continue her education, but she decided to opt for business development assistance instead.

Reintegration

After conferring with her family and her partner, she had the idea of developing a construction material business and prepared the business plan with IOM. She was in contact with IOM counsellors about twice a week (by phone or in person) during her six month assistance programme.

She is now running a business of construction materials selling with her husband. They buy and sell metal material as an intermediary and employ one person who makes bricks.

C.J.J. is happy with the level of assistance she received from IOM. She noted that many people she knew in the UK cautiously avoided IOM, because they think that IOM is a governmental agency and that they might be arrested and deported if they go.

Current situation

C.J.J. is now married and lives with her husband and three-month old son in the family house with her parents. They use the land in front of the house to stock materials.

Two of her brothers are living abroad legally, in Germany and Australia, but she stated that she is not planning to re-migrate and would go back to Europe only to visit friends and family.

6.6 Contacts Log

6.6.1 Contacts Log of Initial Interviews

Name	Position and Organisation	Interviewed
Adriano Silvestri	Programme Manager- Fundamental Rights (Agency)	23.02.2001
Annette Brandt	Senior Communities Policy Adviser, Human Rights and Communities Department, Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Mission in Kosovo	14.02.2011
David Reizenzein	External Relations Officer, European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (FRONTEX)	01.03.2011
Dawit Asgedo	President, Assistance for a Voluntary Return and Reintegration of African Migrants (AVRRAM)	28.02.2011
Edith Wallmeier	Programme Coordinator, <i>Arbeiter Samariter Bund</i> (ASB)	23.03.2011
Jean-Pierre Cassarino	Professor, European University Institute (EUI)	08.02.2011
Joris Van Wijk	Research & Policy Officer, Stichting Hersteld vertrouwen In de Toekomst (HIT) Foundation	04.03.2011
Marta Kindler	Migration/Freedom of Movement Adviser Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)	21.02.2011
Michele Cavinato	Legal Officer responsible for returns, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	04.02.2001
Pascal Reyntjens	Head of unit, International Organization for Migration (IOM) Brussels	10.02.2011

6.6.2 Contacts Log of the Data Collection Exercise

Member State	Contact	Affiliation
Austria	Katerina Kratzmann	International Organization for Migration (IOM) Austria
Belgium	Peter Neelen	Fedasil (Federal Agency)
Bulgaria	Velina Dobрева	Ministry of Interior (MoI)
Cyprus	Anda Argyropoulou	Ministry of Interior (MoI)
Czech Republic	Marketa Pokorna	Ministry of Interior (MoI)
Denmark	Peter Bartholin	Ministry of Refugees, Immigration and Integration Affairs
Estonia	Martin Eber Eve Alte	Integration and Migration Foundation Our People IOM
Finland	Kielo Brewis	European Migration Network National Contact Point (EMN NCP)
France	Martha Breeze	OFII
Germany	Marie-Luise Bräunlein	European Migration Network National Contact Point (EMN NCP)
Greece	EMN Contact Point and I. Boletis	Ministry of Interior (MoI) and Police
Hungary	Erzsebet Illes	Office of Immigration and Nationality
Iceland	Maria Sigurdardottir	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)
Ireland	Emma Quinn	Economic and Social Research Institute
Italy	Maria Grazia Colσιμο	Ministry of Interior (MoI)

Member State	Contact	Affiliation
Malta	Julian Micallef	Ministry for Justice and Home Affairs
Latvia	Ilmars Mezs	International Organization for Migration (IOM) Latvia
Lichtenstein	Andrea Hoch	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)
Lithuania	Mantas Jersovas	International Organization for Migration (IOM) Lithuania
Luxemburg	Christel Baltes Loehr and Marc Hayot	University of Luxemburg and European Migration Network (EMN) Legal Affairs
Netherlands	M.H. Belesvka	Ministry of Interiors (Mol)
Norway	General Email	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)
Poland	Ministry spokesman	Ministry of the Interior and Administration
Portugal	Ana Filipa Sousa Silva	Directorate of Aliens and Border Police
Romania	Claudia Visoiu	Ministry of Administration and Interior
Slovakia	Marian Vlasaty	International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia
Slovenia	Ana Kosor Volk	Ministry of Interior (Mol)
Spain	Virginia García Fernández	Ministry of Labour and Immigration
Sweden	Louise Wahlström	Swedish Migration Board
Switzerland	Eveline Gugger	Federal Office of Migration (FOM)
United Kingdom	Kerstin Thomson and Heather Drysdale	UK Home Office

6.6.3 Contacts Log of Case Studies

Member State	Organisation
Belgium	International Organization for Migration (IOM), Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR)
Belgium	Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (Fedasil)
Belgium	Caritas Belgium
Czech Republic	Department for Asylum and Migration Policy, Ministry of Interior (Mol)
Czech Republic	International Organization for Migration (IOM) Prague
Czech Republic	Asylum Facility Administration, Ministry of Interior (Mol)
Czech Republic	Society of Citizens Assisting Migrants (SOZE)
Denmark	Danish Immigration Service, Asylum and Family Reunification Centre
Denmark	Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Asylum and Repatriation Department
Denmark	Danish Red Cross, Asylum Department
Denmark	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Ecuador	International Organization for Migration (IOM), Assisted Voluntary Return Programme (AVR) Unit
Ecuador	Migration Unit, Ministry of Labour
Ecuador	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)
Ecuador	Delegation of the European Union for Ecuador
Ecuador	National Secretariat of the Migrant (SENAMI)
Ecuador	Foundation Esperanza Volunteer working on return projects
Ecuador	Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), Ecuador
France	Immigration Unit at the Ministry of Interior (Mol)
France	French Office of Immigration and Integration (OFII)
France	International Organisation of Migration (IOM)
France	Secours Catholique - Caritas

Member State	Organisation
France	France Terre d'Asile (FTA)
Ghana	Migration Police (West Africa), UK Embassy, Accra
Ghana	Dutch Embassy, Accra
Ghana	Institutional Support, Migration and Security - Governance Section. Delegation of the European Union to Ghana
Ghana	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and Regional Integration
Ghana	National Development Planning Commission.
Ghana	Former Director of Ghana Immigration Service
Ghana	Scholars In Transit
Ghana	Research and Counselling Foundation for African Migrants (RECFAM)
Ghana	Ghana Immigration Service (GIS)
Ghana	Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana
Ghana	National Vocational Training Board, Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare
Georgia	Targeted Initiative for Georgia
Georgia	Ministry of Internationally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees (MIDPOTAR)
Georgia	Civil Registry Agency (CRA), Ministry of Justice
Georgia	Georgian Employers' Association (GEA)
Georgia	Office of the State Minister for Diaspora Issues
Georgia	Ministry of Internal Affairs (Moi)
Georgia	State minister's office on EU and EU Atlantic integration of Georgia
Georgia	Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation (MRA)
Georgia	Faculty of Economics and Business
Georgia	Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
Georgia	Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA)
Georgia	National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia
Georgia	People's Harmonious Development Society (PHDS)
Georgia	European Commission
Georgia	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Germany	Association of Experts in the Fields of Migration and Development Cooperation (AGEF)
Germany	CARITAS
Germany	Pro-Asyl
Germany	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Germany	Coming Home
Germany	Federal Office for Migration and Refugees
Hungary	Office of Immigration and Nationality (Unit for International Relations and Funds)
Hungary	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Italy	Ministry of Interior (Moi)
Italy	Virtus Italia
Italy	Project Implementation Office, Italian Council for Refugees (CIR)
Italy	Italian Branch of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (AICCRES)
Italy	Migration Management Unit, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Italy	Cefa Onlus
Kosovo	Office for Reintegration within Ministry of Internal Affairs (Moi)
Kosovo	Ministry of Returns and Communities

Member State	Organisation
Kosovo	Department for Social Welfare Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare
Kosovo	Return and Reintegration Unit, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Netherlands	Repatriation and Departure Service, Ministry of Interior (Mol)
Netherlands	Vrije Universitet
Netherlands	Maatwerk bij Terugkeer
Netherlands	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Spain	Ministry of Labour and Immigration
Spain	ACCEM (International Department)
Spain	ACOBRE (General Coordination)
Spain	AESCO (Voluntary Return Programme)
Spain	CEPAIM (Development Cooperation and Co-Development Area Senegal)
Spain	RUMIÑAHUI (General Directorate)
Spain	CEAR (Central Services)
Sri Lanka	EU Delegation to Sri Lanka and the Maldives
Sri Lanka	Ministry of Resettlement
Sri Lanka	Department of Immigration and Emigration
Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka Bureau for Foreign Employment
Sri Lanka	Centre for Women's Research (CENWOR)
Sri Lanka	International Organization for Migration (IOM) Sri Lanka, Migration management Unit Assisted Voluntary Return Programme.
Sri Lanka	UNHCR
Switzerland	Federal Office for Migration (FOM), Section Return Bases and Return Assistance
Switzerland	International Organization for Migration (IOM), Bern
Switzerland	Kirchliche Kontaktstelle für Flüchtlingsfragen – Office de consultations sur l'asile (KKF OCA)
Switzerland	Social Welfare Office, Canton Zurich
Switzerland	The Swiss Foundation of the International Social Service, Geneva
Sweden	Swedish Migration Board
Sweden	Swedish Red Cross
Sweden	Independent consultant with previous experience with the Red Cross and currently expert for NGOs operating in the field of reintegration
United Kingdom	Country Returns Operations & Strategy (CROS) Office, Appeals and Removal Directorate, United Kingdom Borders Agency (UKBA)
United Kingdom	International Organisation for Migration (IOM) United Kingdom, Assisted Voluntary Returns
United Kingdom	United Kingdom Borders Agency (UKBA), Assisted Voluntary Return Team

6.7 Overview of the Community Funding Experiences

AENEAS

The overall aim of this programme which ran from 2004-2006 was to provide financial and technical assistance to third countries that is specific and complementary in relation to other programmes with a view to support these countries' efforts to better manage migration flows. Readmission and durable reintegration represented one of the programme's five strands.¹⁴⁰⁹

An external evaluation of the AENEAS Programme highlighted the need for¹⁴¹⁰:

- A more systematic inclusion of **capacity building of civil society organisations** of third countries in the programme's design and project proposal;
- **Strengthened dialogue** with third countries;
- More attention to be given to community development projects and the **linking of valuable community development interventions with interventions targeting migrants' families**.

The 2009 Ramboll led evaluation of the financial instruments for return management also identified certain **programme overlaps** in the field of reintegration between ANEAS and thematic programme. The evaluation recommended that reintegration assistance be carefully monitored and cooperation and complementarity ensured between funding mechanisms for actions inside the EU and in the third countries under internal policies, versus those available for third countries in the framework of external policies.¹⁴¹¹

B 7-667 Preparatory Actions

The Budget Heading B7-667 was established in 2001 to support cooperation with third countries in the area of migration. The Budget Line was used to finance projects in the framework of partnership in countries and regions of origin and transit in relation to migration and asylum. More specifically, the interventions aimed to offer specific and supplementary financial and technical assistance to third countries of origin and transit, so as to support their efforts to improve the management of migratory flows in all their dimensions. Amongst the main project goals are the promotion of voluntary sustainable return and enhancing the link between migration and development.¹⁴¹²

Commenting on the Preparatory Actions B7-667, the 2006 Thematic Programme Communication observed that projects still had a quite **diverse range of goals which somewhat limited coherence and effectiveness** of the programme as a whole.¹⁴¹³ Similarly,

¹⁴⁰⁹ Europe Aid. AENEAS Programme: Overview of projects funded 2004 – 2006. Available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/migration-asylum/documents/aeneas_2004_2006_overview_en.pdf

¹⁴¹⁰ As summarised in the 2011-2013 Multi-Annual Strategy Paper for the thematic programme for cooperation with third countries in the areas of migration and asylum. Available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/dci/documents/strategy_2011-2013_en.pdf

¹⁴¹¹ Ramboll/Matrix Insight (2009). Evaluation of the financial instruments for return, p.3

¹⁴¹² CSES (2007). Evaluation of preparatory actions B7-667. p.ii

¹⁴¹³ COM(2006) 26 final <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2006:0026:FIN:EN:PDF>, p.5

the CSES evaluation of the preparatory actions identified a **low level of synergies** between projects and recommended more active information sharing by project managers to increase impact and the European added value to projects.¹⁴¹⁴

The CSES evaluation also found there to be **limited cooperation** both between EU Member States and between Member States and third country authorities:¹⁴¹⁵

- **Transnational cooperation** was limited and many projects took place bilaterally. Collaboration and information exchange with European counterparts could have added to the European added value;
- There was only limited consultation on design and preparation of projects with **third country authorities** which meant that projects were not as closely aligned with third country priorities as they may have been. Furthermore, effective mechanisms by which policy lessons learnt from the projects could be fed back to the Commission were lacking, at least at the beginning.

According to the evaluation, the main challenge for the achievement of project objectives is **change in the political situation in the countries of implementation**. Many projects encountered difficulties in working with national authorities in third countries. Sustainability was, for example, often compromised by changes in administrations in third countries and shortage of available time to lay the basis for longer term results in a complex area.¹⁴¹⁶

2006 and 2005 Preparatory Actions and 2007 Solidarity in Action Programme

The purpose of the 2005 and 2006 Preparatory Actions and the 2007 Solidarity in Action Programme was to support Member State efforts to improve the management of return of illegal migrants in all its dimensions. The aim was to gain practical experience so as to provide valuable input for the Return Fund. Support for social and professional reintegration into countries of origin was one element of these programmes.

The 2009 Ramboll led evaluation of the financial instruments for return management focused on these two programmes. The evaluation emphasised the need for **improved cooperation** and an **increased focus on reintegration**:¹⁴¹⁷

- Improved cooperation between Member States and third countries was particularly important for better reintegration assistance;
- Improved cooperation between national authorities and NGOs was necessary for integrated return management and better use of key competencies such as the knowledge international NGOs with offices in third countries have about the countries of return;
- Reintegration was deemed essential in increasing the number of voluntary returns as well as ensuring sustainable return. Challenges in increasing the focus on reintegration were related to the fact that the programme did not financially support reintegration activities in the country of return. This has led some projects to focus on reintegration

¹⁴¹⁴ CSES (2007). Evaluation of preparatory actions B7-667, p.iv

¹⁴¹⁵ CSES (2007). Evaluation of preparatory actions B7-667, p.vi

¹⁴¹⁶ CSES (2007). Evaluation of preparatory actions B7-667, p.vii

¹⁴¹⁷ Ramboll/Matrix Insight (2009). Evaluation of the financial instruments for return.

activities in the host country as for example training sessions. In other projects reintegration activities in the country of return were financed through other sources;

- Reintegration measures must also take into account the individual situation of the returnee not only in terms of employment or financial support but also with respect to other services. Individual assessment of the returnees needs can enhance the sustainability of return.

European Refugee Fund I and II

The European Refugee Fund (ERF) was established to support Member States' efforts in receiving refugees and displaced persons and in guaranteeing access to consistent, fair and effective asylum procedures. The ERF also supports resettlement programmes and actions related to the integration of persons whose stay is of a lasting and stable nature. Moreover, it provide for emergency measures to address sudden arrivals of large numbers of persons who may be in need of international protection, which place significant and urgent demands on EU States' reception facilities or asylum systems.¹⁴¹⁸

The final evaluation of the first phase (2000-2004) of the ERF identifies that all member states divide their national ERF strategies into three intervention areas, established by the Council Decision of 28 September 2000 (2000/596/EC): Reception, integration and voluntary repatriation. The latter encompasses information and advice about voluntary return programmes and the situation in the country of origin, vocational training and resettlement support. According to the evaluation, voluntary repatriation activities were allocated the least amount of funding. A little less than half of ERF funds throughout the period 2000-2004 were allocated to reception activities, one third to integration and one fifth to voluntary repatriation.¹⁴¹⁹

The final evaluation noted that the impact at EU level in terms of developing common approaches or methodologies based upon best practices within the ERF framework has been limited: **There is no strategy to disseminate innovative developments and examples of best practice.** The ERF could have benefited from a more systematic approach to the exchange of experiences and best practices.¹⁴²⁰ The exchange of best practices, alongside **developing contacts with partners from the countries of origin** and **staff training**, was also identified in the final evaluation of ERF II (2005-2007) as a way in which voluntary return operations could be have been made more effective.¹⁴²¹

The ERF I final evaluation identified the project **Heimatgarten** implemented by the Arbeiterwohlfahrt (AWO) Bremerhaven in Germany as a best practice example in the field of voluntary return. The project, consisting of 17 sub-projects to assist returnees to ex-Yugoslavia and to the CIS countries, was supported under each of the five ERF funding years and was a major recipient of ERF funds in the field of voluntary return. Key success factors identified

¹⁴¹⁸ http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/funding/refugee/funding_refugee_en.htm

¹⁴¹⁹ 2006. European Refugee Fund: Final evaluation of the first phase (2000-2004), and definition of a common assessment framework for the second phase (2005-2010).

¹⁴²⁰ 2006. European Refugee Fund: Final evaluation of the first phase (2000-2004), and definition of a common assessment framework for the second phase (2005-2010).

¹⁴²¹ 2007. European Refugee Fund: Report on the results achieved and on qualitative and quantitative aspects of implementation of the European Refugee Fund for the period 2005-2007).

included the project's comprehensive programme of voluntary return advice, the development of the professional competence of staff in all aspects of return-related work, its strong relations with local refugee support services in Germany and the establishment of viable partners in countries of return.¹⁴²²

The **involvement of IOM**, either as an implementing organisation or as a partner, was acknowledged by the ERF II final evaluation as a success factor for voluntary return operations.¹⁴²³

¹⁴²² 2006. European Refugee Fund: Final evaluation of the first phase (2000-2004), and definition of a common assessment framework for the second phase (2005-2010).

¹⁴²³ 2007. European Refugee Fund: Report on the results achieved and on qualitative and quantitative aspects of implementation of the European Refugee Fund for the period 2005-2007), p.16.

6.8 Community Financial Instruments: Summary Table

	General Purpose	Timeline and Input	Beneficiaries	Relevant return and reintegration activities/objectives
Thematic Programme on Migration ¹⁴²⁴	Support projects in Non-EU Member Countries that aim to improve the management of migratory flows. Continues the AENEAS activities within the framework of the Financial Perspectives 2007-2013.	2007-2013 €384 million	Southern Mediterranean, Sub-Saharan Africa and Middle East, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and other regions.	Fostering the links between migration and development constitutes one of the programme's five strands. Includes supporting voluntary return and professional and socio-economic reintegration , including through assistance with related public policies and social security schemes. Programmes support improvements in reception conditions, local integration, durable reintegration and resettlement programmes.
AENEAS ¹⁴²⁵	Provide financial and technical assistance to third countries that is specific and complementary in relation to other programmes with a view to support these countries' efforts to better manage migration flows in all its aspects.	2004-2006 €120 million	Africa, Mediterranean countries, Western Balkans, Turkey, Eastern Europe, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean.	The readmission, in full respect of the law, and durable reintegration , into the third country concerned of persons who have illegally entered or remained on the territory of Member States or of persons who have unsuccessfully applied for asylum in the EU or benefited from international protection there.

¹⁴²⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/dci/migration_en.htm Consulted 11 September 2011.

¹⁴²⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/migration-asylum/documents/aeneas_2004_2006_overview_en.pdf Consulted 11 September 2011.

	General Purpose	Timeline and Input	Beneficiaries	Relevant return and reintegration activities/objectives
Preparatory Actions B7 667 ¹⁴²⁶	Support cooperation with third countries in the area of migration. Specific and supplementary financial and technical assistance to third countries of origin and transit, so as to support their efforts to improve the management of migratory flows in all their dimensions.	2001-2003 €42.5 million	Balkans, Eastern Europe, Mediterranean countries (Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey), Asia.	Main project goals include promoting voluntary sustainable return and enhancing the link between migration and development.
Return Fund (RF) ¹⁴²⁷	Encourage the development of cooperation between EU countries and with countries of return. Support for actions assisting reintegration processes and activities enhancing the quality of information on voluntary return assistance and on the risks related to irregular migration.	2008-2013 €676 million	All EU member states, except for Denmark	Direct assistance to reintegration measures of national programmes , such as information dissemination, counselling, special assistance to vulnerable groups, pre-medical check costs, food and costs of travel, escorts (medical staff and interpreters included), education and training of staff and the training, cash incentives for and specific assistance to individual returnees once in the country of return.
Return Preparatory Actions	Support efforts made in the Member States to improve the management of return of illegal migrants in all its dimensions. Gain practical experience so as to provide valuable input for the RF.	2005-2006 €15 million p.a.	Priority was to be given to the third country nationals being returned to countries with which the European Community has concluded readmission agreements (national or joint actions)	Introduction and improvement of the organisation and implementation of integrated return; introduction and improvement of specific measures in the area of return

¹⁴²⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/funding/2004_2007/cooperation/docs/evaluation_final_report_en.pdf Consulted 11 September 2011.

¹⁴²⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/funding/return/funding_return_en.htm. Consulted 05/07/2011.

	General Purpose	Timeline and Input	Beneficiaries	Relevant return and reintegration activities/objectives
Solidarity in Action programme	Support efforts made in the Member States to improve the management of return of illegal migrants in all its dimensions. Gain practical experience so as to provide valuable input for the RF.	2007 €7 million		management; increase of knowledge and capabilities in the area of return management; development of cooperation between Member States concerning return plans and the implementation of actions in the framework of such return plans; support for social and professional reintegration into countries of origin.
European Refugee Fund (ERF) I, II, III ^{1428,1429}	Support EU States' efforts in receiving refugees and displaced persons and in guaranteeing access to consistent, fair and effective asylum procedures. Support resettlement programmes and actions related to the integration of persons whose stay is of a lasting and stable nature. Provide for emergency measures to address sudden arrivals of large numbers of persons who may be in need of international protection, which place significant and urgent demands on EU States' reception facilities or asylum systems.	2000-2004 2005-2007 2008-2013 €630 million for ERF III	All EU member states, except for Denmark	The projects funded aim to integrate persons benefiting from a 'stable form of international protection (aid for immediate needs, socio-cultural adjustment) and encourage voluntary repatriation and reintegration in the country of return.
IPA	Intended as a flexible instrument, it provides assistance which depends on the progress made by the beneficiary countries and their needs as shown in the Commission's evaluations and strategy papers. Replaces all previously existing pre-accession instruments.	2007-2013 €371 million	Western Balkans, Turkey and Iceland	Wide range of assistance, covering issues including border management; and migration and visa policy.

¹⁴²⁸ <http://personal.lse.ac.uk/thielema/Papers-PDF/JCMS-ERF-final.pdf> Consulted 11 September 2011.

¹⁴²⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/funding/refugee/funding_refugee_en.htm Consulted 11 September 2011.

	General Purpose	Timeline and Input	Beneficiaries	Relevant return and reintegration activities/objectives
CARDS ¹⁴³⁰	Provide Community assistance to the countries of South-Eastern Europe with a view to their participation in the stabilisation and association process with the EU.	2000-2006 €4.65 billion	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYROM	Assists in aid for returning refugees; education and training ¹⁴³¹ .
MEDA ¹⁴³²	Provide financial and technical assistance to the countries in the southern Mediterranean.	2000-2006 Phase II: €5.35 million	Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, the Palestinian Territory, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey	Main intervention sectors concerned the strengthening of the institutional capacities, the improvement of border control, the fight against illegal immigration and human trafficking, the return and reintegration of refugees and displaced persons , the improvement of reception policies and facilities for asylum applicants and refugees. ¹⁴³³
PHARE ¹⁴³⁴	Financial instrument of the pre-accession strategy. Main priorities are institutional and capacity-building and investment financing.	2000-2006 Over €10 billion	Central and Eastern Europe and Western Balkans	Projects on migration and asylum.

¹⁴³⁰ http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/enlargement/western_balkans/r18002_en.htm. Consulted 11 September 2011.

¹⁴³¹ Under the CARDS national programme, Serbia was assisted between 2002-2004 in the return and reintegration of migrants and in the search for durable solutions that can be offered to refugees. One specific example is the 'Minority rights/refugees return/grant scheme to civil society programme' with the objective of supporting the reintegration of minority refugees, financed under the 2006 CARDS programme.

¹⁴³² http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/external_relations/relations_with_third_countries/mediterranean_partner_countries/r15006_en.htm. Consulted 11 September 2011.

¹⁴³³ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2006:0026:FIN:EN:PDF> p. 6

¹⁴³⁴ http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/enlargement/2004_and_2007_enlargement/e50004_en.htm. Consulted 11 September 2011.

	General Purpose	Timeline and Input	Beneficiaries	Relevant return and reintegration activities/objectives
TAIEX ¹⁴³⁵	Technical Assistance and Information Exchange. Supports partner countries with regard to the approximation, application and enforcement of EU legislation.	Operational since 2006	European Neighbourhood Policy Partner Countries and Russia	Wide range of assistance, covering issues including free movement of persons, external borders, Schengen, visa policy, asylum, migration, judicial cooperation in civil matters with cross-border implications, judicial cooperation in criminal matters, organised crime including fight against money laundering, drugs, terrorism and police co-operation.
TACIS ¹⁴³⁶	Technical assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States	2000-2006 €3.138 billion	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan	Assistance for economic development (promotion of SMEs) and social implications of transition (social protection, reconstruction and retraining, assistance to health, pension and insurance systems)

¹⁴³⁵TACIS Activity Reports 2003-2010 http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taix/pdf/report-2008/tar08_en.pdf Consulted 11 September 2011.

¹⁴³⁶http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/external_relations/relations_with_third_countries/eastern_europe_and_central_asia/r17003_en.htm. Consulted 11 September 2011.

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http://www.iom-nederland.nl/english/Programmes/Return_Reintegration/Reintegration Projects/Return and Reintegration Regulation/Annex 1 Countries with visa requirements excluded from HRT
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