HOW IT WILL BE DONE?

First, private companies operating or willing to invest in Nigeria will be identified. Austrian companies DOKA, Guessing Renewable Energy and Mein Rasen Verlege GmbH already expressed their willingness to participate in the pilot, but additional partners are welcome. The companies will communicate information on the required job profiles.

Second, communication materials will be developed and shared with prospective Nigerian returnees. Those interested will contact the Support Centre of the Reverse Migration Association for interviews and screening to determine their suitability and match with the requirements. Relevant partner companies will be invited to participate in the interviews.

Third, the pre-selected candidates will complete an official application to be assessed and approved by the Austrian government. Then, up-to three month training will begin in Austria, as per business partner requirements and in cooperation with Institut für Talententwicklung GmbH. The candidates will be supported during their training and prepared for the return to Nigeria. The training process will involve regular assessments and an exam to ensure their readiness for the next phase.

Finally, the candidates will travel to Nigeria for up-to six month training either directly on the job or within local partner educational institutions, as agreed with the respective private company. Upon the successful completion of the programme, the candidates will be employed by the participating companies.

WHEN

The pilot project will be implemented from 2018 until mid-2019.

ABOUT ICMPD

ICMPD is an inter-governmental organisation with headquarters in Vienna, Austria and offices around the world, including in Abuja, Nigeria. The purpose of ICMPD is to promote innovative, comprehensive and sustainable migration policies and to function as a service exchange mechanism for governments and organisations.

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SUPREM

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE RETURN OF MIGRANTS THROUGH PRIVATE-PUBLIC MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIP
WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

SUPREM is a pilot project, developed by ICMPD in response to growing challenges related to the return of irregularly staying third-country nationals. The project puts forward innovative solutions for the benefit of all actors involved, aiming to create a structural framework for Private-Public Partnership (PPP) and multi-stakeholder dialogue to foster sustainable and dignified return and reintegration. It is funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior.

THE PROBLEM

The issue of return of irregular migrants currently shapes the national and the European political discourse in the field of migration. This is not surprising, considering the number of arrivals in 2015-2016, the number of asylum applications received and the recognition rate. For instance, only in 2016 more than 1.1 million first instance asylum decisions were made in the EU with an average asylum recognition rate of 57%. This makes around half a million of rejected asylum seekers potential returnees just for one year of asylum case-load.

Returns are expensive and relatively complex to organise. Most importantly, there needs to be good cooperation with the countries of origins and returnees themselves, who often resist going back, mainly due to the persistence of the initial drivers of migration such as lack of personal development opportunities and employment. The existing voluntary return and reintegration programmes are often insufficient, since the financial support provided to returnees is much smaller than the money invested in migrating to Europe. The country of origin, on the other hand, may be hesitant to readmit irregular migrants, especially those without long-term reintegration perspective, because this could mean fewer remittances and additional burden (unemployment, provision of social assistance, etc.).

The Nigerian government, companies and society can benefit from foreign investment, created jobs, technology transfer and commercial opportunities through increased involvement of Austrian and European business. In addition, the society will benefit from skilled work force returning home. Cooperation with the Austrian government and stakeholders can increase.

Austrian and international companies interested to invest and expand in Nigeria will receive advice and support; the project's Task Force, bringing together government stakeholders from Nigeria and Austria as well as representatives of the private sector will ensure necessary high-level support for the smooth implementation of the project. Potential synergies with relevant EU initiatives (such as e.g. the European External Investment Plan, providing investment guarantees) will be explored.

THE SOLUTION

Responding to the problem, ICMPD in cooperation with the Reverse Migration Association is piloting a new approach, centred on Public-Private Partnership in the field of return. Focusing on Nigeria and Austria, it aims to create a win-win situation, beneficial for all parties:

» Up-to thirty Nigerians without real possibility of legally staying in Austria will get an opportunity to return home with decent prospects for the future: they will be provided with specialised training, fixed employment and support during the transition.

» Austrian and international companies operating or willing to invest in Nigeria will get quality work force, already familiar with European work standards, trained and integrated as per companies’ specifications.