



European Union
European Return Fund

2011

TRANSNATIONAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN REPATRIATION COUNSELLING CENTRES IN EUROPE

CONFERENCE

September 19th – 23rd 2011
Augsburg/Germany



Bavarian Central
Return Counselling
Offices, South Bavaria



Caritasverband für die
Diözese Augsburg e. V.



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> IMPRESSUM

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Fotos: Bernhard Gattner; Wolfgang Friedel, Maria Pollithy, Franziska Zwerger, Brigitta Leitner, Indra Jani

Layout: designbuero 7, Augsburg

Druck: Senser Druck

Auflage: 400 Stück

Stand: November 2011

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1. OPENING GREETING WORDS



1.1 Father Dr. Andreas Magg, Director of the Caritas Association of the Diocese Augsburg

Ladies and Gentlemen,

An open exchange of opinions, experiences, different approaches, different legal aspects and ideas – that is what helps man to stand up again and again and to find thereby new solutions. This is the more important, the more global our problems are and it's even more important if we are working for the good of human beings.

We as Europeans and especially as Christians we share one common basis and that is that any human being is created equal and endowed with the same dignity. When we look at history especially at our last century but also at different areas of conflict in our days we very quickly realize a common aspect: where the dignity of man is violated no problem was, is or can be really solved. New problems arose and stir still today new problems. And there is another aspect politics teach us: We are living in democracies but where democracies failed to remain faithful to their basic principle, the unique dignity of man, these democracies lost and loose their credibility.

So – from a principal point of view – I am really happy that this conference is taking place. You are talking about the return of refugees in dignity, the possibilities to enable them to start a new life in their home country and to come home again what is not only an aspect of localization, but also a question of inculturization, of one's heart, of feeling home. And I think that it is good that you are meeting in Germany where after the second world war so many Germans made the experience of refuge and escaped from violence and suppression. This was an experience which the German refugees handed down to their children.

And I am proud as a priest of the diocese of Augsburg that this conference is taken place in our city where the first peace treaty in our world between the catholic and the protestant denomination was signed.

I am convinced that our first duty is to look at man, his needs, his background and his dignity. And then we have to look how we can solve the problems within our constitutions and the legal frameworks.

You are working to the good of so many human beings. I can't but say thank you to you. So I wish you a really good day with interesting speeches and conversations – and above all an intensive exchange among you all. God bless your work for the good of the refugees in Europe.

Thank you very much.

1.2 Dietmar Bauer, Caritas Association of the Diocese Augsburg



tion Counselling Centres in Europe”.

Nearly 100 guests from 19 European countries decided to come to Augsburg and to seek the exchange on experiences how to help refugees to return to their mother countries in dignity. That so many followed our invitation proves - I think to all of us - how important this exchange is.

Good ideas arise normally from a good team working together for the same purpose. So it is a great honour to me to be entitled to welcome you on the behalf of the Caritas Association of the Diocese of Augsburg and our cooperation partners within the ZRB-project, the Diakonisches Werk, the welfare organisation of the Lutheran church, and the Bavarian Red Cross as well as the Administrative District of Swabia.

Actually the director of our caritas association Dr. Andreas Magg wanted to welcome you today. But he is part of the chapter of our bishop which meets every Tuesday. He will speak to you tomorrow. Therefore as his deputy I have the pleasure to speak to you.

Repatriation Counselling works only in a close cooperation with the public authorities and administrative boards of our state. So, when I now welcome representatives of our public authorities in Germany, Bavaria and Swabia I also want to thank them for their cooperation and for being with us here in Leitershofen.

Let us all welcome Mrs Bettina Scheer, the representative of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees. You too, Mr. Dr. Hans Dick, the head of the migration department of the Bavarian State Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Family Affairs and Women feel very much welcome to this conference.

Let me also say a cordial welcome to the representative of the Administrative District of Swabia, Mrs Gitta Schmid-Göller, Head of Departement for refugees.

Ladies and gentlemen,

dear guests and visitors, welcome to all of you, welcome to our conference for the “Transnational exchange between Repatria-

We all thank you for your greeting words. We appreciate this very much because this underlines the importance of this conference.

At last but not at least, we want to thank everyone who helped preparing this event and who agreed to make a contribution. Let me mention explicitly the project manager Mrs Maria Pollithy as well as Mr Dr. van den Boom who will moderate the conference and will make sure that the transnational exchange will bear very good fruits for your work.

Ladies and gentleman, the return of refugees in dignity is our common aim. 19 countries are represented here, that means 19 different ways of voluntary repatriation counselling.

How do the others do our common job? Which projects do they have? Which experiences have they made in their countries?

The ZRB-project - “Central Repatriation Counselling Office in South Bavaria” was founded in 2004. The Caritas Association of the Diocese of Augsburg is responsible for this project. Cooperation partners are the Diakonisches Werk and the Bavarian Red Cross as well as the Administrative District of Swabia.

One of the targets was to avoid deportation of the refugees by the police. Well-prepared counselling and setting-up of a life plan should enable the refugees to return to their home countries in dignity.

I know, you have a busy timetable for this conference.

But maybe there is a opportunity to visit the city of Augsburg, the second oldest city in Germany, older than 2000 years. It was founded already by the ancient Romans. Our cathedral is in direct connection to our famous Renaissance town hall and the Basilica of Ulrich and Afra. The old part of the city of Augsburg with its uncountable channels is also an impressing sight.

Now - we wish you a good start of this conference, interesting days to come, full of news and an intensive exchange across the barriers of 19 different languages.

God bless you all and your work here in Augsburg- Leitershofen and at home.

Thank you very much.

1.3 Bettina Scheer, Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)



Good morning ladies and gentleman,

I am very pleased that I have the possibility to speak to so many people from different countries of Europe. As the head officer of the European Return Fund, which is part of the EU- responsible authority within the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, I am very pleased that we are able to finance the project "Transnational Exchange of Repatriation Counselling Centres". The conference is a main key of the project. The project is part of the annual programme of Germany for the European Return Fund 2010, which promoted close communication between the European member states.

For the 2010 to 2013 annual programmes a SOLID Document 2011/25 was published by the European Commission in August this year. It provides information and clarifications on the template for the annual programmes 2012 to 2013. For these years key strategic objectives to concentrate effects and the impact of the Funds were identified. One of the key strategic objective is the improvement of national capabilities through co-operation with other member states. This key strategic objective is also part of the Commission Decision (2007/837/EC), one of the basic documents of the European Return Fund.

Therefore this conference could be a key stone within the strategies for the future. By knowing and understanding the different models for return management in other countries of Europe it should be possible to succeed in an improvement of return management in general.

But we shouldn't stop at that point, as the Commission pointed out in its recently published SOLID-Document: What is necessary is the cooperation between member states.

We can only achieve successful return management if the European states work closer together. Therefore we should make an effort in the coming days to think in this direction. As I may point out for 2012 Germany is going to received about 5.2 million euros from the European Commission for the Return Fund in Germany. It is therefore a good idea to think about new ideas in return management. I wish us lively discussions and an understanding of each other's way of thinking.

Thank you very much to Caritas Augsburg for the nice framework and the work you have done so far. Special thanks to Ms Pollithy for all the organisational work. I'm sure we will have a fruitful conference which I can report to the Ministry of Interior.

Thank you for your attention.

1.4 Dr. Hans Dick, Bavarian State Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare



The conference starting today is entitled "The transnational exchange between repatriation counselling centres in Europe". What can I add to this in a short welcoming address? The wide-ranging aspects of this topic force us to make very fundamental statements on the topic of repatriation counselling. I would therefore like to cover as broad a territory as possible between repatriation counselling and democracy as well as three popular misconceptions.

The first misconception is: Repatriation is undemocratic.

Every country has the power to determine who can live there and who cannot. This power of determination is factually not entirely free. There are illegal border crossings, which do initially lead to a factual residence; and whose eligibility to remain in the country with regard to a right of residence, i.e. whether there is a recognized justification (international treaties and obligations, national law) can only be verified after the fact.

If there is no right of residence, it is up to the immigration authorities to take appropriate action to end the residence. This is democracy. Society has made a decision on regulations pertaining to the right of residency via international treaties and laws using the democratic process and expects executive authorities to implement them. There are however different opinions, each depending on the respective political orientation, as to which circumstances constitute a right of residence. This however has to be decided within the framework of parliamentary procedures. Therefore: democracy and repatriation belong together, as democratically made decisions call for repatriation.

The second misconception is: The enforcement of repatriation contradicts voluntariness and the right to self-realization.

This statement pre-supposes the assumption that a voluntary return involves the freedom to choose to return or to stay. Rejected asylum seekers - which is the group this most frequently involves - do not have this freedom. In the analysis, this point is certainly correct; it does however totally miss the point. Rejected asylum seekers also do not live alone on an island, where they alone can decide on all matters. Their wanting to stay here, not only affects them, it also affects those already here. The self-realization of immigrants stands in conflict to the population that has already been living here for a long time and their right to self-realization, as has been communicated in the laws pertaining to aliens. The right to self-realization of the local population has priority.

The third misconception: Repatriation counselling is accused of merely being an extension of deportation.

Apart from the different views as to who is eligible for a right of residence, it is necessary to understand that not everyone who is actually here has a long-term life perspective here. This lack of perspective is a major burden for those affected. In such a situation, many will have to cope with letting go of the hopes that they had linked to their residence here. I feel that these people need support. Repatriation counselling is not a part of immigration law enforcement; it aids in clarifying life perspectives and provides support in the development of a perspective in the country of origin combined with active as well as financial support.

The following figures prove its success:

- The 4 Bavarian repatriation counselling centres have supported some 3500 persons in the repatriation process since 2003,
- using repatriation funds of some 1.2 million euros.
- The Free State currently supports the section with 500,000 euros per year

I would like to thank all members of staff for this success and wish them all the very best. May your conference be a successful one.

1.5 Gitta Schmid-Goller, Administrative District of Swabia, Head of the „Asylum seekers support and integration, equalisation of burden



I would like to thank the ZRB South Bavaria (Bavarian Central Return Counselling Offices of South Bavaria) for their invitation to welcome you to this conference. And even more so, as the Government of Swabia, in representing the Free State of Bavaria, has been a close partner of the ZRB South Bavaria since its inception.

I am very happy to see that the response to the conference's offering is so great, and that you, dear Ladies and Gentlemen, have come from all parts of Europe to join us in the administrative district of Swabia in our conference. As representative of the Government of Swabia I warmly welcome you.

The government of Swabia operates 19 so-called collective living quarters for asylum seekers, which currently accommodate some 1580 asylum seekers and those entitled to equal consideration. A large portion of these people live in the six collective living quarters in Augsburg.

All our residents - for whatever reason and from whichever country - have come to Germany and to Bavaria to stay here. A not unsubstantial number of these people however must come to realize that they have no prospect of remaining in Bavaria or that Germany and Bavaria cannot offer them the opportunities they had hoped for. The fact that they have lost their old homeland and with this, the safety of a social, cultural and regional structure on the one hand, and the realization that they could not find a real new homeland, is deeply unsettling to people. For these people, ZRB South Bavaria (Bavarian Central Return Counselling Offices) is a reliable, competent and committed partner whose aim is to enable a return in dignity. The ZRB team offers responsible, sound, objective and comprehensive counsel. The counselling team is very successful in establishing the necessary amount of trust to those seeking advice and to develop solutions customized to meet the needs of each individual. Counselling enables clients to make decisions about their return to their homeland and, if they decide to return, they will receive support in reintegrating into their native country. In this process, the qualifications offered to aid in business start-ups and other direct forms of aid have proven to be major benefits. So you see, we have an efficient instrument for repatriation counselling in South Bavaria. But nothing is too good to be improved upon on. And as the increasing number of asylum seekers, fully occupied accommodation centres and uncertain perspectives in the host country are problems not just of a Bavarian nature, but rather a significant problem in many countries, this conference is certainly a very important one. A significant reference is made by an interesting film that deals with the situation of persons seeking asylum, "I broke my future - Paradies Europa". The title itself communicates the ambivalence of the lives of the many people that have come to Europe seeking asylum. When the supposed paradise ultimately turns out to be an illusion and the future is uncertain, returning to one's native country is an option. Being able to provide aid and counselling is absolutely important and humane. There are certainly many ways to approach this topic and to develop counselling centre dedicated to dealing with these complex issues. To discuss and share experiences made, to distil the essential aspects and to network and benefit from others - this is the aim of the week here at this conference. Caritas Association of the Diocese Augsburg and ZRB South Bavaria (Bavarian Central Return Counselling Offices) are - and I am their homeland. I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to you for your work and dedication in helping a group of people who do not have a large lobby and who need all the support they can get. I wish you all an interesting, successful and beneficial conference.

1.6 Max Weinkamm, Municipal Head of Social Affairs, welcome speech at Augsburg Town Hall



**Dear Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear Herr Caritas-Director Dr. Magg,
Dear Herr Friedel,
Dear guests from all over Europe**

I heartily welcome you in the Ducal Chamber of the Augsburg Town Hall. As Head of Social Affairs for the city of Augsburg it is a great pleasure to extend to you all greetings from the city of Augsburg and from its Lord Mayor, Dr. Gribl.

A report was heard on 25.08.2011 on the Bavarian radio services concerning the situation of asylum seekers in Bavaria:

Asylum seekers in many locations, not just in Bavaria, are increasingly complaining about the general standard of their living circumstances, about makeshift accommodation arrangements, shortage of provisions and restricted mobility.

In spite of, and in direct contravention of all European and national regulatory measures to prevent this, an exodus is taking place. Yet no person willingly chooses flight from their homeland, unless under coercion.

People are fleeing their homeland under circumstances, whereby they are subject to acute threat to their wellbeing and are being forced to seek protection and support. Many would want to return, but only if this can be done within a framework of dignity and respect.

In Bavaria under the basic premise that the return of refugees to their homeland is only possible on a basis of a voluntary and self-determined decision.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is clear: The voluntary return of refugees to their homeland possesses – in Germany, as well as in the rest of Europe – highest priority.

Furthermore the European Union Council supports these challenging intentions with the formation of a Repatriation Fund for the period 2008 to 2013 Bavarian Repatriation Advisory Centres are receiving support from this Fund.

Already since 2004 the Repatriation Counselling Centre for southern Bavaria, in mutual cooperation with the Bavarian Red Cross, with the Social Welfare Organisation of the Protestant church, with the Social Welfare Organisation of the Catholic church for the diocese Augsburg, has been active in the city of Augsburg and its surrounding regions providing direct support and qualification measures together with follow up support in order to enable a sustained repatriation of refugees to their homeland.

At this point I would like, on behalf of the city of Augsburg, to extend our hearty thanks to all representatives of the Repatriation Advisory Centre for southern Bavaria for its unremitting commitment and its successful work to date.

If I rightly recall, in 2007 the Repatriation Counselling Centre for southern Bavaria was granted the “Augsburg Future Prize” in respect of the project „Qualification and start up support for refugees in the area of solar technology”.

In this respect I am extremely grateful, and thankful to all those, who have contributed to the organisation, in order that this cross border exchange can take place in Augsburg.

This gives me the opportunity to focus on the historical and political links of our city with the themes of peace and homeland.

Ladies and gentlemen, to pave the way to peace is necessary all over the world. But in Augsburg, the city of peace, the city of denominational parity, we particularly feel that this is our duty and regard this as an important and historic task.

The city of Augsburg has a long tradition in this respect, for it is a city, which is characterised by its over 2,000 year long history, which during the course of the centuries has determined European and world history.

Augsburg is also the city, in which the disputes concerning the doctrines of Martin Luther split the Christian church into its catholic and protestant elements. The Luther city Augsburg is also the city, in which both opposing parties - Catholics and Protestants – concluded the Augsburg Religious Peace of 1555.

Therefore Augsburg can be regarded as the “home of denominational parity.”

Since the conclusion of the Augsburg Religious Peace, parity and tolerance have been a central theme of the city’s history, which remains inseparably linked to the European ideals of peace, integration and conciliation.

Augsburg has approximately 265,000 inhabitants, of which 40%, i.e. around 100,000 citizens, have an immigration background:

Immigrants from the former Soviet Union, with 25,000 persons, form the largest group, followed by the Turkish community (22,000), Romanians (12,000) and immigrants from former Yugoslavia (10,000). Of the 42,000 foreign citizens, who live and work in Augsburg, around 36,000 originate from European Union Member States. But also refugees live in Augsburg.

According to the latest data from the Swabian governing body, which is inter alia responsible for the redirection, accommodation and providing for to refugees, there are in Swabia, the region, to which Augsburg belongs, 18 communal dwellings, housing around 1,550 inhabitants und in Augsburg alone 900 asylum seekers live, spread across six communal dwellings.

For me as Head of Social Affairs it is important that the tradition of Augsburg as the city of peace can also be lived by these disadvantaged citizens.

Within this context the city supports the work of the repatriation advisory centres, which are regularly offering advice and providing care to the refugees. The city of Augsburg remains global and open to the world. Seven twin cities in three continents bear witness to this.

Augsburg has always been and remains a European city, which during the course of its history has succeeded in linking together technical progress, economy, tradition and culture.

By virtue of this openness we can clearly see that our seeking for understanding and dialogue are the most important indicators for achieving peace: The Augsburg celebration of peace, in memory of the Religious Peace of Augsburg held on 8th August, is a feast day, which is unique only to Augsburg. Augsburg as one of the oldest and most beautiful cities in Germany – known as the northern city of Italy, with more bridges than Venice – offers a high standard of living:

The old town, the city market, theatre, cabaret, its street cafés, courtyards and so much more make it very easy to like Augsburg.

Here Swabian-Bavarian equanimity and a cosmopolitan outlook have been successfully combined – The citizens of Augsburg are well known for their openness and hospitality ;-).

On this note I express my thanks that some of you have travelled here from afar and wish you an intensive and constructive exchange, as well as a pleasant sojourn in our lovely city.

Welcome to Augsburg!



2. OVERVIEW OF VOLUNTARY RETURN PROJECTS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

2.1 Statistical data

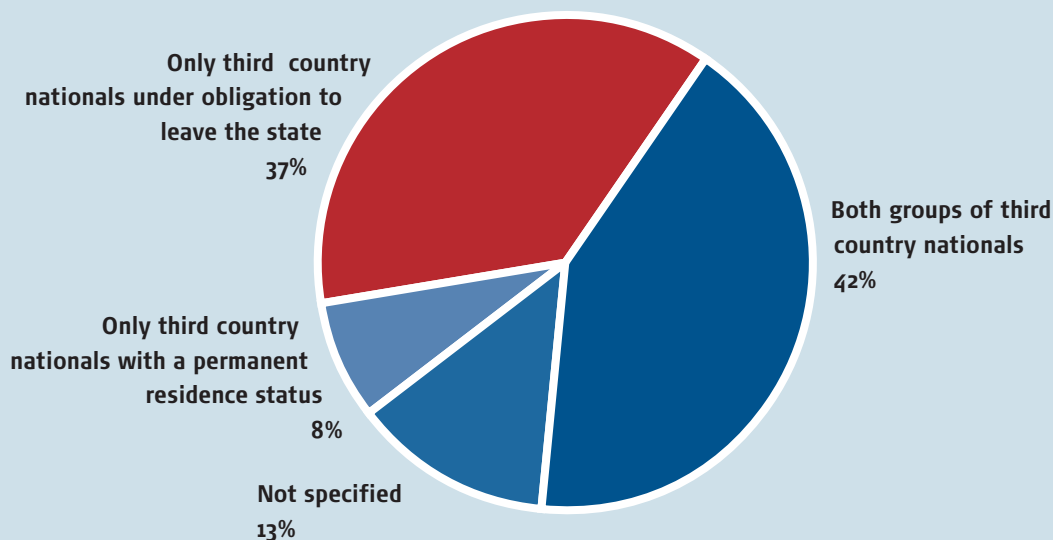
In the spring of 2011 we sent questionnaires to a lot of voluntary return counselling centres in the EU. In total we have evaluated 54 organisations from 14 EU member states (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden and United Kingdom). In appendix you will find a list of these organisations. We would like to thank all organizations which took part in this survey. Below you will find the statistical analysis of the data that we have received:

> Target groups

Residence permit status: The most voluntary return projects provide assistance either to third country nationals with a permanent residence status and under obligation to leave the state (42 %) or only to third country nationals under obligation to leave the

state (37 %). Just 8 % of organisations provide only third country nationals with a permanent residence status.

Residence permit status*

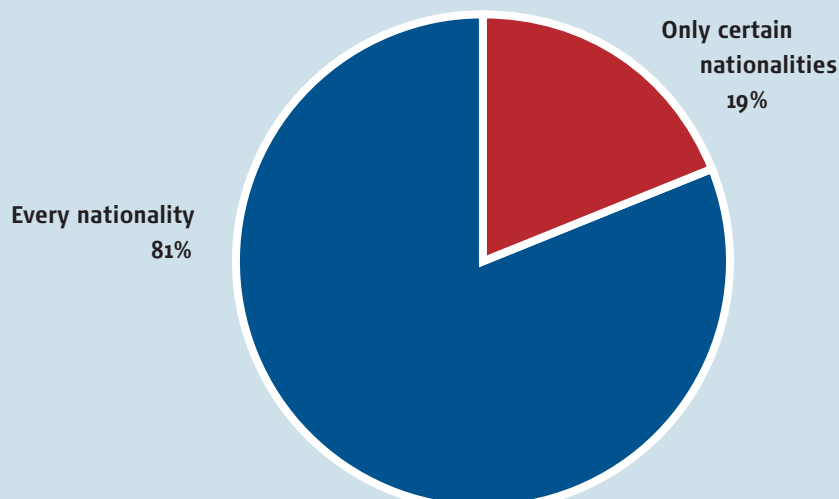


* Several answers possible

Nationality: The most organisations support third country nationals from all nationalities (81 %). Only 19% have projects that are restricted to a specific country of origin, such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Ser-

bia or Ukraine. One example is the project "Reintegration of returnees to Kosovo" from Workers' Welfare Association (AWO) Nuremberg/Germany.

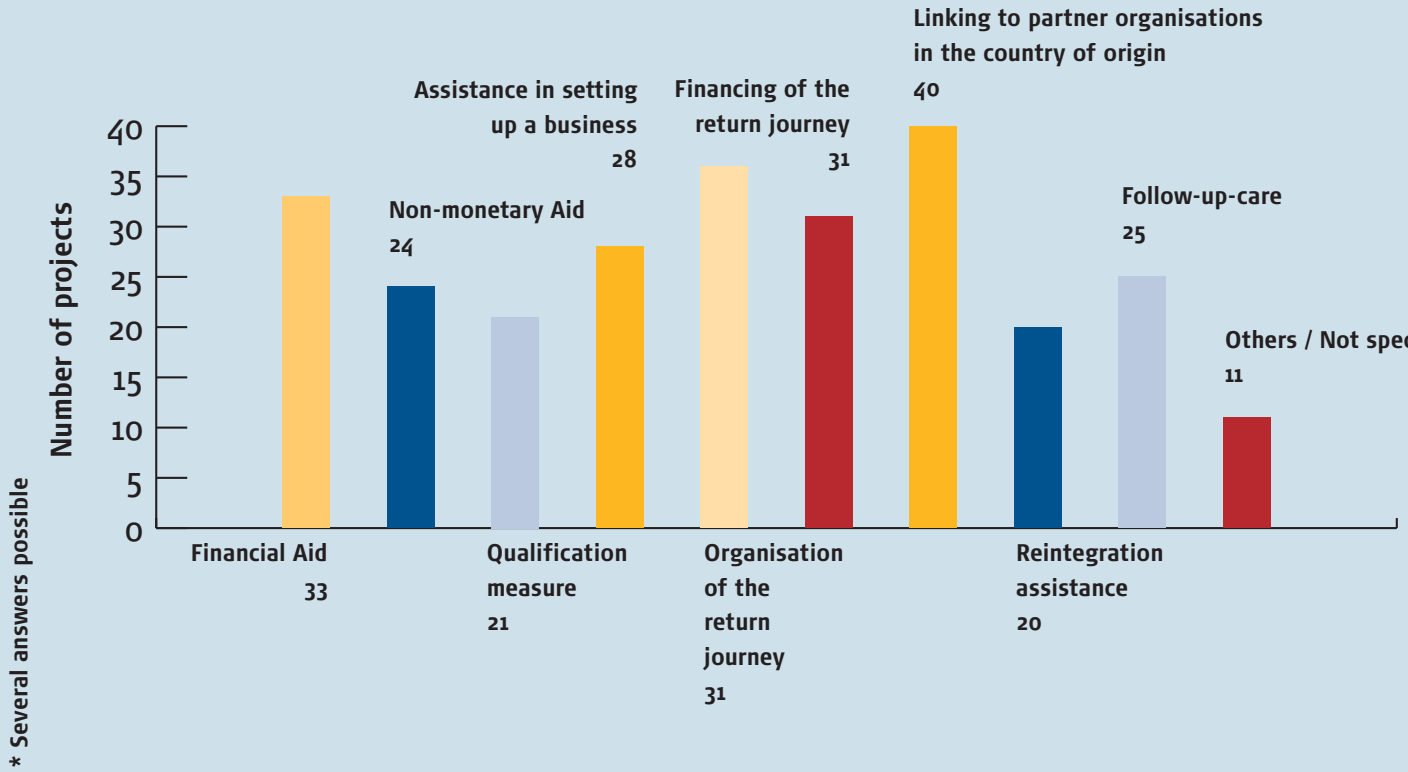
Nationality



> Supported measures*

Supported measures: Many organisations support multiple measures. Most of them link the clients to partner organisations in their country of origin (40). A lot of counselling centres also take care of travel organisation (31) and travel expenses (12 %). Some of them

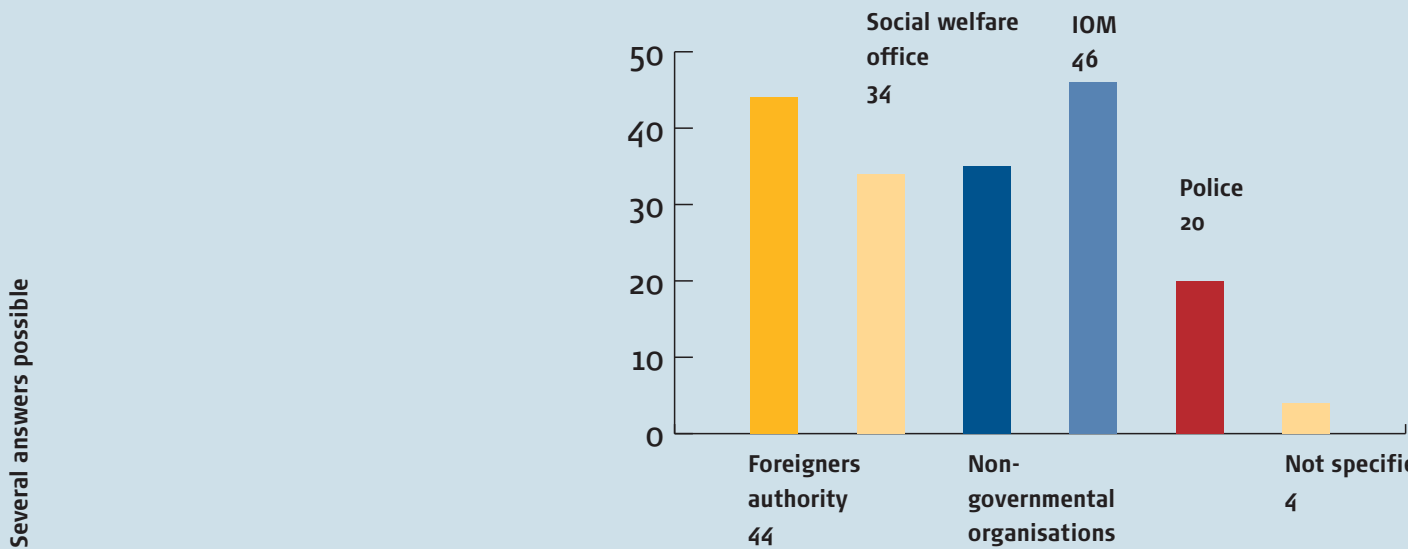
provide also financial aid (33) and/or assistance in setting up a business (28). There are also follow-up care (25), non-monetary aid/benefit in kind (25) qualification measures (21) and assistance focusing in reintegration and sustainability (20).



> Cooperation*

Cooperation: Most of the organisations cooperate with the International Organisation of Migration (46) and/or the Foreigners Authority (44) but also with non-governmental organisations

(NGOs) (35) and/or with social welfare offices (34). There are in 20 of the cases, cooperative connections to the police, too.

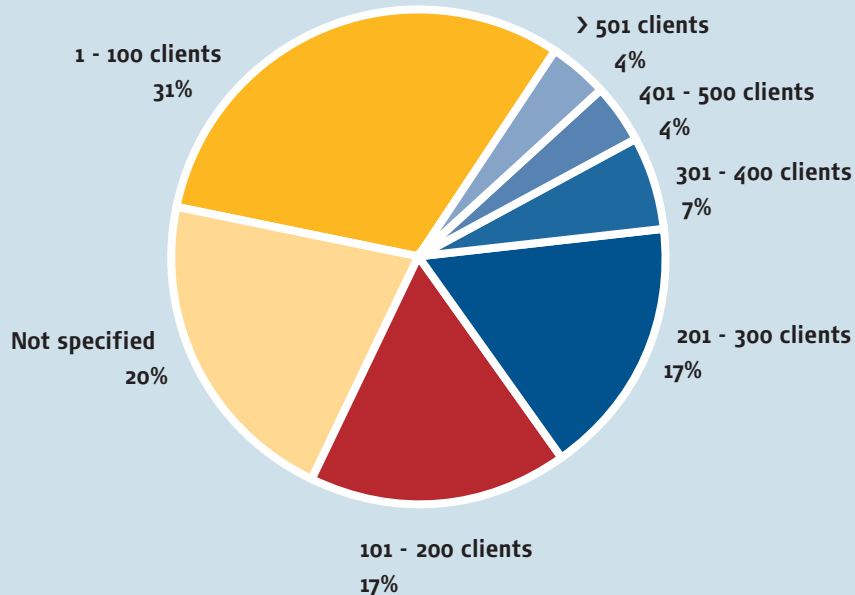


> Number of clients/departures*

Number of clients: Although we recognized a large difference in the reported number of clients, most organisations count 10 to 100

clients per project year (31%). 17% of the projects have 101 to 200 clients and also 17% have 201 to 300 clients per project year.

Number of clients*

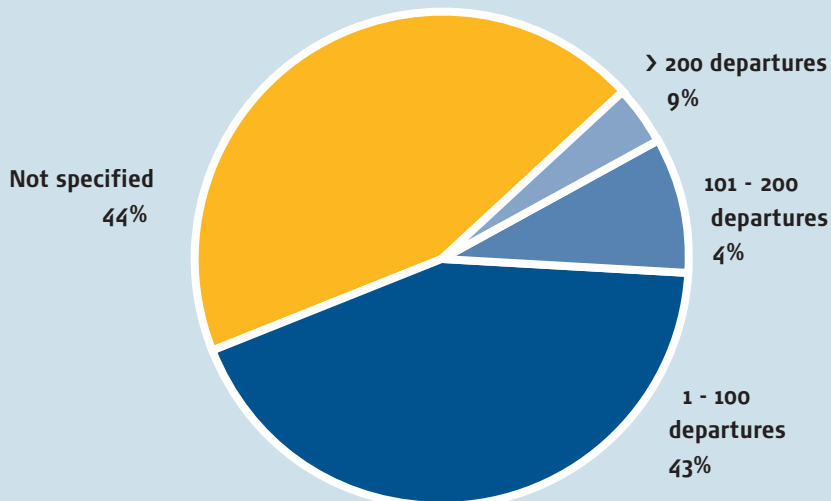


* The data refers to the project year

Number of departures: The range for number of departures is between 1 and 100 per project year (43%). Unfortunately only 56% of the organisations reported on that fact. The reported departures

were mostly to Iraq, Serbia and West Africa. The countries to which most clients return, according to the counselling centres surveyed, are Iraq, Serbia and West Africa.

Number of departures*



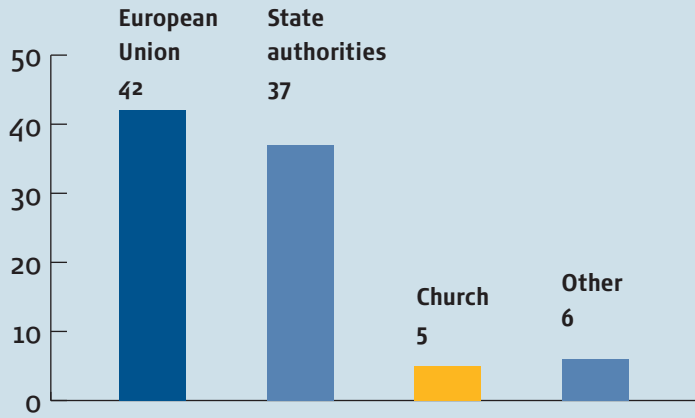
* The data refers to the project year

> Financing

Financing Most of the return projects are funded by the EU (42) and/or state authorities (37). A few projects are also supported by the churches (5). Further projects (6) are sponsored by other organisati-

ons e.g. IOM or private funds. Many projects are supported by several donors. The majority of the projects are funded by the EU and the state authorities.

Financing*



* Several answers possible



3. PRESENTATION OF VOLUNTARY RETURN PROJECTS

3.1 Bavarian Central Return Counselling Offices (ZRB), South Bavaria and their network

3.1.1. Central Return Counselling Office Southbavaria (since 2004)



Philipp Schaffner

Central Return Counselling Office
South Bavaria

Target of the project

- building up a bond of trust
- providing a well-informed decision about the voluntary return
- aid and attendance with the realisation of the return
- offering a return in dignity

Target group

- refugees at procedure for granting the right of asylum
- rejected asylum seekers
- accepted refugees
- third-country-nationals under obligation to leave the federal territory

AUGSBURG

Formation of business





Local area of responsibility:

3 administrative districts:

- Upper Bavaria
- Lower Bavaria
- Swabia

Joint project:

- Caritas Association of the Diocese Augsburg



- Bavarian Red Cross



- Diakonie Augsburg



- In cooperation with Administrative District of Swabia



Divisions of the ZRB

- counselling
- assistance
- financial support
- setting up business
- qualifying measures

Formation of business Iraq

- garage
- food store
- carpenter's shop
- taxi-driver
- tailoring

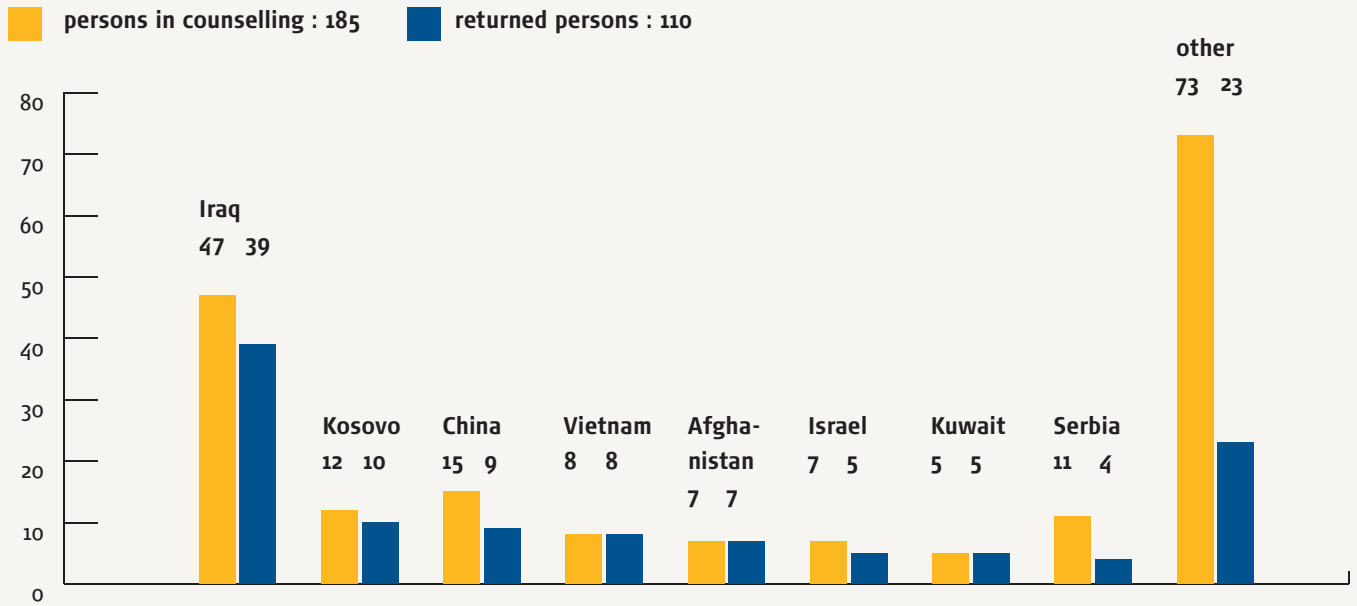
Qualifying measures

- first-aid-course
- fork-lift driving licence
- bicycle-repair-workshop
- solar-cooker-construction-course

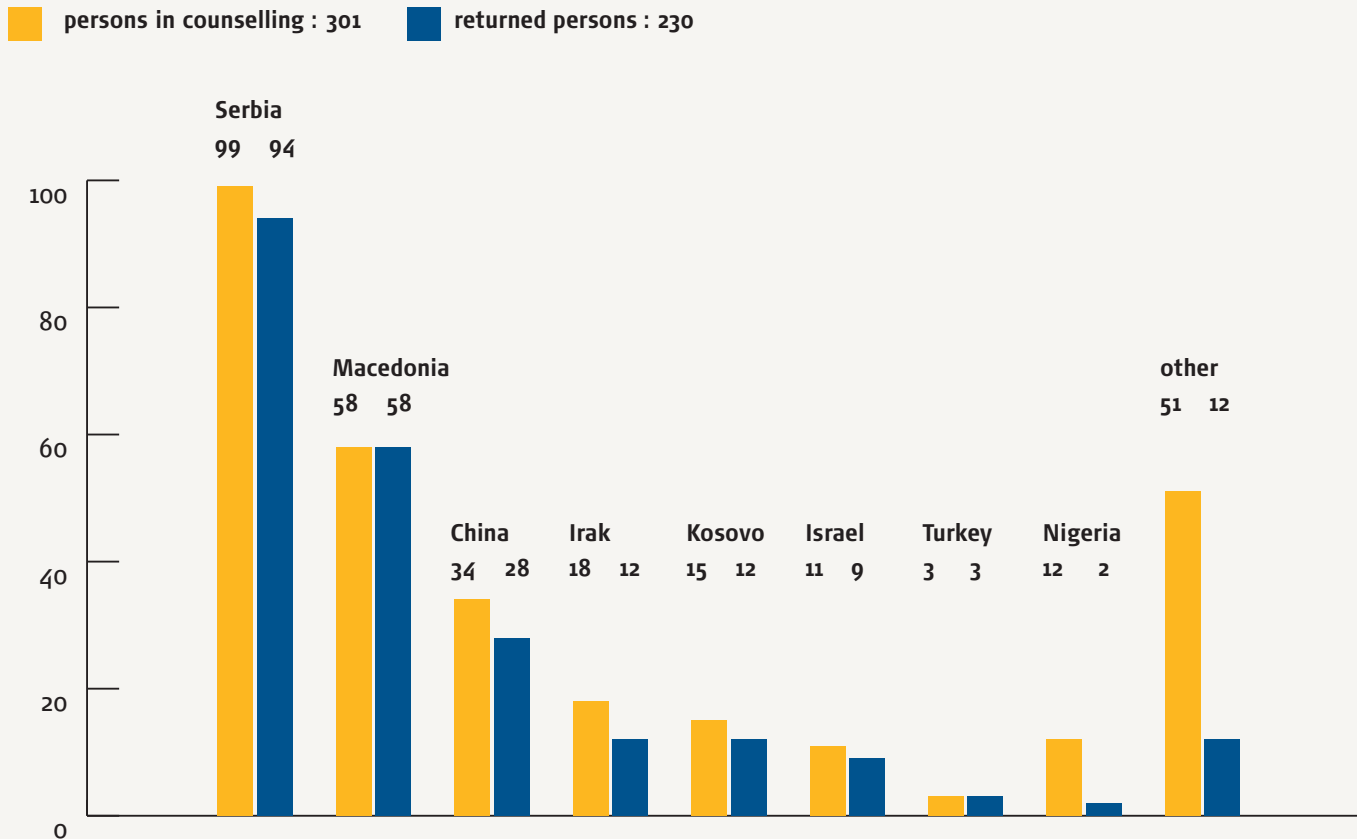
Qualifying measures



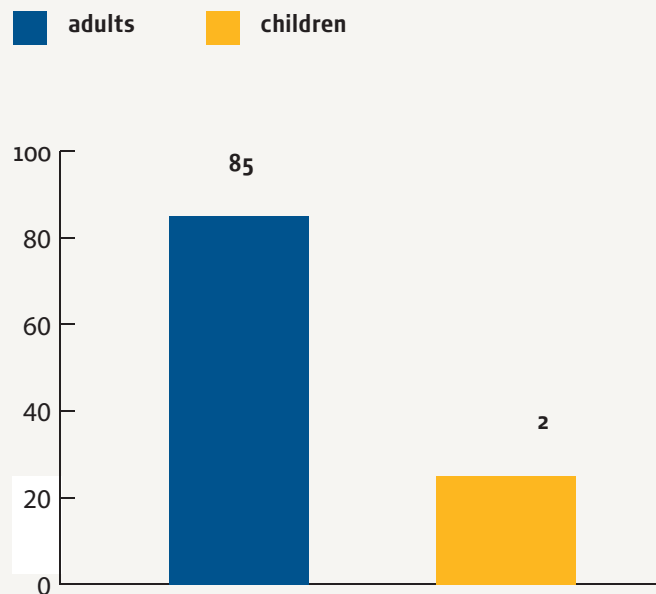
> Persons in counselling/Returned Persons (2010)



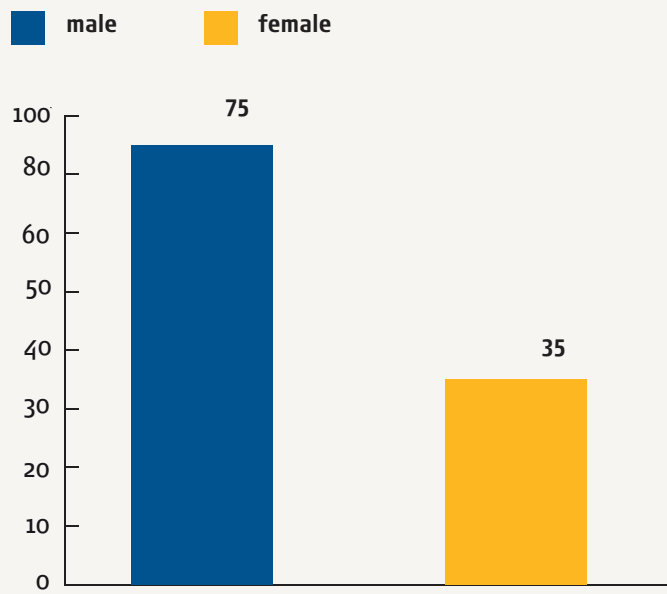
> Persons in counselling/Returned Persons (2011)



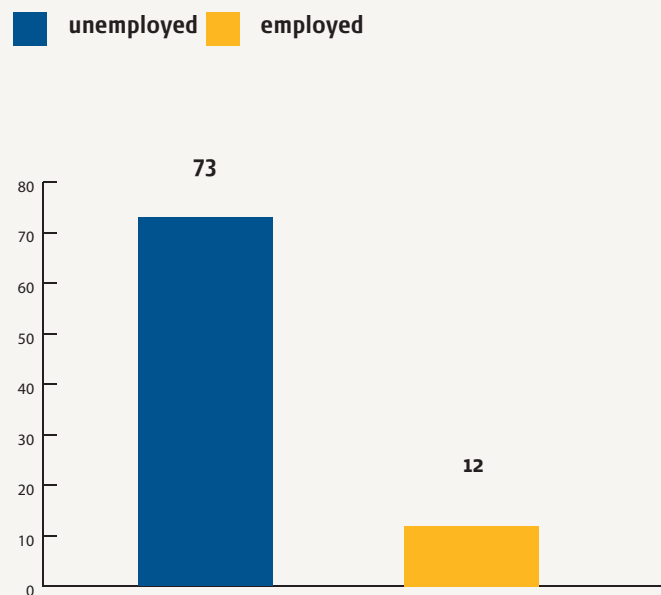
> Returns according age (2010)



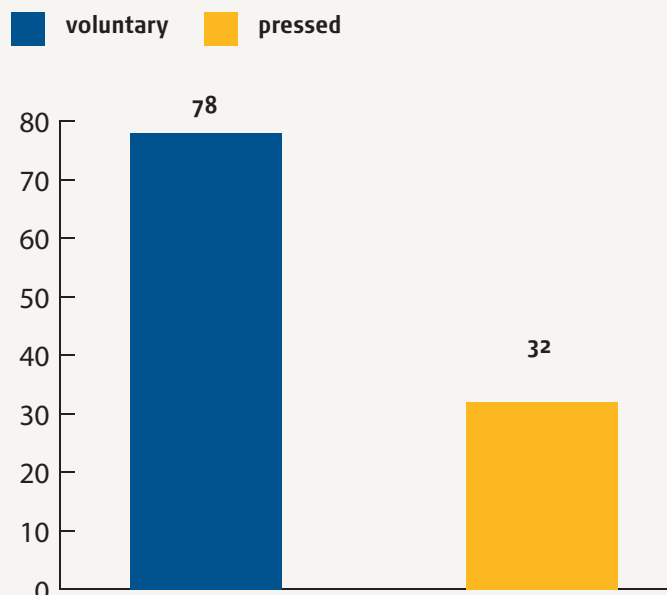
> Returns according gender (2010)

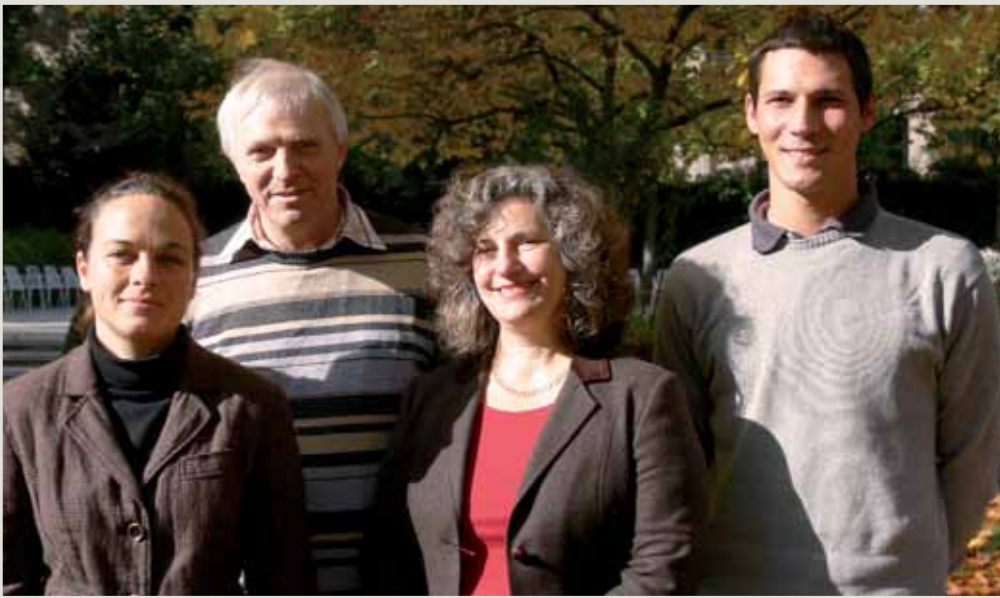


> Returns according work (adults) (2010)



> Voluntary and pressed returns (2010)





Our team:

- Sonja Schipf (counselling)
- Hans Klein (administration)
- Ursula Dollinger (counselling)
- Philipp Schaffner (project-management and counselling)



ZRB Süd

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www.zrb-suedbayern.de

The project is funded by



Bavarian State Ministry of
Labour and Social Welfare,
Family Affairs and Women



European Union

3.1.2 Bavarian network of the voluntary return counselling centres



Martina Sommer

Workers` Welfare Association
(AWO) Nuremberg, Germany

Formation of the network

First: Important questions had to be answered:

- Why should the welfare organisations do this?
- Is this conflicting with our purposes / maxims?

Aims

- Support of the voluntary return
- Enable a return in dignity
- Promote reintegration

Offers and benefits:

Counselling:

- Clarifying the individual perspectives
- Consideration of the pros and cons for repatriation

Individual Support:

- Organising the return travel
- Assisting in the acquisition of the travel documents
- Assistance in particular problems, for example old age or illness
- Material and financial support
- Further education and training as well as starting up one's own business
- Arranging contacts with aid organisations
- Establishment of contacts with authorities
- After care

Voluntary return counselling centres in Bavaria

- Munich
- Nuremberg
- Augsburg
- Würzburg

Counselling in different regions

The location in south, north and west Bavaria should give the refugees access to voluntary return counselling in many different regions of Bavaria

How does the network function?

- Regular meetings of the leaders of the projects
- meeting once a year of all counsellors
- Regular contact via telephone and e-mail
- Planning of actions

Statistics

- Between 2007 and 2010: 5,385 individual counselling interviews and 1,340 voluntary returnees
- Since 2003: 3,464 voluntary returnees
- Since 2003: 1,165,000 € financial support

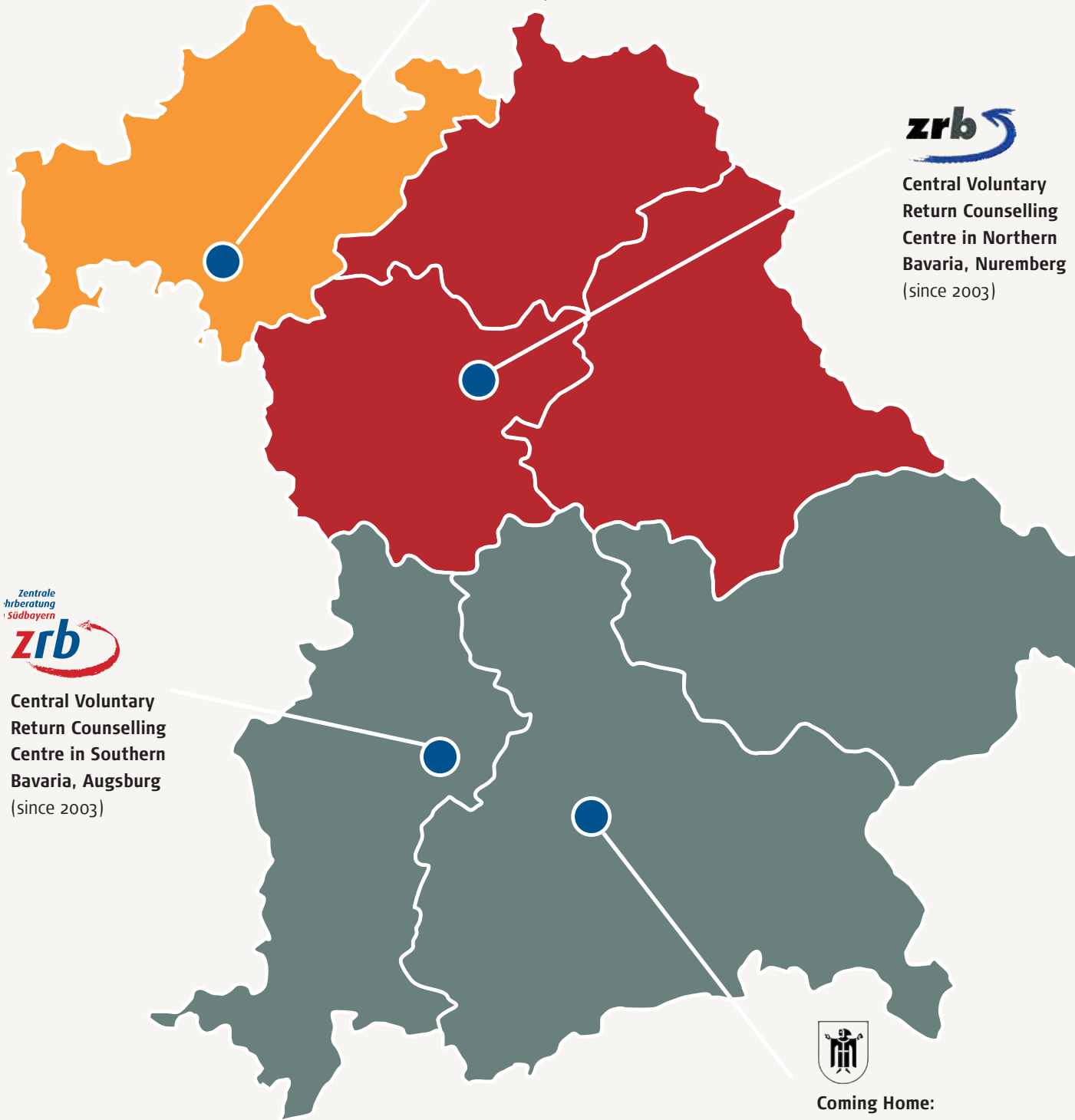
> Voluntary return counselling centres in Bavaria



Central Voluntary Return
Counselling Centre in
Western Bavaria, Würzburg
(since 2004)



Central Voluntary
Return Counselling
Centre in Northern
Bavaria, Nuremberg
(since 2003)



Central Voluntary
Return Counselling
Centre in Southern
Bavaria, Augsburg
(since 2003)



Coming Home:
Project of the
Social Services
Department of Munich
(since 1996)

The project is funded by



European Union
European Return Fund



Bavarian State Ministry of
Labour and Social Welfare,
Family Affairs and Women

3.2 netzwerk-rueckkehrhilfen.de- A web-based network for counselling returnee



Kristina Kühl
Workers' Welfare Association
(AWO) Nuremberg, Germany

Workers' Welfare Association Nuremberg

Institutions behind the website

- Central ReturnCounselling Centre in Northern Bavaria
- Coming Home, Social Services Department of Munich
- In cooperation with integPlan
- Financed by the European Commission and the Free State of Bavaria

Target Audience

- Information centres for returnees in Germany
- Returnees
- Information centres for refugees
- public authorities

Aims of the website

- Improvement of the network of information centres for returnees
- Better access to information for potential returnees
- Better access to information about home countries and projects in those countries

Topics of the website

- Overview about information centres for returnees in Germany and Europe.
- Overview about projects for returnees in Germany financed by the ERF
- Link list about home countries and their projects
- Event calendar
- Bibliography about counselling returnees



The screenshot shows the homepage of the website www.netzwerk-rueckkehrhilfen.de. The header features the logo "Netzwerk-Rueckkehrhilfen.de" and navigation links for "Kontakt" and "Impressum". The main content area includes three featured sections: "Rückkehrberatungsstellen in Deutschland" with a map of Germany, "Deutsche Rückkehrfondsprojekte" with the European Union flag, and "Forum" with an image of hands holding a globe. A sidebar on the left contains a search bar and a menu with links to "Startseite", "Veranstaltungen", "Flüchtlingshilfe in Europa", "Projekte in Rückkehrländern", "Länderinformationen", "Publikationen", and "Wichtige Links". The main content area has a "Herzlich Willkommen!" section with a welcome message and introductory text about the platform's purpose and services.

3.3 Voluntary return of victims of human trafficking (FROM)



Mag. a Sandra Gombotz
LEFÖ-IBF, Vienna, Austria



Intervention Center for Trafficked Women

- LEFÖ – Information, Education and Support for Migrant women:
- Organisation by and for Migrant women
- Founded in 1985
- various working areas

LEFÖ - IBF

- Opened 1.1.1998, Vienna
- Since 1998: Officially recognised victims support organization
- Since 1.1.2006: On behalf of the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry for Women
- Since 1.10.2005 also financed by the Ministry of Justice

What is the role of a NGO?

- Part of Civil Society
- Partner in a multidisciplinary approach
- Service provider
- Role as a interlocutor for the human rights approach for trafficked persons
- Monitoring and Evaluation of State measures:
- Prevention, protection and prosecution
- Role in identification of trafficked women

Partnerships

- Cooperation with law enforcement and justice system
- Cooperation with public security institutions
- Contact with national social service providers
- International Networking with any other actor in the field

Assistance

- Nationwide
- 24 hours accessibility for law enforcement
- Shelters with secret addresses
- Local Counselling
- Client confidentiality
- Cultural mediation
- Legal
- Psychosocial
- Health
- Re - Integration

Criteria in the work with victims of violence

- Safety and security
- Confidentiality and anonymity
- Rules of consent
- Empowerment



FROM Voluntary Return of victims of trafficking

- Building a sustainable national and international network for a safe return and reintegration
- Quality Standards for a risk assessment and a safe return and reintegration
- Return Counselling and Assistance

Quality Standards

- Identification
- Return Counselling and measures for Reintegration
- Risk Assessment

Identification

- Definition of Human Trafficking
- Indicators
- Reflection Period

Return counselling and measures of reintegration

- Quality, transparency and sensitivity of information
- Counselling :Evaluation of the desire to return; Development of an individual plan
- Offers prior to a return

Risk Assessment

- 3 Steps
- History of the trafficked person
- Researching additional sources
- Shaping security scenarios

Cases of dangerous return

High risks:

- witness in criminal procedures
- revenge from perpetrators
- involvement of family or closest social environment
- influence perpetrators to government authorities
- Traumatization
- no reintegration in a community



3.4 European Rehabilitation Support Organisations (ERSO)



Lenie van Goor
Maatwerk bij Terugkeer
The Netherlands

ERSO History:

- **First project: 2007 ERSO I**

- Strategic Decision: Cooperation between European Return Organizations
- Network of Return-NGOs in Europe created

- **Second project: 2008 - 2009 ERSO II**

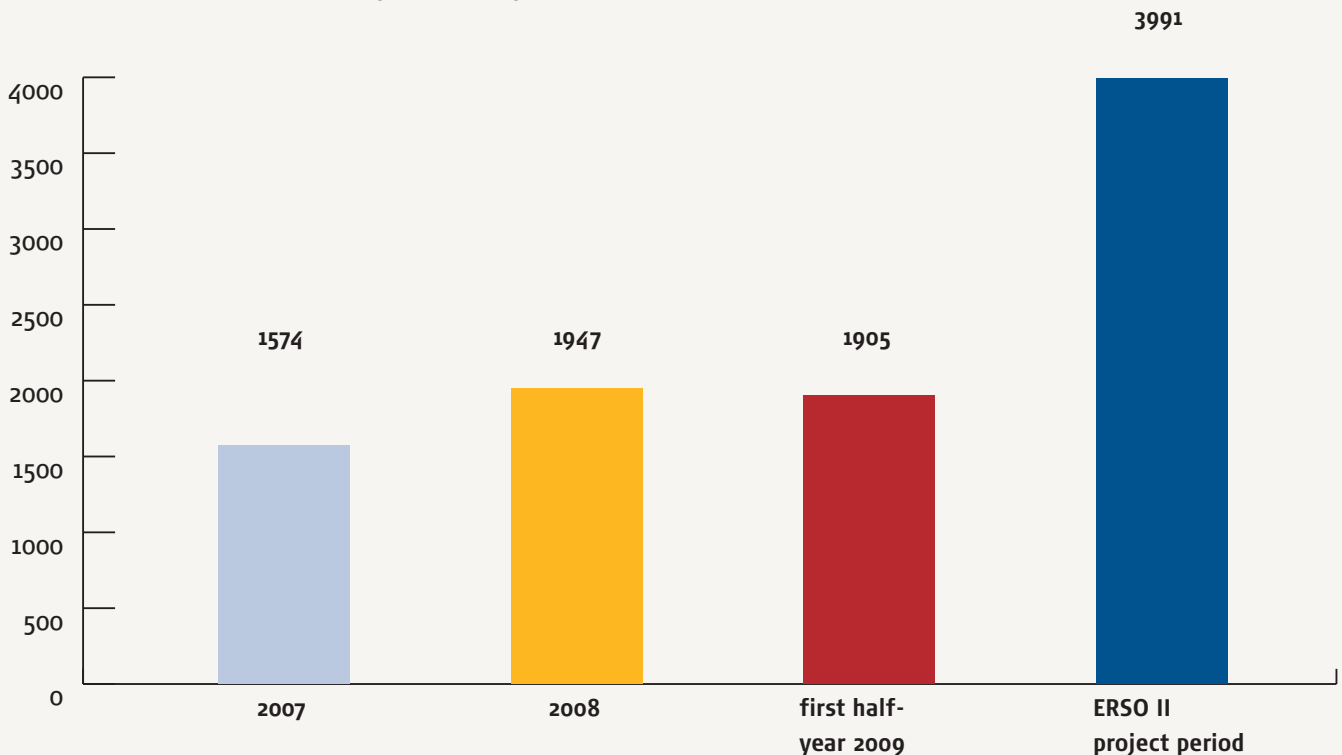
- Designed on ERSO I achievements
- Network of "Focal points" for countries of return in Europe
- Enhance and deepen achievements of ERSO I

- **Third project: 2011 - 2013 ERSO West**

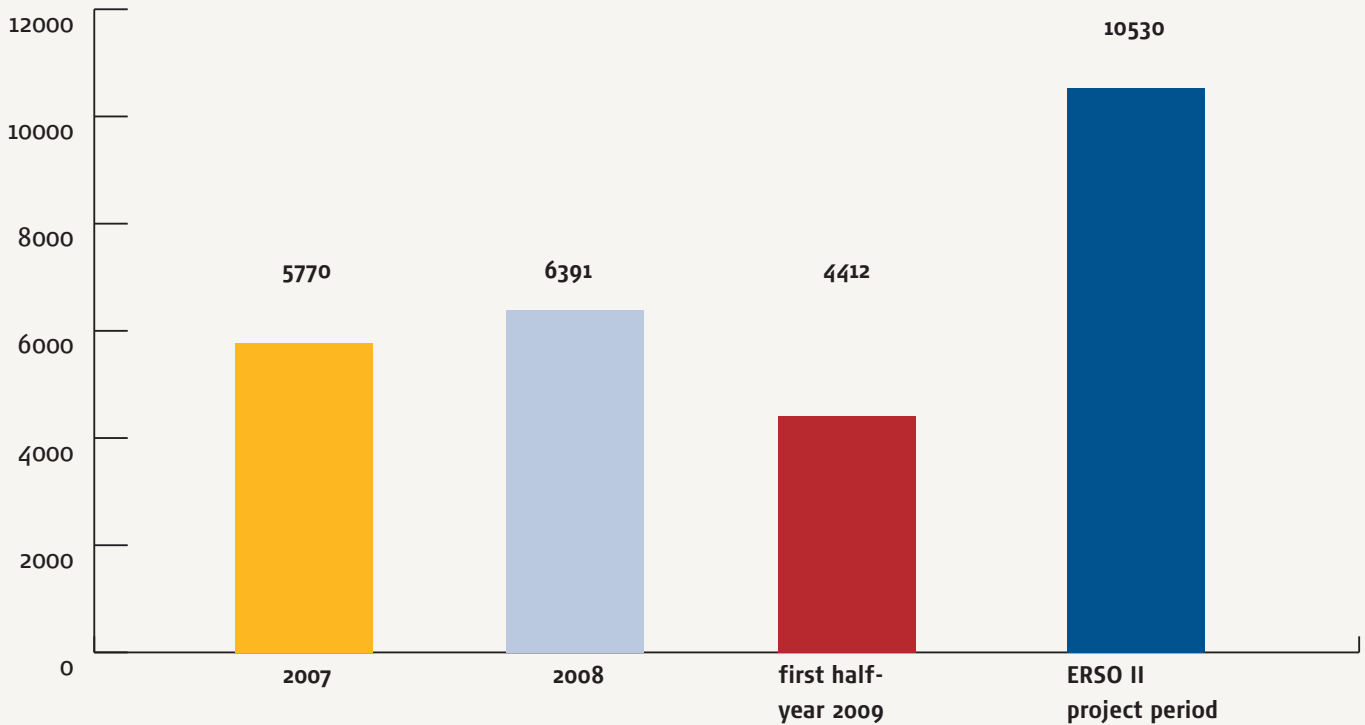
- Designed on ERSO I and ERSO II achievements
- Same process (focal points)
- More focus on development
- Enhance and deepen achievements of ERSO I and ERSO II

› ERSO II Project period: 01.03.2008 - 31.08.2009

Actual returnees assisted by all ERSO II partners



Counselling Contacts (clients) of all ERSO II partners



ERSO II Partners: Accem, Caritas Austria, Caritas Belgium, Caritas Bulgaria, Caritas Essen, Caritas Europa, Caritas Hungary, Cordaid – Maatwerk, ICMC, Raphaels-Werk, Refugee Action

> ERSO West (Erso III): 2011 - 2013

Development through Sustainable Return involving Civil Society
In Sierra Leone, Senegal, Cameroon, Togo, Morocco

ERSO partners: Caritas Belgium, Maatwerk bij Terugkeer, Accem, Caritas Austria, Caritas Europe, France Terre D'asile, Raphaelswerke

Overall objective:

To contribute to better social and professional reintegration of Western African countries' nationals returning to their countries of origin.

Specific objective:

To increase the value of migrants' return by strengthening the co-operation between CSOs in countries of origin and countries of return and improving the reintegration process.

Goals to be achieved in 2013

5 CSOs in 5 Western Africa (and North African) countries will be trained and well-equipped to provide tailor-made reintegration assistance. Activities to exchange information and share experience between CSOs in host countries and countries of origin will be systematized.

500 returnees received tailor-made reintegration assistance with focus on professional reintegration.

Selection criteria in Europe

- For all (rejected) asylum seekers ,independent of the period of stay in Europe
- Undocumented, proof of one year stay in Europe
- Migrants who return via other national voluntary return program
- Need of assistant of the returnee
- Filled in an application form
- A signed reintegration contract

Selection criteria in Countries of Origin

- Proofed of return from Europe within 12 months.
- Coming back with a voluntary return program or forced return program,
- To inform the focal point about the received return allowances.
- Having the nationality of Country of Origin
- Filled in an application form, approved by European focal point
- A signed reintegration contract
- Need of assistance
- For all (rejected) asylum seekers, independent of the period of stay in Europe
- Undocumented, proof of one year stay in Europe

For more information:

www.erso-project.eu

info@netwerkbijterukeer.nl

ivgoor@maatwerkbijterukeer.nl

A.dussart@caritasint.be



3.5 Voluntary Actions for Orientation and Information for students of Sub-Saharan Africa at the end of training to their country of origin



Yera Dembele
Fédération des Associations
Franco-Africaines de
Développement (FAFRAD),
France (Interpreter:
Hong-Lam Pham)



**Federation des Associations
Franco-Africaines
de Développement par l'ap-
pui économique
« Agir ici, servir là-bas »**

A federation of 250 organizations

Working not only in the areas of integration and socio-professional integration of immigrants, but also of international solidarity and intercultural dialogue.

Mainly composed of migrant associations, the FAFRAD also hosts, without discrimination, all who work for the co-development and intercultural dialogue between France and Africa, North and South. She is a member of GAME (Support Group for micro-enterprises) and ENAR

A MEASURE ACCOMPANIMENT INDIVIDUELISE

The action accompanying FAFRAD-economic pursuing an overall objective of vocational rehabilitation for the enhancement of skills through the conduct of economic activity.

The entrepreneur realizes both a personal and professional. He is creator of his own job and design a project as a whole. In addition, it acquires through the process of creation, knowledge and various skills.

Network accompanying the GAME: Support Group for micro to medium size in France

- **For the creation in France:** ADIE - Paris and the Seine Saint-Denis Platform Family, Salle, Saint-Bruno, Stores Management
- **For the creation in Africa:** Africum Vitae (Marseille), CEFODE (Strasbourg), Chamber of Commerce Franco-Comorian (Marseille), Entr'Apprendre, FAFRAD-economic (Paris), GRDR Montreuil, EMI Initiatives economic migrants - Paris IFAID-Aquitaine-Bordeaux; IRFED Europe - Paris, OFII

Relay in Africa: 3AE (Guinea), ACOR CCFC (Moroni), BCGO, CCEY-CA (Yaoundé), CESAM (Cotonou), CITE (Antananarivo), AFSC (Senegal) Undertaking - CEDIT (Kinshasa), FJEC (Brazzaville), FORSCOT (Abidjan), CESI - BURKINA, Promo Gabon.

Migration and voluntary return to the country of origin: the case of African students in France

Our contribution presents the first results of an opinion poll conducted among 450 students from sub-Saharan Africa in France on the issue of voluntary return to their home country. Our working hypothesis based on the idea that young people in sub-Saharan Africa who are studying in French universities are ready to return to their home country at the end of their studies.

This voluntary, as a positive factor for the development of sub-Saharan Africa can be achieved if the configuration and the current dynamics of the migration process of governance of African students contribute, through specific instruments, resettlement in the country of origin on the basis of a professional project. The survey allows us to ask ourselves how best to address the issue of voluntary return of students from sub-Saharan Africa in their home countries and to better understand how this issue intersects with that of aid development. To this end, the concluding part of this paper will report on some proposals.

...Methodological Approach

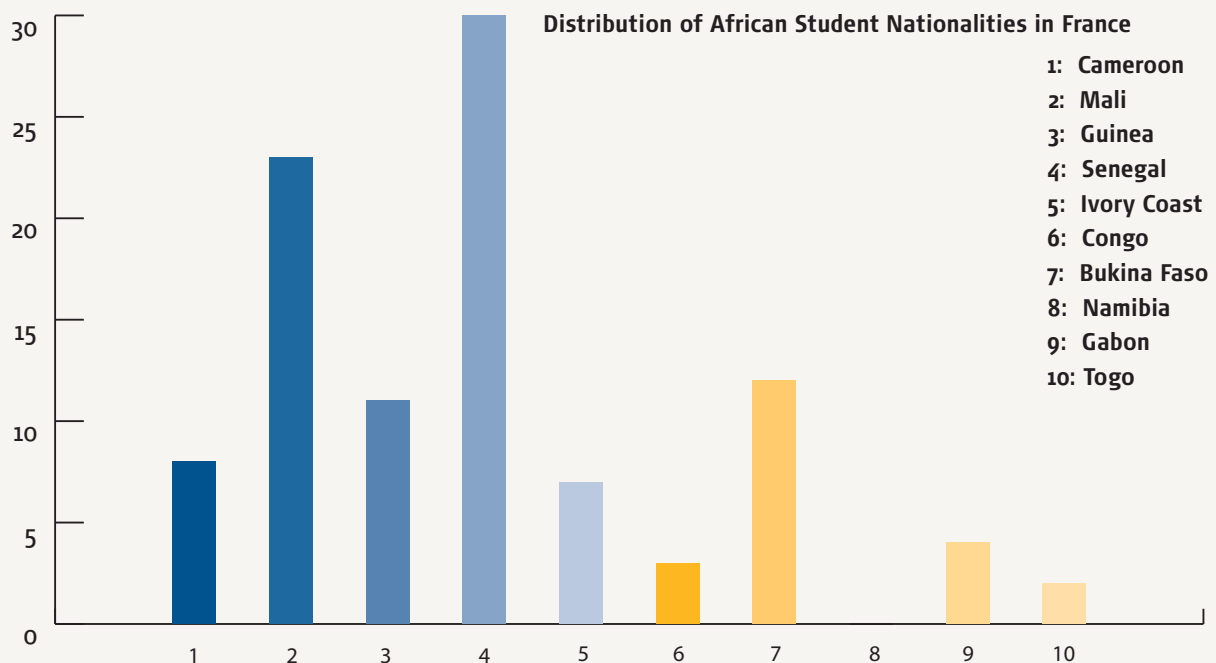
The instrument survey data used to understand the relevance of our thesis is the questionnaire. In 2008 among a sample of 450 elderly patients, mostly 18 to 40 years, this survey was conducted mainly in Paris and the Paris region by the Federation of Associations Franco-African Development support economic Projects (FAFRAD-economic). We note that the sample is not fully representative, since the distribution of the survey did not consider, on a proportional basis, the exact distribution of migrant communities living in France. Data collection was done randomly. The questionnaire consists of questions as well say "closed" as open-ended questions, was the subject of a preliminary test validation issues. It has several components.

Besides the usual issues of socio-demographic information, a series of questions concerning the course of study of the subject investigated and its characteristics. Another set of questions to highlight the perception that the subject of voluntary return to their country of origin after their studies.

Sample characteristics of study and geographical composition

The subjects interviewed came from Senegal (30%), Mali (23%), Guinea Conakry (11%), Cameroon (8%), Côte d'Ivoire (7%), the Democratic Republic of Congo (3%), Burkina Faso (12%), Gabon (4%) and Togo (2%) as shown in Figure 1 on the distribution of the sample by nationality. Note the strong representation of students from Senegal and Mali. As noted above, students who responded to the survey were asked randomly. The material has not been first distributed by country of origin of the latter.

› Figure 1: Distribution of study sample by country of origin

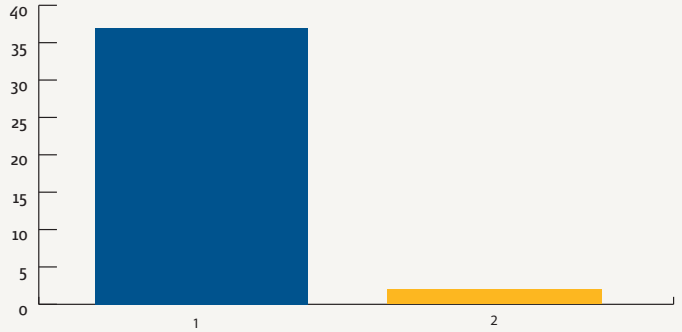
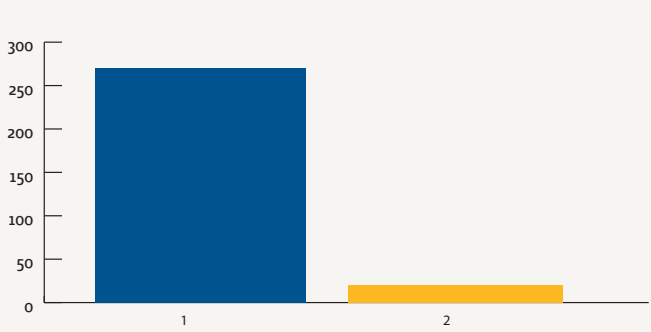


Return to home country: a utopia?

A main question "what do you after your studies: return to home country or stay in Europe," it is clear that 75% of respondents want to return to their home countries after graduation . This proportion is interesting and contradicts some common representations on the issue.

> Figure 2: What do you do after school?

- France:**
- 1. Age 18-29 who wish to go back after studies
 - 2. Age 18-29 who wish to stay after studies
- Number of Students**
- 1. Age 30-44 who wish to go back after studies
 - 2. Age 30-44 who wish to stay after studies

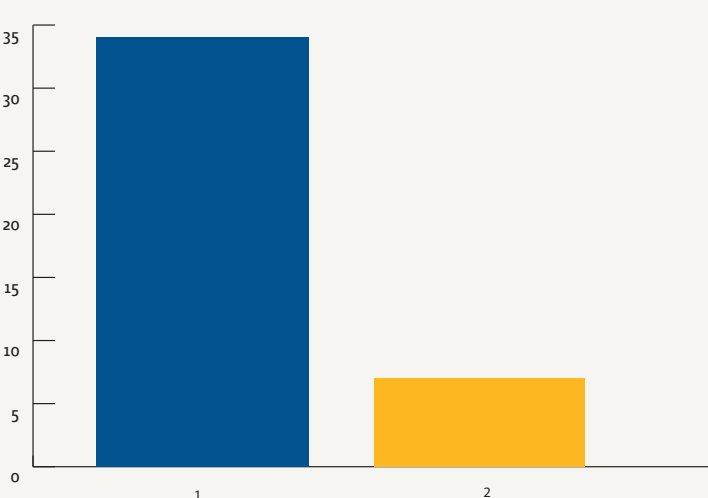
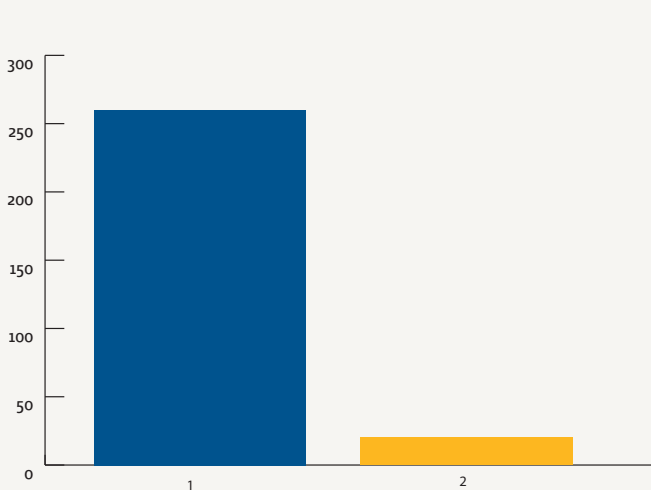


Impact of gender in the voluntary return to home country after graduation

A more refined analysis of survey data by gender, showed a strong tendency for male students (65%) to want to return to their country of origin against 15% women.

> Figure 3: Distribution of the return to the country of origin, gender

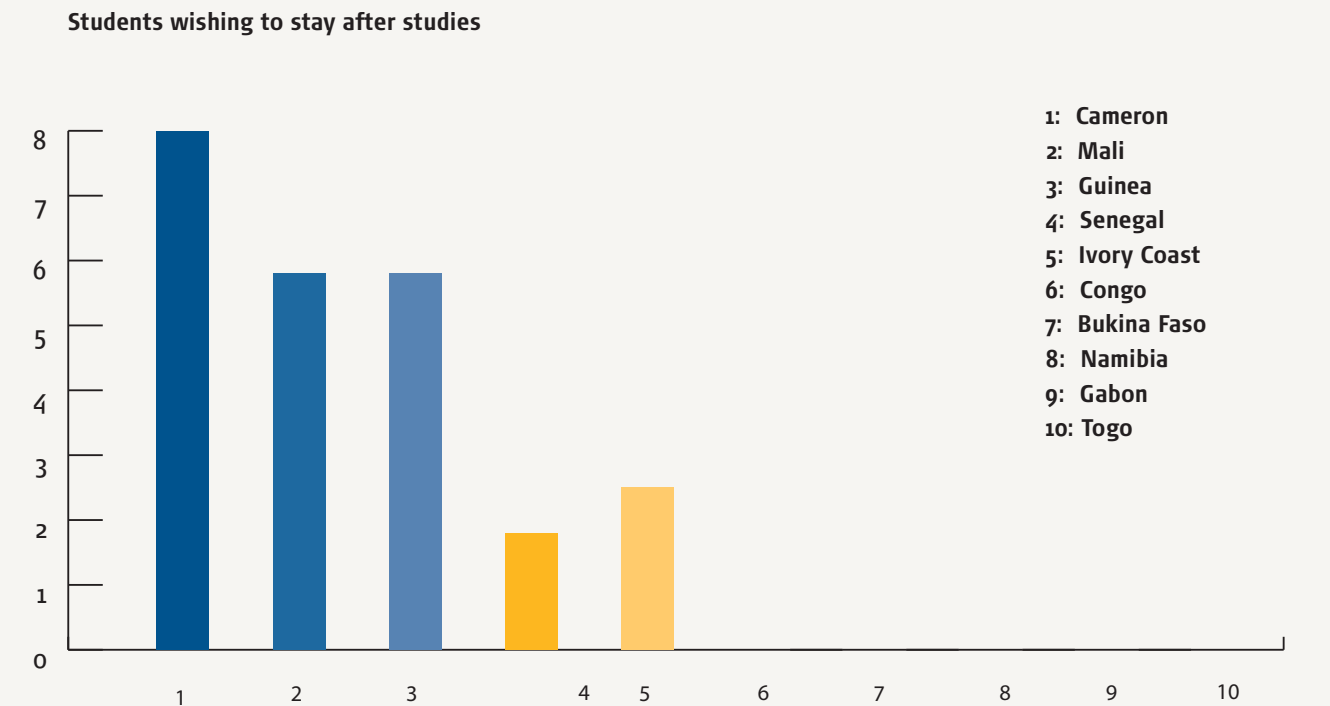
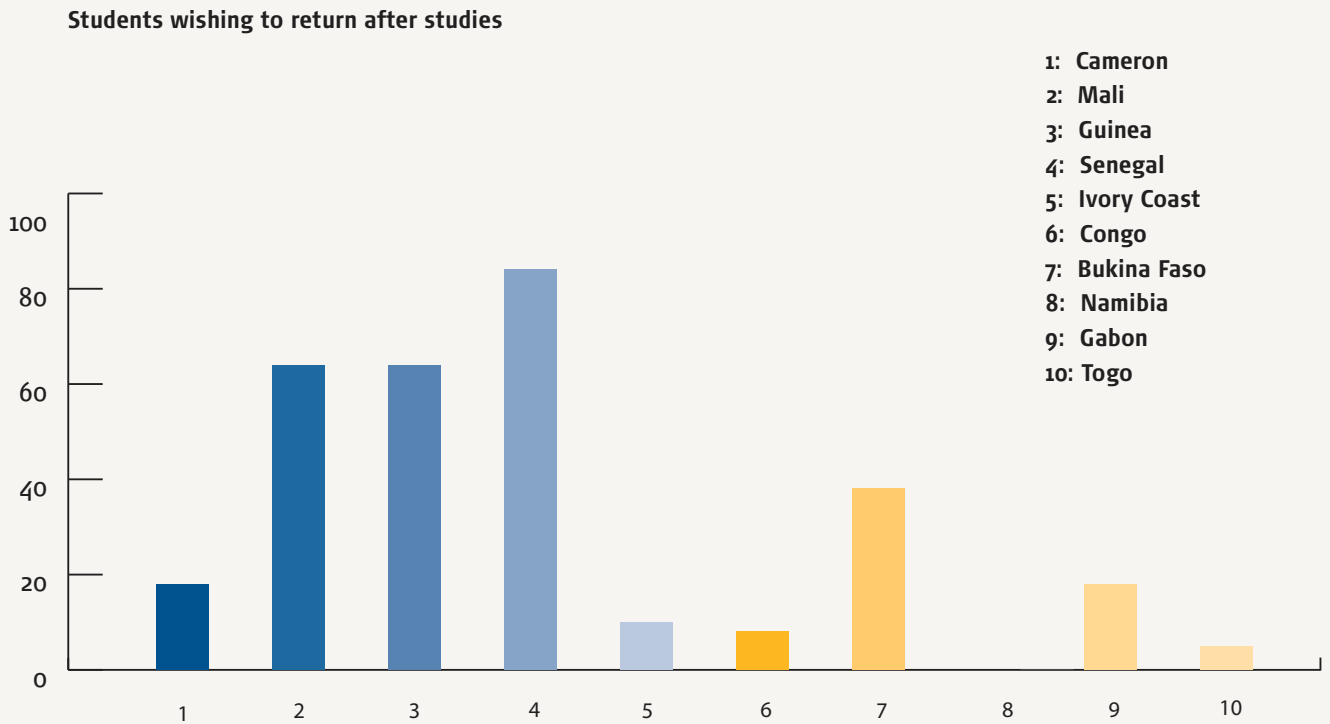
- Distribution of the return to the country of origin, gender:**
- 1. Males who wish to return after studies
 - 2. Males who wish to stay after studies
- Number of Students**
- 1. Females who wish to return after studies
 - 2. Females who wish to stay after studies



Incidence of nationality in the voluntary return of students

Figure 4 presents data showing that the nationality is indeed a determining factor for students in sub-Saharan Africa, the choice to stay or return to the country of origin after graduation.

› Figure 4: Distribution of return to the country, by nationality

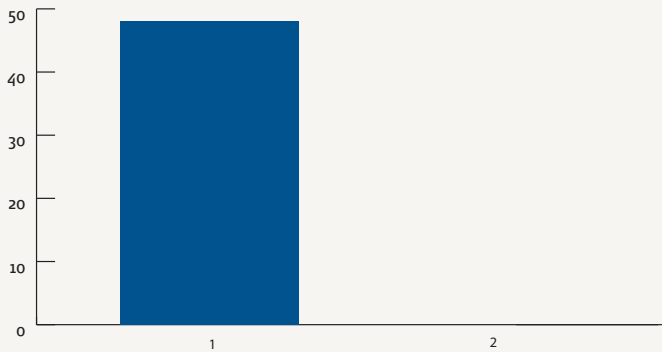


Back in the home country after graduation and career plans

Among the respondents who expressed explicitly their views on the issue of return, 50 of them, 11% of all respondents initially representing 15% of respondents wishing to return to their countries of origin, say already have a career plan.

> Figure 5: Distribution of return to the country of origin with or without professional project

1. Students with projects to go back
2. Students with projects to stay



Number of Students

1. Students with no project back
2. Students with no project to stay



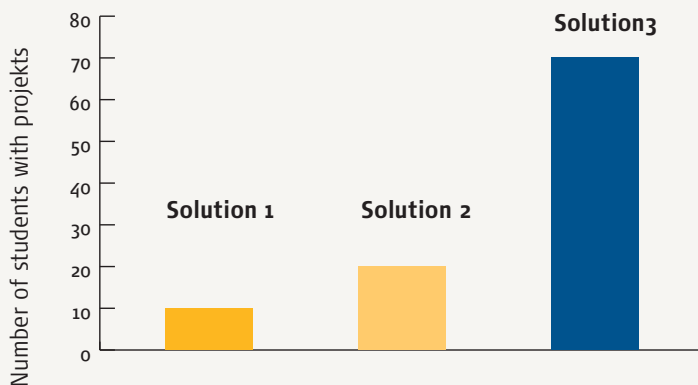
Choice of returning to home country after graduation: impact of support institutions

Students wishing to return to their countries of origin and carry a project, were interviewed to determine which of these proposals seemed most able to meet their requirements. Three solutions of institutional support because they were proposed:

- 1. Solution 1:** universities through support of the European Commission and / or their government, professional fund projects in the country of origin of their students and ensure monitoring.
- 2. Solution 2:** local authorities through their policy of decentralized cooperation and support of their government funding the voluntary return projects for students at endpoint residing in their territory.
- 3. Solution 3:** European governments under the leadership of the European Commission, setup an agency responsible for funding the voluntary return of students at study.

The results show that among students who intend to return to their home country with a project idea of a professional, 10% have chosen a solution, 20% and 70% solution 2 solution 3. Choice of returning to home country after graduation: impact of support institutions (EU, governments, local organizations, universities, etc.).

> Students with projects and concrete solutions



Conclusions

It emerges from the survey that the myth of return still exists among African students and needs to be fed by bold policies that can encourage returns. The survey results lead us to reflect on the concrete measures it is important to take France to promote the return of students to their countries of origin. This is long term, through a pragmatic action plan and bold, to measure the extent of migration, particularly the presence of students in sub-Saharan Africa in France. The provision of appropriate responses can not ignore the expectati-

3.6 Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR)-Programme



Silvia Lobontiu
Romanian National Council for
Refugees (CNRR), Romania

Romanian National Council For Refugees

A Non-Governmental organisation established in 1998

Public utility foundation starting with 2003

Our Mission: To promote and defend, by all legal means, human rights in general and the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers in particular.

We believe that this protection means that each asylum seeker has the right to a fair, public and timely trial by an independent, impartial and competent court of law.

Voluntary Return and Reintegration in Country of Origin – RF09.01.02.01

Project financed within the framework of the General Program Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows the European Return Fund

- 75% – European Union

- 20% - Romanian Government through the Ministry of Administration and Interior – Romanian Immigration Office
- 5% - Romanian National Council for Refugees

A 14 month project aimed at providing assistance and organizing return movements for:

- Migrants with illegal stay;
- Rejected asylum seekers;
- Asylum seekers that interrupted the application procedure in order to return to their country of origin;
- Irregular migrants

The project has 4 main assistance components, namely:

1. Regular assistance for the migrants enrolled in the program
2. Assistance for vulnerable cases – qualified personnel can accompany the migrant to final destination
3. Assistance for medical cases – qualified medical personnel can accompany the migrant to final destination
4. Reintegration assistance for selected cases

The assistance provided within this project consists of:

A. Assistance for enrolment in the program:

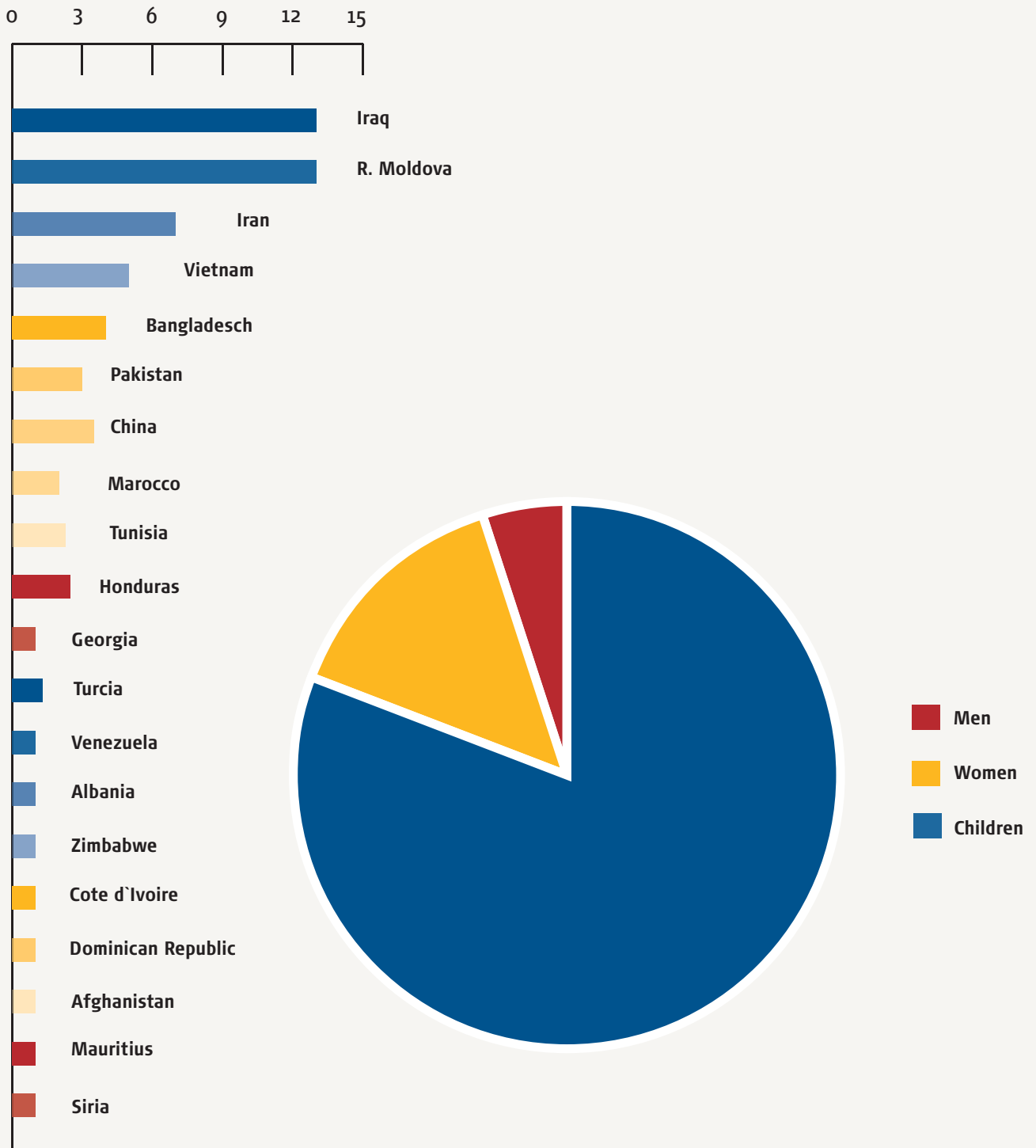
- Explaining all the procedures regarding the voluntary return and the possible consequences
- Filling in the forms
- Support for the migrants that do not have a travel document, or the one they hold is no longer valid
- Support for writing the reintegration plan – for the migrants that want to participate in the selection process
- Providing up to date information regarding the possible reintegration in the countries of origin

B. Movement assistance:

- Providing all the necessary documents that the migrants need in order to leave the Romanian territory
- Organizing all the travel arrangements and purchasing the tickets
- Pocket money for all the migrants
- Pre departure/Airport assistance
- Contact and cooperation with an NGO from the country of origin regarding the implementation of the reintegration plan, for the selected cases



> Statistics of returnees



- All 72 migrants enrolled in the program received pocket money for their journey back home;
- 4 migrants filled in the application forms for the reintegration allowance, but all of them changed their minds;
- 1 migrant was provided operational escort to the country of origin
- 1 migrant was provided medical escort to the country of origin

3.7 Network on Return



Ewa Jonsson
Swedish Red Cross

Over all object and aim

To contribute to a return in safety and dignity for rejected asylum seekers
To contribute to a safe, dignified and sustainable return by offering extended and reinforced support to asylum seekers, who are obliged to leave Sweden after having their asylum applications rejected.

IFRC – Policy on Migration ASSIST MIGRANTS IN RETURN

"Return to the place of origin is not the necessary end or solution of migration. Migrants may prefer to stay where they are, for an extended period or permanently. While providing counselling and informing migrants about their options, National Societies cannot and shall not decide what solution is the best, and must at all times maintain their impartiality, neutrality and independence. When migrants do return they face particular challenges; to assist and protect them, cooperation and agreement between National Societies in countries of destination and return is essential".



European Union
European Return Fund

Learnings

- The importance of having a close cooperation with the national society in the country of origin
- The importance of linking pre departure counselling with return assistance upon arrival
- The benefit of using already existing networks
- The need to link national and international work within RC/RC
- The importance of monitoring in order to ensure relevant and durable return assistance programmes, and to verify the accuracy of return decisions
- The need to adjust to different categories of returnees e.g. elderly, disabled, young people etc.

Project objectives

1. To facilitate the return through increased support return and improve conditions for social reintegration of asylum seekers from Iraq, Kosovo and Serbia, who were not granted a residency permit in Sweden.
2. To facilitate the return through basic support for asylum seekers from six countries, in addition to those covered by the first objective
3. To ensure that the Swedish Red Cross is a part of a Swedish and European network for assisting returnees, which through coordination will strengthen and further develop existing activities.
4. To raise awareness on return; opportunities and obstacles, within and outside the Swedish Red Cross.

WHAT IS NEEDED?

I will return! What do I need?

- **Reintegration support:** Housing, livelihood, health care, psycho social support etc.
- **A solid foundation:** A legally secure examination of the application has been made in Sweden. The person has received adequate information about the return process as well as up dated country information. Support in the decision process (to chose to return or an other option).

Monitoring: What happens after arrival to country of origin

- Which, among other things can lead to advocacy, for a legally secure asylum procedure, a humane and dignified procedur when executing the rejection, with high credibility.

Pre-departure counseling

- Counseling will be provided locally, with support from centrally located return experts
- There is a protection need or humanitarian circumstances – We support the asylum claims
- When rejected – All circumstances have been taken into consideration.



Neutral och impartial information about the consequences of available options

- Complying to the decision to return – Country of origin information, needs assessment, planning...

Additional support

For some pre-departure counseling will be enough...

WHILE others may need additional support in both Sweden and in the country of origin...

Reintegration

- Assisting in contacts with authorities, organizations, handicap tools, psycho social support, accomodation, medicin etc.
- Food parcels, hygien parcels, language training etc.



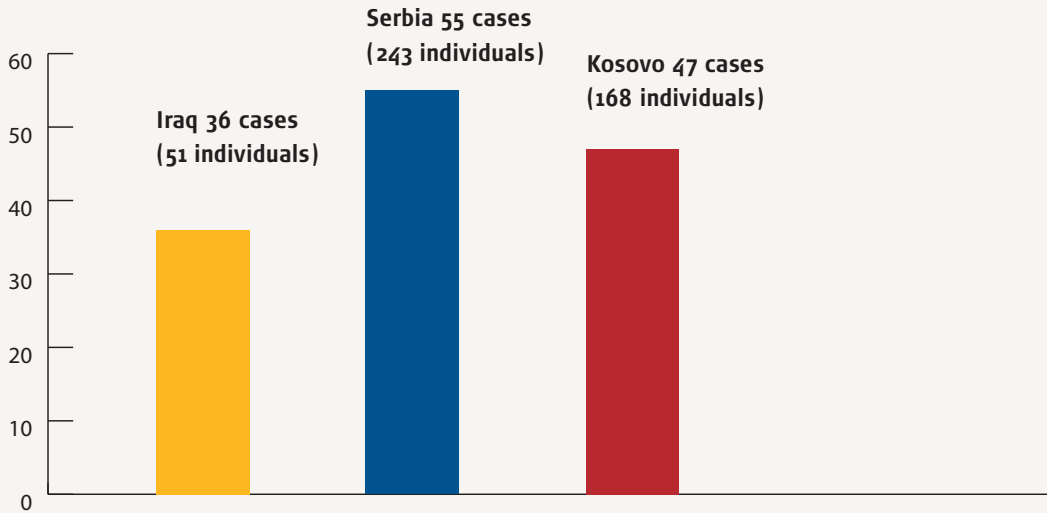
> Extended project organization



> Is there a need to assist returnees?

Period of time: 01.06.2010 – 30.06.2011

Number of registered cases in Sweden (138) = 462 individuals. 226 of 462 individuals have returned



Other countries: 25 (31)

3.8 Choices



Catherine Lennox

Refugee Action, United Kingdom

Refugee Action

- Refugee Action is a national UK charity
- 30 years of experience in delivering advice and information
- services and community development programmes for refugees and asylum seekers.
- www.refugee-action.org.uk

Refugee Action Services:

- Asylum Advice - contacted by clients 55,000 times last year
- Gateway Protection Programme - resettlement of refugees
- Refugee Integration and Employment Service (RIES)
- 'Choices': Assisted Voluntary Return Programme - expect to assist up to 5,000 clients per year

Choices:

- Refugee Action has provided advice services on the Assisted Voluntary Return programme for the last 10 years.
- Refugee Action's Choices service has been delivering the UK Border Agency Assisted Voluntary Return programme (AVR) from the 1st April 2011.

The service is offered to:

- Asylum seekers and refused asylum seekers (VARRP)
- Families & children (AVRFC)
- Irregular migrants (AVRIM).

Choices AVR Service - Beginning to End

- Pre-decision
- Application
- Reintegration planning
- Documentation, flights
- Departure assistance and Start Card
- Arrival assistance
- Reintegration support - Choices and Overseas partners
- Feedback (clients and partners)



The approach:

- Non – directive, confidential and impartial
- Integrated with other services
- e.g. Hotham Report and
- Family Key Worker Pilot
- Individual approach (needs based)
- Improves well being and reduces anxiety
- Early intervention
- 'Case management'
- Improved decision making ability

G Mitchell (2006) Hotham Mission Asylum Seeker Project Description, Hotham Mission, Melbourne
<http://asp.hothammission.org.au/> (Accessed 10.10.2006)

Reintegration Services:

Sub contracted reintegration services in:

- Bangladesh
- India
- Iraq
- Pakistan
- Sri Lanka
- Zimbabwe

Next Steps:

- New countries and partners
- Service Developments



3.9 Return of unaccompanied minors: The CAFI approach

The Comprehensive Approach Family Involvement (CAFI) in case of return of unaccompanied minors



**Tin Verstegen &
Hajo Visscher**
NIDOS, The Netherlands

Summary Position Paper Nidos, September 2011

Wider involvement in return

In the Nidos Position Paper that will be published in the end of 2011 we shall explain why it is important to achieve a much wider involvement than exists at present when working on return of unaccompanied minors to their countries of origin. An involvement that is not just child oriented but, from the beginning, will also be oriented towards the family (whether visible or not) in the country of origin. With real investment in Europe as well in the country of relocation in conditions for promising relocation of unaccompanied minors and, in doing so, connecting up with the commitment of the child. Relocation as a key to reintegration.

Clarity at an early stage

Return can only be worked on for children who do not fear persecution in their country of origin and if it is in the interest of the child. In this respect, Nidos is of the opinion that a stay in the Netherlands or in Europe is not always in the interest of the child; in the view of Nidos, it is best for a child to stay with his family. Unaccompanied minors must receive clarity about their residence perspective as soon as possible. This is extremely important for the development opportunities of the minors. If the individual perspective is return, this should be realized as soon as possible. If the child's efforts and the efforts of the authorities do not result in realization of the return, the consequence should be that the child will after all receive a residence permit. In the opinion of Nidos, this is part of a conclusive approach.

Safety, investment, cooperation and durability

If, upon return, the safety of the minor is certain and guaranteed, subsequently working on return (always tailor-made and based on the commitment of the child) must be characterized in particular by investment, cooperation and durability. It concerns an integral approach in which investments are made in children from their arrival in the Netherlands (investment). It also concerns being present and an active role of reliable contact persons to look into and support the families in the countries of origin (cooperation), who can be involved when we think of return to family. Furthermore, it is essential that return provides not a temporary but a durable perspective (durability).

Successful relocation of a minor

For successful relocation it is important at any rate:

- that the place of relocation provides security to the child concerned and that it is also experienced as a safe and familiar place by the child.
- that, in order to limit disorientation upon return as much as possible, investments are made in providing tools, knowledge and resources so that the child can take his or her place in society holding his head high;
- that the place of relocation meets elementary (educational) conditions;
- that (if possible) the family is involved as soon as possible and that investments are made in the family;
- that we must deal with relocation that provides a durable perspective;
- that, after return, counselling is provided in the country of origin by a reliable organization;
- that it will lead to success stories of minors who returned earlier.

Reception in an orphanage is mostly not in the interest of the child

Internationally, long-term reception in orphanages is increasingly considered an out-dated (Western) concept that is not in the interest of the child. International research shows that children in homes experience serious development threats in the cognitive, social and emotional fields.

Moreover, there are questions about the security, coaching, durability, medical care, the extent to which trust is inspired, development, reintegration and isolation of minors returning to an orphanage.

Return to family

The interest of the child is of primary concern in the case of return. Nidos considers reception in family and family-based care the best option for the child to return to a familiar and reliable environment. Often this is not the easiest way, but it is something we have to do in the interest of the children. This is also in line with the instruction given in international standards and conventions.

The approach must therefore also incorporate early efforts to find relatives via tracing. After the family has been traced, the family must be made co-responsible for the situation of the child. A method like the 'Group Conference', developed in New Zealand, may be helpful in this respect (literally also cross-border). Because the circumstances under which children leave may also be found within the family (human trafficking, abuse, educational impotence and the like) the security and financial capacity must also be looked into to determine in the end if well-advised return is possible. The return must always be such that the minor can keep his head high.

Review by the Juvenile Court Judge, if necessary

A request for transfer of guardianship or restoration of parental authority of children in the Netherlands must always be brought before the Juvenile Court Judge, which will review this with a view to the interest of the child. But in the Netherlands the Juvenile Court Judge is not involved in the situation of returning unaccompanied minors. A review by the Juvenile Court of the merits of the case, at a moment that there is some doubt concerning the transfer of the custody of that individual returning minor, would, in our opinion, comply with the spirit of national and international legislation and conventions in respect of asylum seekers' children. We must therefore enable submission of the case to a Juvenile Court Judge for review of its merits.

Key to success: commitment of the child

Successful return of unaccompanied minors is not possible without fulfilling the most elementary condition for successful return, viz 'the commitment of the child'. Obtaining the commitment of the child for the realization of his specific plan of return is part of the counselling. At the same time, this requires that the counsellor has a sense of timing and takes the individual circumstances of the child into account; commitment can also be lost.

Comprehensive approach

It is important to invest many more efforts in the minor's family in the country of origin. Not focused on one single aspect, such as only localization, but from a comprehensive approach based on the following three essential pillars upon return of unaccompanied minors to their country of origin:

- I. The interest of the child
- II. The international rights of the child and
- III. The commitment of the child

A Comprehensive Approach Family Involvement (CAFI) for successful return of these children requires:

1. That for each minor a guardian is appointed guaranteeing that

- there is one responsible person who takes care of the interest of the child (creating conditions and interfering where necessary);
- the commitment of the child can be developed;
- application of the rights of the child is ensured (involving a lawyer, the court, in case of doubt, etc.).

2. In Europe and in the country of relocation investments are made in the minors so that they can take tools, resources and knowledge with them in order to find their durable places in society with pride and with their heads high.

3. Investments are made in tracing organizations in all countries of origin.

4. That efforts are made to have the minor return to family instead of to an orphanage.

The family in the country of origin must be involved as early as possible. More is required to return properly in a family context than only the tracing of the family. We must invest in the foundation for that return to family.

This means also that a reliable organization follows up the examination into the family where the relocation takes place, checking the individual security of the returning children on the spot, so that the place of relocation provides security and development opportunities to the child and that this is also experienced as a safe and familiar place by the child.

In case returning to their own family is impossible that there will be investments in family-based care.

5. That investments are made in education in the country of origin.

Investment in education in the countries of origin, in which the returning minors also participate. This will contribute to successful return and have a preventive result.

6. That investments are made in monitoring

By involving the same reliable organizations in the countries of origin examining how the children are doing after return. These contacts at organizations in the countries of origin might serve as support for returned minors at their first steps in the country of origin.

Europe

The Position Paper of Nidos has been written based on the position as guardian of the unaccompanied minors in the Netherlands. However, the purport is not limited to the Netherlands. Even though mainly Dutch examples have been given, the content equally applies to the situation in other European countries. For that reason, also, the comprehensive approach proposed by us in the end is a challenge for all of Europe.



3.10 Position Paper on Return of Migrants



Peter Verhaeghe,
Caritas Europe, Belgium

Dear friends, colleagues,

It is a great pleasure for me to be here with you today. I'd like to thank the organisers, Caritas Augsburg and ZRB for the invitation to this important conference. Important indeed, for 2 reasons:

In the first place the debate about "return" has never before been as lively and high on the national as well as the European political agenda as today. Return of migrants is one of the so-called key-stones of the EU migration policy.

Secondly, this conference brings together the Caritas practitioners, the legal and social counselors standing with both feet in daily reality, experiencing the challenges and problems that migrants are facing, and Caritas advocacy people, a.k.a. "lobbyists", trying to

influence policy decisions on national, European and global level. This network, this link between daily practice and political advocacy, is one of the main strengths of Caritas.

The title of my intervention in the programme is "position paper on return of migrants". Caritas Europa is indeed preparing a position on this highly controversial issue, and wants this position to be firmly rooted in the daily experience of colleagues like you.

Two introductory notes:

1. Return is part of a wider context, including issues ranging from living conditions in countries of origin over migration policies, unequal treatment, undocumented migrants etc, but for the sake of clarity I will concentrate on return.
2. Terminology: forced versus non-forced return. Forced return operations must be monitored by independent bodies. Return and reintegration counseling can be successful only in cases of a voluntary or consented return. Voluntary return implies a choice between at least to equally valid legal options

Caritas applies the following principles to its service provision to people in need:

1. Counselling and assistance services are provided to every person in need without any form of discrimination;
2. Counselling and assistance services are provided on basis of mutual trust and respect between client and counsellor;
3. Caritas applies a Human Rights based approach;
4. High Quality Standards of services are applied.

These principles equally apply to return counseling

Return counseling also requires an enabling external environment. Caritas therefore advocates for the following standards to be respected in return policies and processes:

1. All forms of non-forced return should have priority over forced return
2. Persons expressing the wish to return should have access to independent counselling and assistance of their choice;
3. Counselling should allow the persons/client to take a free, autonomous and fully informed decision based on objective information about their perspectives in the country of residence and country of return;
4. The embassy should be contacted to arrange travel documents ONLY with the written consent of the person;

5. During the return process access to health care, basic education for children as well as family unity must be guaranteed;
6. Children should never be detained;
7. The migrant should have the opportunity at all times to withdraw his decision to return;
8. Removal operations should be monitored by independent monitoring bodies

Next to the principles mentioned above, Caritas wishes to apply specific standards in return counseling:

1. No "forced counseling";
2. Counseling includes preparation of a sustainable reintegration in the country of origin;
3. Caritas return counseling services closely cooperate with Caritas and other NGO partners in countries of return, in order to maximize the chances for a sustainable reintegration;
4. An African saying says: "it takes a whole village to raise a child". Caritas strongly encourages a community based approach for the implementation of reintegration projects. In this way we reduce the risk of failing individual reintegration projects or having a negative or no impact on local development projects.

In conclusion:

Caritas applies its general principles on service provision also to return counseling; Caritas advocates for standards to be respected in national and EU return policies and processes; Caritas provides return counseling services only if standards are respected; Return counseling must include a reintegration plan. Cooperation with partner organisations in countries of origin is essential to increase the chances to a sustainable reintegration.

On basis of these elements, Caritas Europa advocates on EU level for an evaluation of the application of the EU Return directive and a review of the current directive; e.g. the reflection period (currently between 7 and 30 days) needs to be reconsidered and should take into account the individual situation of the person and his/her family. The best interest of the child should prevail. Forced return operations must systematically be monitored. Adequate financial instruments must be foreseen under the new EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2014 – 2020, in particular to ensure coherence between funding for return and for reintegration measures (as a logical implication of the EU's commitment for Policy Coherence for Development in order to achieve the MDGs).

Thank you for your attention and I'm looking forward to having a fruitful exchange of views with you on this topic.



4. WORKSHOPS



Dr. Dirk van den Boom,
International Consulting
Services, Moderator

4.1 Basic political and legal conditions of voluntary return in a European comparison

I. EU guidelines and EU Return Directive

After a short deliberation of EU policy-statements in regard to voluntary return, the discussion circled around the question, in as to how far the EU Return Directive is a. relevant for the member states and b. has been implemented according to the set time-table. It became quite clear that relevance and adherence are quite diverse. While most countries have implemented the Directive until the middle of 2011 either completely or partially, for some countries the Directive has either not been relevant because the government has withdrawn from it (like the UK) or because the already existing standards are deemed to be higher than those outlined in the Directive (like the Netherlands or Germany). For the new member states in the East, the standards of the Directive are mostly higher than those apparent in the national policies, and have to a certain degree inspired political changes.

Conclusion: the Return Directive can be a helpful tool to improve the political and regulatory framework for voluntary return in those countries whose standards have been lower. Still, the directive lacks more specific standards and success indicators in important areas and a public debate has not taken place in a sufficient matter, either because the Directive is less than expected or because national governments feel reluctant to include NGOs in the implementation of the guidelines.

II. The relationship between forced and voluntary return in EU member states

In order to ensure that voluntary return can be discussed vis-à-vis its importance to forced return, the working group elaborated the current situation in five member states represented (not more, as time was running out). The discussion about the situation in the UK, Germany, Portugal, Poland and Romania showed a considerable diversity in approaches, ranging from the use of detention centres to time-limits up to the way forced return has been implemented. These varieties are partly addressed by common standards of the Return Directive. While in the UK forced return is quantitatively still more important than voluntary return, in Romania the situation is the opposite. In Portugal the amount of voluntary return has been on the increase for some years because of the economic crisis and the return of Brazilian nationals to their home-country. In Germany it has been pointed out that federal states sometimes implement forced return differently and that the issue of "safety" is under continuous debate.

Conclusion: Voluntary return is either seen as a cheaper way of return and therefore preferred politically, or it is not well developed enough as a regulatory answer to really be compared with forced return. In some countries, the development of measures and the awareness towards voluntary return is still lacking (Portugal, Romania) and therefore it is not always seen as a real and viable alternative either to forced return but also to follow the "natural instinct" of integration.

III. Different attitudes towards the inclusion of NGOs into the implementation of voluntary return

The discussion centred around the relationship between NGOs and the state sector in the field of voluntary return. Within this context, it became quite evident that the political culture and administrative traditions of each member state determine the role NGOs can play in this area. While in many Eastern European countries, the state apparatus has the tendency to cling to its authority as much as possible and is obviously reluctant to give a share of responsibility to NGOs – and exemplified with Romania in the debate –, in many Western European countries the role of NGOs is stronger and more visible, but also varies in regard to the political setup (centralism – federalism) or the traditions of civil society and its relation to the state apparatus. While the rough distinction can be made, the example of Poland shows that with time, the influence of the civil society and its organisations can improve and effect real political pressure, as has been shown in the case of the recent amnesty law promulgated in that country.

Conclusion: While NGOs are certainly important as neutral and respected institutions better equipped to attract migrants into an advice-process, the role of NGOs as well as their bargaining-position vis-à-vis the state apparatus varies heavily. Increased advocacy for common guidelines for the inclusion of the civil society into the process of voluntary return might help to alleviate the differences, but diversity in political and administrative traditions will remain to be influential.

Overall conclusion: The workshop members agreed on the need to continue to exchange experiences on this matter; especially if the desire to have more stringent and precise common guidelines and harmonisation is to be taken seriously. The current situation, nevertheless, is characterized by a high degree of diversity in relation to quality of implementation, funding, administrative setup, political attention and impetus, role of EU- guidelines and directives, the role of NGOs, the accessibility of advice and other services and the quantity of returnees served. This diversity is sometimes necessary because of the different migration situations and therefore harmonization will find its natural limits. On the other hand, minimal standards are still required and should be oriented on best practices available.



4.2 Structures of voluntary return counselling centres in European comparison



Sonja Schipf,
Bavarian Central Return
Counselling Office (ZRB)
South Bavaria

The participants of this workshop were from different organisations in Estonia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Greece, Poland, Romania, Austria and Germany.

The main emphasis of the discussion and the interchange in the workshop was by the East European countries.

A comparison was made between the countries for example based on:

- target – group
- responsibility
- aims of the organisation
- different offers and possibilities of support
- public relations
- national and international cooperation and follow-up care

The result was that the structures of voluntary return counselling centres in the East European countries are very rudimentary at the moment.

In most cases, the counselling centres can only provide information about the possibilities that refugees have in the country and on returning. They can then arrange financial support from IOM (International Organisation of Migration). IOM is for the returnees the only possibility to obtain financial support. Only Bulgaria offers the opportunity to receive additional financial help up to 2,000- € / per person in special cases.

The workshop members reported that most of the refugees do not want to register themselves in East European countries. The people see these countries only as transit countries not as destination countries. And so there are only a few of cases of return and the development of structures is in its early phases. In Austria and Germany the structures are better and with different support options for returnees; for example, financial help to start up a business, qualifying measures or medical help.

It is hard to make a comparison with such different prerequisites, but at the conclusion of the workshop, the participants wrote down their wishes with regard to work and structures of voluntary return counselling.

The most frequently mentioned wishes were:

- to have more project partners and networks within the European Union to share information about home countries,
- more cooperation partners in the home countries to reach more reintegration-assistance, sustainability and follow-up care.

The structures are really different, but the wishes are often the same!



- "I would like strong international cooperation in order to share information about the countries of origin in order to be able to provide a professional return counselling"
- "A well-organised central platform would be necessary to make this wish come true"
- "Formulate minimum standards for voluntary return assistance for EU member states"
- "Sustainable reintegration support → more money and better monitoring for reintegration in the country of origin"
- "Experience exchange meetings"
- "More transnational exchanges"
- "Regulation of funds for voluntary return activities"
- "More cooperation with other EU projects"
- "European network and conference should continue"
- „Preparation of setting up an RPC in terms of“:
 - Networking at a European and international level to explore the situation and possibilities in countries of return
 - Registration of applications of potential returnees
 - Training of country of origin experts and counsellors
- „Repatriation counselling centres activities“:
 - International protection needs assessment, preferably by UNHCR.
 - Counselling on possible training in country of origin
- „Reliable partners in countries of return“
- „Continue the process of information exchange, best practice and networking“
- „More reintegration programs“
- „More cooperation, exchange of experience between organisations (national and international)“
- „A network of voluntary return counselling centres in Europe“
- „A more returnee-focused and sustainable AVR based on a much larger period of post-return monitoring!“
- „Less or no pressure from state authorities“
- „More means for reintegration in more countries of return“
- „More cooperation within EU countries (ERSO)“
- „Identification of reintegration “double structures” in the home countries and connect those organisations ,making them accessible to all returning refugees Cooperation among NGOs, international agencies and having the same local partners from country of origin/return → standardise the minimum“
- „Create a better European network“

4.3 Term of „voluntary return“



Indra Jani

Caritas Association of the Diocese Augsburg, workshop moderator

This workshop dealt with the meaning of the term "voluntary return":

"As for our clients, voluntary return material sense doesn't exist. For most of them, their goal to beginning a new life in the host country will not become a reality, as their process has been rejected. Consequently, they find themselves in a position with very limited options. In this position, NGOs can help these people take matters into their own hands".

"**Repatriation** of a migrant based on his/hers own personal and informed decision to return to the country of origin".

"**Voluntary return means** that people want to live in their own country. They must think that life in their country is better than it is now in the foreign country".

"**Voluntary return** is an additional option for persons who don't find or haven't perspectives to live in the country of destination. These individuals can make their own decision to return to their home country".

"**Voluntary return** means the own wish/will of the refugees/migrant to return to his/her home country. There is no pressure from any other state authority. The refugee is not influenced by anyone; it is his/her own decision to return".

"The term **Voluntary return** means the unforced and impartial decision of a person who willingly freely feels to return to his/her country of origin following unsuccessful asylum application".

"**Voluntary return** the own "free will" – not under pressure or force. **Repatriation** means return to country of origin; How much "freedom of choice" is there "against their will"- just because you may wish for something does not mean that you are entitled to it and can have it. We all have some unrealistic expectations".

"**Voluntary return** means an individual returning to his/her country of origin by his/her own will. The question is how he or she made up his/her mind".

"**Voluntary return** means a person who asks assistance after having decided to return to his country of origin. This person leaves the host country where he has stayed for medium-long time. This decision is taken through an informed choice and a free (??) consent (never fully free). The decision is in most cases motivated by the failure of his expectations in the host country".

"Return to home country based on own free will and choice in the absence of any psychosocial pressure".

"**Voluntary return** means complete freedom to return home when I choose. **Repatriation** means that I am safely returned to my country of origin with a reasonable degree of safety and with dignity".

"**Voluntary return** means a decision for repatriation without any kind of pressure. Basic for voluntary return is a legal status e. g. possibility for residence permit in Austria. There are future prospects in both countries (destination/ of origin)".

“
Voluntary
” return

4.4 Reintegration in the country of origin- local projects, problems and opportunities



Claudia Schober
Caritas Association of the
Diocese Augsburg,
workshop moderator

Wish list/ Needs

Reintegration

- Another view of the term "Reintegration"
- Monitoring returned unaccompanied minors
- More reintegration monitoring
- Reliable contact organisation for checking family
- for returning unaccompanied minors

- Local partners
- Local partner support
- Cooperation with evaluation programmes

Organisation:

- More flexible funding
- Reliable local partners can provide information assistance
- Government accountability
- Stakeholders in the country of origin
- Capacity building
- Regular meetings between European counsellors and counsellors in the countries of return
- Guardianship form European organisation for local organisations in the countries of return
- European collaboration to have "some" reintegration possibilities
- Other politics
- A centralized platform where it is simple to join a programme
- Wider choice of reintegration options
- Family - involvement unaccompanied minors
- Reliable contracts

Counsellor:

- Time
- Become better connected
- Awareness- of possibilities in the country of origin
- Country visits in both directions
- Internships in both direction
- Support for counsellors when dealing with post return issues e. g. protection needs
- Increased collaboration between EU organisations
- Extremely advanced databank for information
- More network between the counsellors in Europe
- Inform counsellors about their clients who returned
- More detailed insider information about the original country, culture
- Knowledge in EU about countries of return

Returns:

- Bottom up
- Tailor-made assistance
- Jobs
- Skills
- Connectivity (peer groups)
- More evidence about factors which lead to a sustainable return
- More evidence about experiences of return
- Trust/ confident building
- Practical / realistic aims
- Remember! Not all the returnees wish to join a programme!
- Individual preparation training
- Possibilities for individual needs

4.5 Motivation of voluntary return counselling



Wolfgang Friedel

Caritas Association of the
Diocese Augsburg,
Head of division, Migration and
Foreign Aid, workshop moderator

From the client's perspective

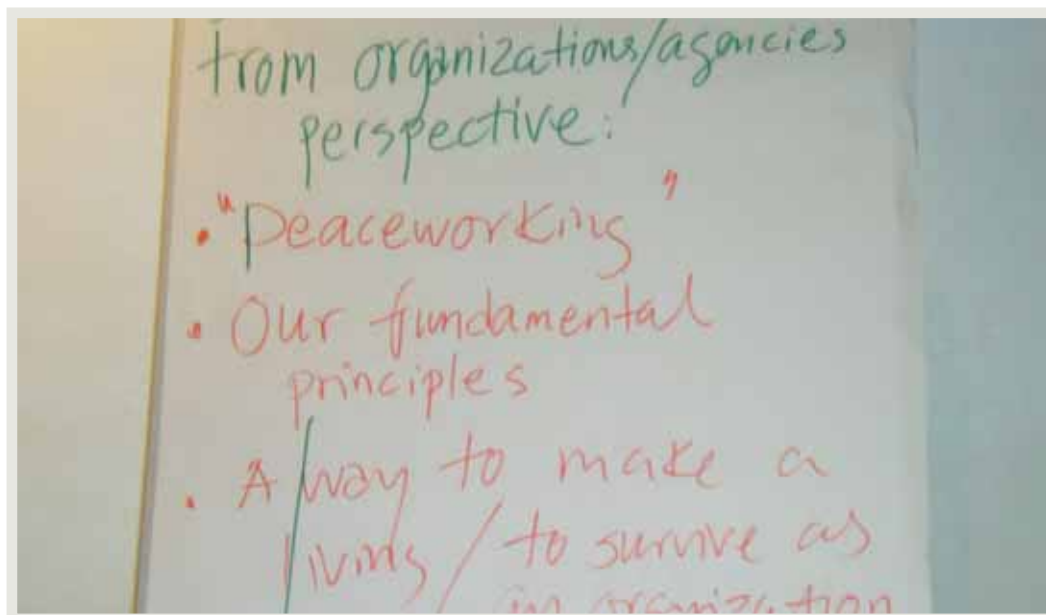
- Family in the country of origin
- The possibility of coming back
- Skills/training in the host country (to bring competence back home)
- Starting up business-support
- Political and/or social changes in country of origin
- Well-informed choices
- Better future prospects (getting a job)
- Holistic counselling

From the state's perspective

- Save money
- Image
- Fewer protests
- Easier to obtain travelling documents
- More sustainable return

From organizations/agencies perspective

- "Peaceworking"
- Our fundamental principles
- A way to make a living / to survive as an organisation



5. PANEL DISCUSSION:

IS IT POSSIBLE TO STANDARDIZE THE RETURN SUPPORT ON THE EUROPEAN LEVEL? A European comparison

The major question posed to the panel has been, if it is possible to standardize return-support within Europe. The moderator initiated the discussion with a different take: Is it actually feasible and useful to standardize return support or does the diversity of political and administrative setups and migration flows not foreclose any additional harmonization? The panellists identified some fields of cooperation where standards or at least a certain degree of harmonization seems to be feasible, starting from common definitions for important terms up to certain minimum requirements in regard to the financial package available for returnees. The participants accepted that because of the diversity, not all areas of activities can and should be standardized.

As the EU- commission has announced the promulgation of a common asylum policy for next year, the influence of these regulations has to be scrutinized as well. Increased exchange of information and the common cooperation with reliable organisations in the countries of return have been highlighted as especially important. Some debaters shared experiences both from their knowledge about the work of the EU-commission as well as the hurdles posed by their own national governments to exemplify the width and depth of the issue. An important issue pointed out has been the lack of cooperation and establishment of a common ground even among NGOs in the field, which has been seen by many as one of the major precondition before proceeding.

The discussion shared also views about the necessary stakeholders to be involved if standardization or harmonization should be achieved. The debaters were made aware of the fact that even if we expect the EU to take the lead, national governments are the major stakeholders because they prepare and initiate most of EU decision making. Also, because of the very nature of the EU context, while it might be feasible to include other important non-EU countries in the discussion – like Switzerland and Norway – it would most probably be more effective to start within the EU itself first. Contrary to this position, one debater gave attention to the fact that countries within the Schengen- agreement are already cooperating in migration matters and therefore should and cannot be excluded from any further debate. On the other hand, the inclusion of governments of return countries was highlighted and supported by many panellists, especially in view of their share of responsibility for returned citizens and the need for achieving sustainability of their return.

The participants of the discussion came to the conclusion that the area of possible cooperation and harmonization is wide, but that standards agreed should not be “minimal” in a sense that they can only be very low. The panel advocated that the proven best practice should be the orientation for the common

standard as much as possible in order to be useful also for those member states who have already achieved a certain degree of sophistication. In addition, a more reliable and demand-oriented financial framework for return activities was singled out as an important feature necessary for any effective harmonization, as well as reference for special and vulnerable groups among returnees, as the care for them should be at least comparable everywhere in the EU.



During discussion:

Silvia Lobontiu, CNNR, Romania, **Wolfgang Friedel**, Caritas Augsburg, Germany, **Stefan Leonescu**, JRS,

Romania, **Nasr Ishak**, UNHCR, Cyprus, **Peter Verhaeghe**, Caritas Europe, Belgium, **Arten Llazari**, RMC,

United Kingdom, **Ewa Jonsson**, Red Cross, Sweden

6. IMPRESSIONS

September 19th – 23rd 2011
Augsburg/Germany

01.



02.



03.



04.



01. Welcome of participants of conference at Exerzitienhaus St. Paulus, Leitershofen at Augsburg

02. Presentation of a voluntary return project

03. / 04. Participants at conference room "Petrussaal"

05.



06.



07.



08.



09.



10.



11.



12.



13.



14.



15.



16.



17.



18.



Page 54:

- 05. / 06. Dinner in dining room at Exerzitienhaus St. Paulus
- 07. Participants at conference room
- 08. / 09. Trip to Augsburg Town Hall

Page 55:

- 10. / 11. Dinner at restaurant "König von Flandern"
- 12. Franz Feigl, Administrative District of Swabia, guides through the accommodation for asylum seekers at Proviantbachstraße 41
- 13. Werner Neumann, Caritas Augsburg presents a project for mentally ill people
- 14. / 15. Guidance through the city of Augsburg

This page

- 16. / 17. / Press conference/Public Relation
- 18. Flags of states of the participants

7. TRIP TO VOLUNTARY RETURN COUNSELLING CENTRES IN EUROPE



Interview with **Nasr Ishak**
UNHCR Cyprus

7.1 Travel report: United Nations High Commissions for Refugees (UNHCR), Cyprus

Given the large number of refugees gathering in the Middle East and Africa, we wanted to find out if the first EU member state in this region, only a few kilometres away from the conflicts besetting the Middle East, is playing a special role in the uptake of refugees. Following the accession to the EU in 2004, over 10,000 refugees came to Cyprus. Today the number is around 3,000 a year.

The majority of the refugees are former labour migrants who have lost their residential status. They are trying to extend their stay by applying for asylum. 80 % of the 3,000 asylumseekers are sent back to their respective home countries following a brief review. Those whose applications are accepted can move around the country freely and, if they are the head of a family, receive ca. € 800, plus € 200 housing benefit. There has been no increase in the number of refugees from Syria because the latter strictly controls its coasts, and migrations to Cyprus as a rule take the route via Turkey and Turkish Cyprus. Only very few refugees reach Southern Cyprus from the Turkish occupation zone by crossing the border illegally.

As the population of Cyprus is not very large with 850,000 people, 25 % of whom are already migrants from countries like Sri Lanka and the Philippines, Cyprus very quickly reaches the limits of its capacity to accept refugees. There are too few jobs and too little housing. The initial reception facility is requesting space for another 60 persons. Further problems with the native population are attributable to the fact that the monthly benefits are fairly high, which leads to intensive demand.

UNHCR in Nicosia is planning to convince local NGOs to develop and/or offer targeted repatriation counselling in future. One solution could be the establishment of a new NGO for this. A proposal to establish it at Caritas would underscore that the Catholic Church is already intensively addressing the migrants' problems and would hence enjoy a much higher level of upfront trust where their return home is concerned. Ishak Nasr, the UNHCR representative in Nicosia, is trying to form a powerful network for establishing professional repatriation assistance. He has forwarded proposals to that effect to political decision-makers in Cyprus.

The situation in Cyprus is still overshadowed by the 1974 invasion. But at least in the southern part the internally displaced persons have meanwhile become well-established. At an evening meeting organized by UNHCR in Nicosia which was attended by the UN representative, 14 NGO representatives were invited to talk about concrete measures and think about solutions.

The UNHCR representative aims to reorganize NGOs in a new umbrella organization in order to integrate the interests of returnees in the migration consulting process. There was great interest amongst the representatives from both parts of the island. Various models were considered in lively discussions and one can ultimately only hope that the plans will be implemented.

The meeting was attended by:

- **Androulla Kaminara** (Representation of the European Commission, Head)
- **Carlos Ayala** (Representation of the European Commission)
- **Yiannis Laouris** (Future Worlds Centre, President)
- **Corina Drousiotou** (Future Worlds Centre, Legal Advisor)
- **Doros Polykarpou** (KISA - Immigrant Support Action Group, Chairperson)
- **Nicoletta Charalambides** (KISA - Immigrant Support Action Group, Legal Officer)
- **Yioulis Taki** (INDEX: Research and Dialogue)
- **David Officer** (INDEX: Research and Dialogue)
- **Canan Oztoprak** (Refugee Rights Association)
- **Emine Erk** (Turkish Cypriot Human Rights Foundation)
- **Maria Hames** (United Nations)
- **Maria Mihtiadou** (Reuters)
- **Sotos Michael** (Psychiatrist)
- **Maria Vourou** (Civil Servant)

Recommendable would be a one-year RF pre-project for preparing the expansion of this service and finding personnel within that year. Also required are increasing network efforts with local authorities to find support for this project in cooperation with them. Our visit to Cyprus clearly showed that the exchange of ideas based on the Augsburg conference is being further developed and that new impulses are being provided within the EU area.

Our visit to Cyprus clearly showed that the exchange of ideas based on the Augsburg conference is being further developed and that new impulses are being provided within the EU area.



7.2 Travel report: The Red Cross, Sweden



During interview with Ewa Jonsson, The Red Cross Sweden (right)

Left: Maria Pollithy, Caritas Association of the Diocese Augsburg, project manager

The Swedish Red Cross has a branch for repatriation assistance in the town of Växjö in Småland. A team of 3 employees works here on a national Swedish level. After intensive statistical research, six countries have been selected for providing particular returnee support. Once they have emigrated from Sweden after extensive consultancy regarding all possible facts, the returnees are received by contact persons in their home country and supported in their further integration process. The local organizations are either run by the Red Cross or others who offer their services for a fee.

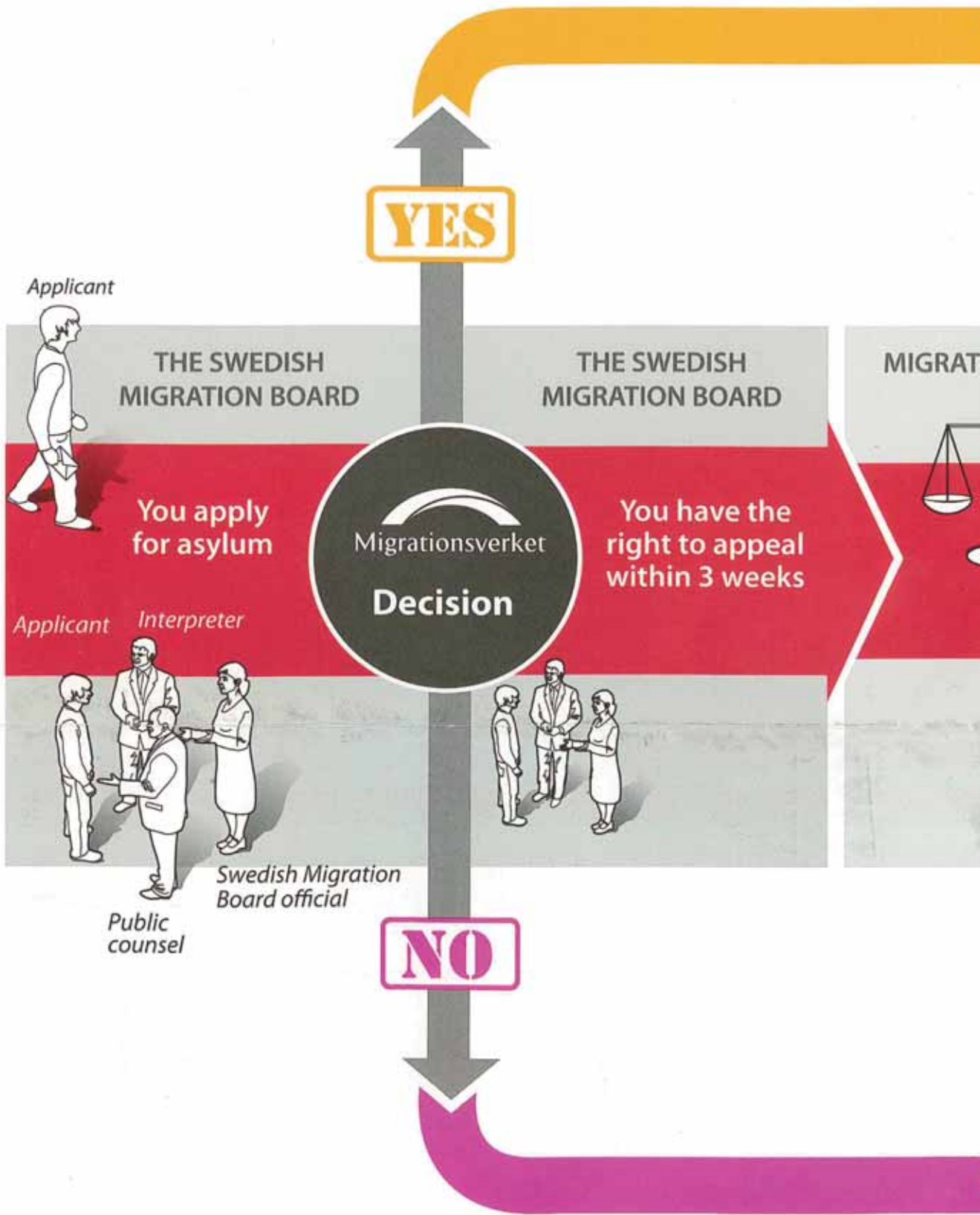
In addition to this, the social workers from Sweden visit their former clients and attend to how their actual integration (workplace, medical care, etc.) is proceeding for 12 months. If required, food parcels as well as hygiene materials can be provided here for a number of months.

There are individual applications with own budgets for all the activities in the six countries. This helps to take into account that the situations in the home countries can greatly differ and are often not comparable. The intensive follow-up support is exemplary and funded by the EU and the Swedish authorities. The number of documented returnees shows that the acceptance in their respective receiver countries is continuously rising and that the element of migration consultancy, in this case repatriation consultancy, stands the test.

According to the statements made by the Swedish colleagues themselves, the Augsburg conference has brought great benefits: To meet so many specialist attendees from various EU states in person and deepen the exchange on a working level.

After the 2011 conference, all the attendees are declaring themselves in favour of a continuation and further content development of the thematic complexes shown. The next transnational exchange should be planned for 2013 and implemented with the help of the EU.





can stay in Sweden

YES

YES

THE MIGRATION COURT OF APPEAL

You have the right to apply for leave to appeal within 3 weeks

Judgement

Judgement

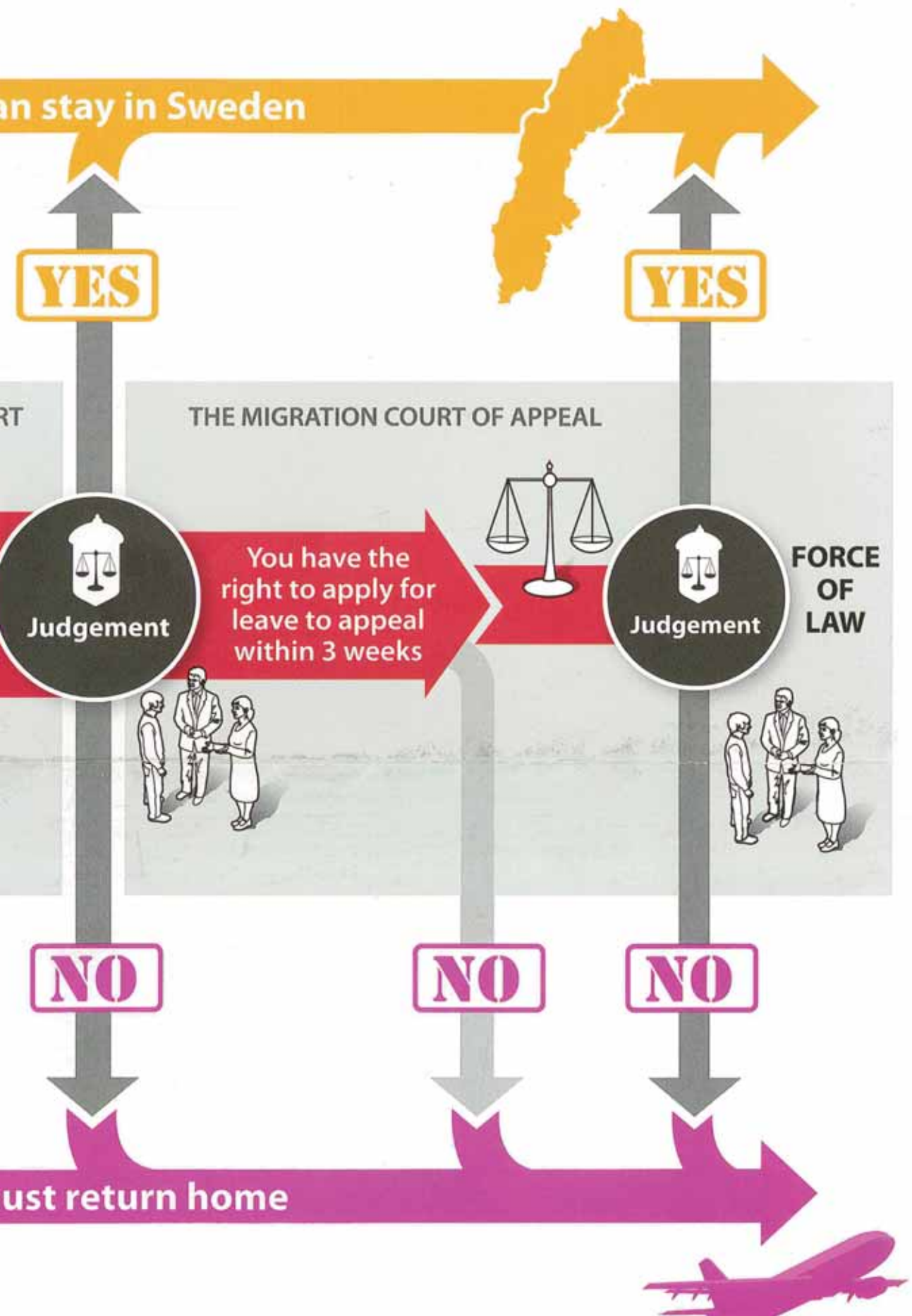
FORCE OF LAW

NO

NO

NO

must return home



APPENDIX

AGENDA

Dr. Dirk van den Boom

International Consulting Services,
moderator



> TUESDAY, 20th September 2011

- 10:00 Greeting**
Dietmar Bauer, Caritas Association of the Diocese Augsburg
- 10:15 Greeting**
Bettina Scheer, Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)
- 10:25 Greeting**
Dr. Hans Dick, Bavarian State Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare,
Family Affairs and Women
- 10:35 Greeting**
Gitta Schmid-Göller, Administrative District of Swabia (Interpreter: Indra Jani)
- 10:45 Overview of return projects in the European Union**
Maria Pollithy, Caritas Association of the Diocese Augsburg
- 11:15 Break**
- 11:45 Presentation of the Bavarian Central Return Counselling Offices (ZRB),
South Bavaria and their network**
Philipp Schaffner, Caritas Association of the Diocese Augsburg
Martina Sommer, Workers` Welfare Association (AWO) Nuremberg, Germany
- 12:30 Lunch**
- 14:00 netzwerk-rueckkehrhilfen.de - A web-based information network
for counselling returnees**
Kristina Kühn, Workers` Welfare Association (AWO) Nuremberg, Germany
- 14:45 Voluntary return of victims of human trafficking (FROM)**
Sandra Gombotz, LEFÖ-IBF, Austria
- 15:30 Coffee break**
- 16:00 Strengthening tailor-made Assisted Voluntary Return**
Anne Dussart, Caritas International, Belgium
Peter Neelen, Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (FEDASIL), Belgium
- 17:30 Presentation of the city of Augsburg` s City Hall**
Max Weinkamm, Representative of the Mayor, City of Augsburg
- 18:00 Dinner at "König von Flandern" in Augsburg**

> WEDNESDAY, 21st September 2011

- 09:00 Greeting**
Pfarrer Dr. Andreas Magg, Diözesan-Caritasdirektor,
Caritas Association of the Diocese Augsburg
- 09:15 European Reintegration Support Organisations (ERSO) - Project**
Lenie van Goor, Maatwerk bij Terugkeer, The Netherlands
- 10:00 Voluntary Actions for Orientation and Information for students
of Sub-Saharan Africa at the end of training to their country of origin**
Actions Volontaires pour l`Orientation et Information au Retour dans leur pays d`origine des
étudiants de l`Afrique sub-saharienne en fin de formation (A.V.O.I.R)
Yera Dembele, Fédération des Associations Franco-Africaines de Développement (FAFRAD),
France (Interpreter: Hong-Lam Pham)
- 10:45 Break**

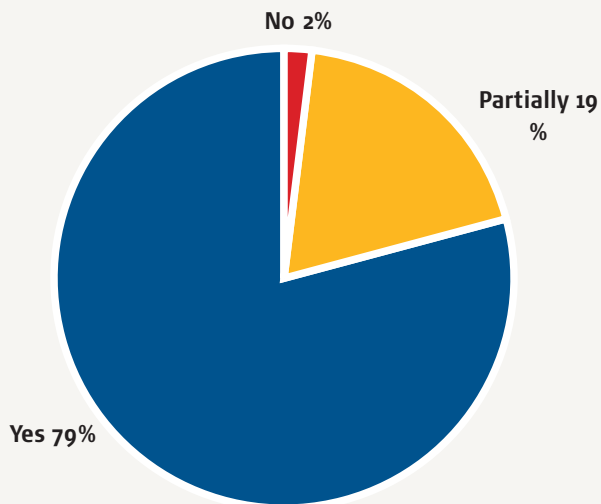
- 11:15 Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) Programme**
Silvia Lobontiu, Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR), Romania
- 11:45 Network on Return**
Ewa Jonsson, Swedish Red Cross, Sweden
- 12:30 Lunch**
- 14:00 Choices**
Catherine Lennox, Refugee Action, United Kingdom
- 14:45 Workshops**
- Basic political and legal conditions of the voluntary return in a European comparison
 - Structures of voluntary return counselling centres in Europe
 - Characterization of voluntary returnees in European comparison
 - Discussion of the term "voluntary return"
 - Reintegration in the country of origin - local projects, problems and opportunities
 - Motivation of voluntary return counselling
- 16:30 Coffee break**
- 17:00 Presentation of workshops results**
- 18:00 Dinner**

› THURSDAY, 22nd September 2011

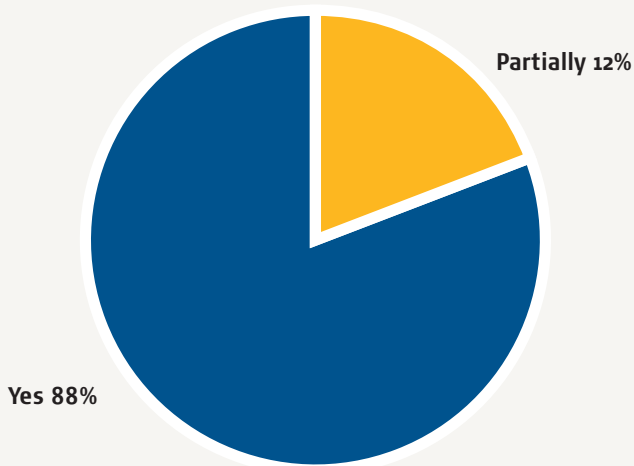
- 09:00 Return of unaccompanied minors: The CAFI approach**
Tin Verstegen & Hajo Visscher, NIDOS, The Netherlands
- 09:45 Position Paper on Return of Migrants**
Peter Verhaeghe, Caritas Europe, Belgium
- 10:30 Break**
- 10:45 Panel discussion: Is it possible to standardize the return support on the European level?**
- Wolfgang Friedel, Head of division, Caritas Augsburg
 - Peter Verhaeghe, Caritas Europe, Belgium
 - Ewa Jonsson, Red Cross, Sweden
 - Silvia Lobontiu, CNRR, Romania
 - Stefan Leonescu, JRS, Romania
 - Arten Llazari, RMC, United Kingdom
 - Nasr Ishak, UNHCR, Cyprus
- 12:30 Conclusion and evaluation of the conference**
Dr. Dirk van den Boom
- 13:00 Lunch / Public Relation**
- 14:30 Guided tour of accommodation for asylum seekers in Augsburg**
Franz Feigl, Administrative District of Swabia
Werner Neumann, Caritas Augsburg
- 16:00 Sightseeing in Augsburg, Regio Augsburg Tourismus GmbH**
- 18:30 Dinner**

EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK

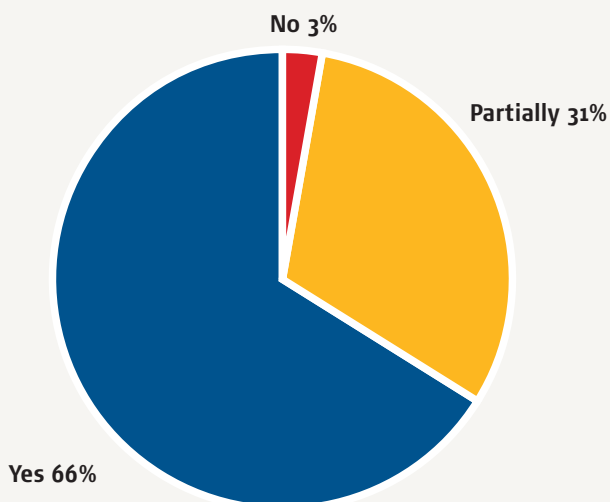
> Presentation gave new impulses/inspiration for my daily work



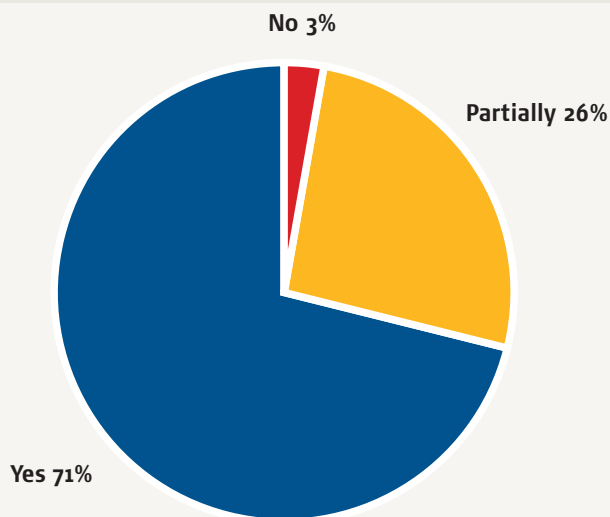
> Presentations were interesting/informative



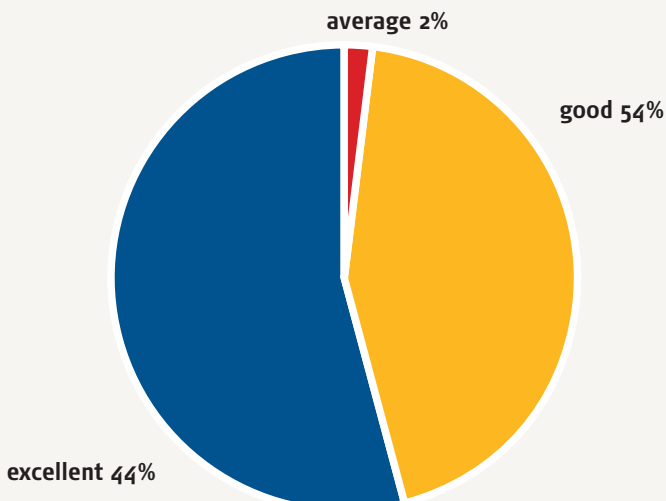
> Workshops were interesting/informative



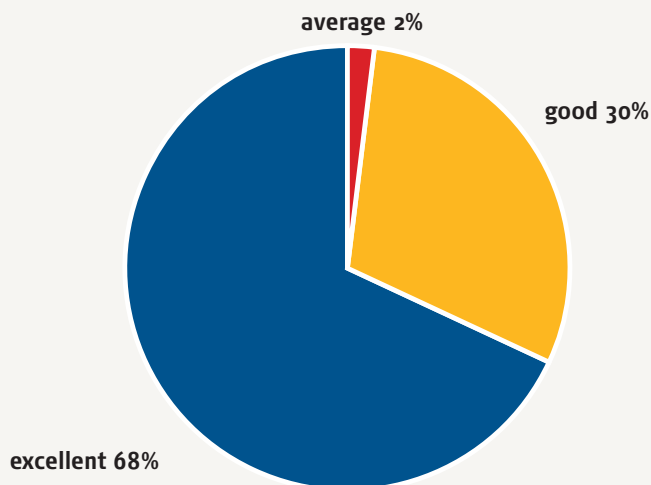
> Workshops opened up new possibilities for networking



> In summary the contents of the conference were...



> The logistical organisation was...



Feedback

“Congratulations for the organisation of the conference. It was interesting to find out what is happening in other countries, but most particularly to have the opportunity to network with such a wide range of partners”.

“More workshops and open discussions”.

“Break times were good but it was a very busy schedule. An earlier finish would have helped”.

“This conference should be arranged again!”

“Enjoyed sharing time with colleagues. It was useful to take into the account legal and political challenges”.

“Very useful and interesting international conference”.

“Friendly environment”.

“I would have like to have more opportunity to interchanges interact with the other members. That means the breaks were too short for discussions. The timetable was too strict”.

“Analysis of the standards and projects implemented at the European level with a view to shared experiences, comparisons of practices and new ideas”.

“Similar events should be organised more often as there is a need for the exchange of information and best practices”.

“Congratulation for such expert conferences on return. Thanks for the excellent organisation!”

“The conference is an “eye opener” and has certainly enabled me to understand and know many issues regarding voluntary return; I would like commend Mr. Dr. Dirk van den Boom, the moderator, for being very inspirational, exceptionally excellent and an eloquent speaker”.

“It would be good to have this conference next year, too. The conference was extremely useful for me regarding content and networking”.

“I would like to express my gratitude for the preparation of the conference, your kind invitation and the possibility to participate there. It was very enriching for us and me and my colleague want to appreciate the good organization. Thank you all”!

“I would also like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the warm and consistent hospitality extended to all participants throughout the conference and the excellent organisation of the different events. Be sure that I have enjoyed and feel benefitted from the opportunities this forum had provided, namely furthering knowledge on the issues addressed but also extending networking on a shared topic at European level.”

„Also thank you for everything you did for us last week. We were impressed with how well organised and professional the conference was”.

A light blue circular graphic containing the word "Feedback" in a bold, dark blue sans-serif font. The word is flanked by large, stylized blue quotation marks. The top-left and bottom-right corners of the circle are cut off.

Feedback

"First of all I would like to warmly thank you and the organising team for the organisation of such a successful conference! The presentations were very interesting, the discussion fruitful and the venue and schedule just perfect in order to concentrate and follow the entire program".

„Thank you very much for the excellent work and preparations that you and your colleagues have done. I was much honored to be among such a distinguished group of experts in repatriation counselling and members of other related organizations." (..) "Once again, please accept my sincere appreciation for the kind support you extended us during the conference"

„Thank you for the great organization of the conference. We are looking forward to any possible cooperation in the future"

"For me, the conference proved to be a very inspiring gathering of persons working on the topic of return counselling. I picked up a few good ideas and interesting contacts, and enjoyed giving the presentation on the Belgian experience. So, congratulations with the organisation of this event".

"Thank you for this great conference! Also for the excellent preparation and implementation. We have to fight for a good network in order to find individual solutions. It would be nice if the advisors from the countries of origin could participate in such a conference as equals. We Europeans should learn from them and the returnees. Thank you!"

"More of these conferences would be a good idea."

"My greatest respect for your organizational skills! The event was very well planned and the lectures very interesting. The combination of participants also provided ample opportunity to learn new things. And I do hope that the findings and the demands for which there was consensus will find their way to the relevant positions, in particular to those responsible at the Repatriation Funds with regard to minimum standards for advice and the advisors, the voluntariness of access to advice, better support offerings in the countries of origin and harmonization of financial support offers (in terms of the amount).

"I too would like to thank you once again for the fantastic repatriation conference you and your colleagues have organized. I had lots of fun, learned new things and met some very interesting people."





"I thought the conference was a great success and am very happy to have been able to participate. The lectures held by colleagues from various countries were very interesting and I wish I had had more time to speak to our European colleagues outside of the conference program. Thank you and I hope you have some time to recover from the very strenuous preparation this conference most certainly involved!"

"I would like to thank you once again for your invitation to this excellent event. Looking forward to continuing the good work with you."

"The conference in Augsburg was a great success!"




LIST OF VOLUNTARY RETURN PROJECTS

AUSTRIA						
Project title	Organisation	Project period	Target group	Objectives	Financing	Contact data
 Voluntary return of victims of human trafficking (FROM)	LEFÖ-IBF 	08/2010 - 07/2011	Third-country nationals under obligation to leave the state Women affected by human trafficking	National and international network for the development of previously existing structures for a voluntary and safe repatriation and reintegration of persons affected by the trafficking of women. Development of quality standards of hazard analysis and safe return and reintegration of persons affected by human trafficking. Return consultation and accompaniment of person affected by trafficking in women from third-countries, who have decided to return.	EU State	Florigasse 7a/7 A- 1040 Vienna Phone: +43 1 79 69 298 Fax: +43 1 79 69 299 ibf@lefoe.at
IRMA Integrated return management	Caritas Diözesen in Austria 	07/2010 - 06/2011	Third- country nationals with a permanent residence status and under obligation to leave the state	Due to professional return counselling in free consultation time and due to detention for deportation the project IRMA manages to contribute to the integrated return management in Austria and enables a voluntary and sustainable return in dignity.	EU State	Abrechtskreithgasse 19-21 A- 1160 Vienna Phone: +43 1 48831-0
„Return counselling from detention“	Caritas Linz 	07/2010 - 06/2011	Refugees under obligation to leave the state	Consulting of prisoners in social affairs with a focus on consulting with regard to the voluntary return to the home country.	EU Ministry of Interior	Mag.a Marion Huber (head of department) A-4020 Linz, Hafnerstr. 28 Phone: +43 0732 7610 2365 marion.huber@caritas-linz.at Mag.a Lisa Steinkogler (Project manager) Rainerstr. 15, 4600 Wels Phone: +43 072 42 / 29 301-2491 Mobile: +43 0676/8776 2771 lisa.steinkogler@caritaslinz.at
Return counselling Return preparation	Verein Menschenrechte Österreich (VMÖ)	07/201 - 06/2011	Third-country nationals with a permanent residence status and under obligation to leave the state	Counseling of people from different countries, who want return to their home country for various reasons. Organisation of the necessary documents and return. Professional counselling services, promotion of voluntary return as a more human and less stressful method to achieve departure as well as putting an end to hopeless asylum procedures in an acceptable way, avoiding actions of the police, quick and authentic support of clients willing to return in the preparation and organisation of their voluntary return.	EU Ministry of Interior	Günter Ecker Aiser Straße 20 A-1090 Vienna Mobile: +43 (664) 3003224 ecker@vereinmenschenrechte.at

LIST OF VOLUNTARY RETURN PROJECTS







BELGIUM

Project title	Organisation	Project period	Target group	Objectives	Financing	Contact data
Strengthening Tailor-Made Assisted Voluntary Return	<p>Caritas international Belgium</p>  <p>Project partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> federal agency for the reception of asylum seekers (FEDASIL) (Ministry of Social Integration) and the return fund Belgian (Ministry of Migration) FEDASIL (one year contract renewable every year) + return fund (every year new proposal) 	01/2011 – 01/2012	Refugees under obligation to leave the federal territory	<p>Today at Caritas Belgium, the reintegration possibilities for returnees are funded by the national government through the agency FEDASIL. This yearly automatically renewed funding became a stable and necessary program, but the funds for returnees are largely insufficient to rebuild an income-generating activity after return.</p> <p>Not only the possibilities for the beneficiaries don't meet expectations, also the means for capacity building are not enough to support all foreign partner organisations assisting the returnees and there is no possibility to look for creative solutions in order to assist returnees in a tailor-made individual manner. An additional concern in 2011 will be to specifically assist non-accompanied minors who return voluntarily, as well as Armenian returnees who struggle with medical problems.</p> <p>At last, CIB should also, besides the maintenance of the actual website with country information, change it to a more user friendly format.</p>	EU State	<p>Anne Dussart Liefdadigheidsstraat 43 Rue de la charité 1210 Brussels Phone: +32 2 2293604 a.dussart@caritasint.be</p>
Voluntary return: difficult topic, possible future path	Flemish Refugee Action (Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen)	01/2011 – 01/2012	Refugees under obligation to leave the state	To develop a methodology which enables social assistants to approach the topic of voluntary return with potential returnees (asylum seekers, rejected asylum seekers) at all stages of the asylum procedure (not only after a rejection). The methodology will be specifically conceived for social assistants who work in reception facilities for asylum seekers.	EU	<p>Claudia Bonamini Gaucheretstraat 164 1030 Brussels Phone: +32 274 00 38 claudia@vluchtelingenwerk.be</p>
CR1-plus: development of a methodology for an integrated assistance in the reception of asylum seekers	Flemish Refugee Action (Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen)	01/2011 – 01/2012	Refugees under obligation to leave the state	Sustainable reintegration and dignified life in the country of origin.	EU	<p>Claudia Bonamini Gaucheretstraat 164 1030 Brussels Phone: +32 274 00 38 claudia@vluchtelingenwerk.be</p>












LIST OF VOLUNTARY RETURN PROJECTS

BULGARIA						
Project title	Organisation	Project period	Target group	Objectives	Financing	Contact data
 Sustainable Voluntary Return of Third Country Nationals from Bulgaria	Caritas Bulgaria Project partners: • Bulgarian Red Cross • Bulgarian Helsinki Committee	02/2011 - 06 2011	Refugees with a permanent residence status	Sustainable reintegration and dignified life in the country of origin	EU State	Radosveta Hadjieva Sofia 1309, Bul. Al. Stambolliiski 190 bl.55, entr. "B", ap. 47 Phone: + 359 29200825 r.hadjieva@caritas-bg.org
ESTONIA						
Project title	Organisation	Project period	Target group	Objectives	Financing	Contact data
 Monitoring of Return	Estonian Red Cross 	01/2011 - 06/2012	Refugees under obligation to leave the federal territory	Humanitarian presence	EU State	Haide Laanemets Eha 8 10137 Tallinn Phone: +372 64 11 643 Fax: +372 64 11 641 haide.laanemets@redcross.ee
FRANCE						
Project title	Organisation	Project period	Target group	Objectives	Financing	Contact data
 Voluntary Actions for Orientation and Information for Students of Sub-Saharan Africa	FAFRADéconomique Project partners: • City of Senigallia	18 months	Only African postgraduate students	A.V.O.I.R. - Project underlines the need for integrated management of migration flows of African students, rely on real partnerships, universities, local communities, associations of immigration and the countries of origin of migrants.	EU State	38, rue de Campo-Formio F- 75013 Paris Phone: +33 14 42 43 62 7 Fax: +33 15 37 97 05 3 fafrad@free.fr





LIST OF VOLUNTARY RETURN PROJECTS

GERMANY						
Project title	Organisation	Project period	Target group	Objectives	Financing	Contact data
 <p>Bavarian Central Return Counselling Offices (ZRB), South Bavaria</p> 	<p>Caritasverband für die Diözese Augsburg e. V.</p>  <p>Project partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bavarian Red Cross • Diakonie Augsburg • Administrative District of Swabia 	07/2004 – 07/2011	Refugees under obligation to leave the federal territory	Counselling and assistance of voluntary return.	EU State	<p>Philipp Schaffner Alte Gasse 17 D- 86152 Augsburg Phone: +49 821 50 83 14 5 p.schaffner@zrbsuedbayern.de</p>
<p>Bavarian Central Return Counselling Offices (ZRB), West Bavaria</p> 	<p>Caritasverband für die Diözese Würzburg e. V.</p>  <p>Project partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bavarian Red Cross • Administrative District of Lower Franconia 	06/2008 – 05/2011	<p>Refugees with a permanent residence status</p> <p>Refugees under obligation to leave the federal territory</p>	Counselling with an open outcome with regard to the possibilities of voluntary return to the country of origin.	EU State	<p>Thomas Kipple Veitshöchheimerstraße 100 D- 97080 Würzburg kipplet@caritaswuerzburg.de</p>
<p>Bavarian Central Return Counselling Offices (ZRB), Nord Bavaria</p> 	<p>Workers' Welfare Association Nuremberg</p>  <p>Project partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bavarian Red Cross 				EU State Complementary projekt with the City of Nuremberg	<p>Carmen Drinkmann Marienstr. 23 D- 90402 Nürnberg Phone: +49 911 2352 222 Fax: +49 911 2352 226 Carmen.drinkmann@awonbg.de</p>









LIST OF VOLUNTARY RETURN PROJECTS

GERMANY						
Project title	Organisation	Project period	Target group	Objectives	Financing	Contact data
 Coming Home	Landeshauptstadt München - Sozialreferat, Amt für Wohnen und Migration, Büro für Rückkehrhilfen 	11/2008 – 10/2011	Refugees with a permanent residence status Refugees under obligation to leave the federal territory	Support of the voluntary and humanitarian return and reintegration of refugees, asylum seekers and thirdcountry nationals. Support in building up the structure of return counselling in Germany.	EU State	Sylvia Glaser Franziskanerstraße 8 D- 81669 Munich Phone: +49 89 233 40619 Sylvia.glaser@muenchen.de
Qualified return counselling and promotion of sustainable reintegration by professional qualifications including educational monitoring and networking in the home country	Caritasverband für die Diözese Aachen e. V. Raphaels-Werk 	12/2010 – 12/2011	Refugees with a permanent residence status Refugees under obligation to leave the federal territory		EU	Jean Bizimana Scheibenstraße 16 D- 52066 Aachen Phone: +49 94 92 7-0
Promotion of voluntary return by consulting in perspective and reintegration assistance	Caritasverband für das Bistum Essen e.V. Project partner: • Caritasverband für die Stadt Essen • Caritasverband Belgard 	12/2008 – 11/2011 (closed after the second year)	Refugees with a permanent residence status Refugees under obligation to leave the federal territory	To raise the number of voluntary departures in proportion to deportations and to reach sustainable returns to the home country with individual financial and social support.		Christoph Grätz Niederstraße 12 -16 D- 45141 Essen Phone: +49 201 81028-723 christoph.gratz@caritassen.de Martina Lüdeke Phone: +49 201-3200-351 m.luedeke@caritas-e.de





LIST OF VOLUNTARY RETURN PROJECTS

		GERMANY				
Project title	Organisation	Project period	Target group	Objectives	Financing	Contact data
Heimgarten Niedersachsen	Workers' Welfare Association Hildesheim-Alfeld (Leine) 	01.01.2011 – 31.12.2013	Refugees with a permanent residence status Refugees under obligation to leave the federal territory	Voluntary return counselling, promotion of voluntary return and reintegration.	EU Other	Osterstraße 39a D- 31134 Hildesheim g.guercan@awo-hi.de Phone: +49 05121.1790004
Reintegration assistance to integration in Kosovo	Workers' Welfare Association Nürnberg 	11/2010 - 10/2011	Refugees with a permanent residence status Refugees under obligation to leave the federal territory	Perspectives for a restart in the country of origin are developed in cooperation with the returnees, support in questions of finding flats/houses and work, goal is to connect the preparations of the return with the reintegration in the country of origin.	EU State	Martina Sommer Gartenstraße 9 90443 Nürnberg Phone: +49 911 27 41 20 11 martina.sommer@awonbg.de
Return Counselling Office South Baden	LV Badisches Rotes Kreuz und DRK KV Freiburg e.V. 	12/2007 – 12/2011	Refugees with a permanent residence status Refugees under obligation to leave the federal territory	Open outcome and autonomous consulting for refugees; information for institutions; associations; government agencies and initiatives; consulting and support in the planning and implementation of return and reintegration.	EU	DRK KV Freiburg Bissierstraße 9f D- 79114 Freiburg Phone: +49 761-5955876 or -4510461 Fax: +49 761-893999 rueckkehrberatung@dikfreiburg.de
Information - connection and exchange to improve the structure of the return and reintegration counselling	Raphaels-Werk - Dienst am Menschen unterwegs e. V.	03/2010 – 02/2011	Voluntary return counsellor in Raphaels-Werk	Concepts to improve counselling and information to develop the countries of origin. Tailor-made return and reintegration counselling with the involvement of an approved approach in the context of a national and international cooperation network. Regular monitoring of the reintegration progression after return in cooperation with the returnees themselves and partner organisations in countries of return. Contribution on the basis of many years of practical experience with different measures and approaches to integrated and sensitive return policy.	EU Church	Generalsekretariat Monika Schneider Adenauerallee 41 D- 20097 Hamburg Monika.Schneid@raphaelswerk.de Tel: 040-248442-18







LIST OF VOLUNTARY RETURN PROJECTS

GERMANY						
Project title	Organisation	Project period	Target group	Objectives	Financing	Contact data
 Voluntary return counselling	Diakonisches Werk Heidelberg  Project partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Heidelberg, Rhein-Neckar-Kreis (commune) • Baden-Württemberg (country) 	1 year	Refugees with a permanent residence status Refugees under obligation to leave the federal territory	Perspective and return consulting for persons willing to return and persons who have to leave the country.	EU State Church	Frau Deckwart-Boller Karl-Ludwig-Str. 6 D- 69117 Heidelberg Phone: +49 06221-537520
Regional consulting of refugees - return counselling	Multikulturelles Forum e. V. (DPWV)	01/2011 – 12/2011	Refugees with a permanent residence status Refugees under obligation to leave the federal territory	The aim of repatriation counselling is an independent, open outcome and individual consultation and information about risks and possibilities of return and reintegration in the countries of origin of refugees or to third-countries, if necessary	State (Ministry of Interior NRW)	Najibullah Azimi Bahnstr. 31 D- 44532 Lünen Phone: +49 02306 9339 27 Fax: +49 02306 9339 29 Najibullah@multikultiforum.de
GUS – Center of Excellence, voluntary return and reintegration assistance	AWO GmbH Bremerhaven - Karlsruhe office 	11/2007 – 05/2011	Refugees with a permanent residence status		EU State (North Rhine Westphalia)	Elmar Welt Lange Str. 4 D- 76199 Karlsruhe Phone: +49 0721-98929386 Fax: +49 0721-59841096 elmar.welt@heimatgarten.de
Return counselling in the districts of Borken and Coesfeld	DRK- gemeinnützige Gesellschaft für Soziale Arbeit und Bildung im Kreis Borken mbH 	12/2010 – 11/2011	Refugees with a permanent residence status Refugees under obligation to leave the federal territory	Counselling and support to find a decision; counselling and support during the return process; support in dealing with authorities; sustainable return (reintegration in the country of origin); networking with existing structures; networking with other counselling centres; cooperation with the local social welfare offices and with local social services	EU State	Lars Epping Röntgenstraße 6 D- 46325 Borken Phone: +49 02861- 8029-320 L.epping@kv-borken.dfk.de Maike Schulz Tel.: 02861- 8029-314





LIST OF VOLUNTARY RETURN PROJECTS

GERMANY						
Project title	Organisation	Project period	Target group	Objectives	Financing	Contact data
 Auswege - counselling and support of voluntary return	Diakonisches Werk Cologne and region 	20/2008 - 11/2011	Refugees with a permanent residence status Refugees under obligation to leave the federal territory	Counselling and monitoring of voluntary returnees; organisation of contacts on the ground; networks	EU State Church	Katharina Jagemann Brandenburger Str. 23 D- 50668 Köln Phone: +49 221 16 03 8-67 Fax: +49 221 16 03 8- 131 katharina.jagemann@diakonie-koeln.de
Perspectives und new start for refugees	Flüchtlingszentrum Hamburg- Zentrale Information und Beratung für Flüchtlinge gGMBH	12.2008 - 12.2011	Refugees with a permanent residence status Refugees under obligation to leave the federal territory	Support in planning and preparation of return, financial aid for vulnerable returnees; assistance in setting up a business; follow-up-care in the country of origin	EU State	Anne Helberg Adenauerallee 10 D- 20097 Hamburg Phone: +49 40 28 40 79 124 helberg@fz-hh.de
Counselling for voluntary return	Gemeinnützige Gesellschaft zur Unterstützung Asylsuchender (GGUA) e. V.	12/2008 - 11/2011	Refugees with a permanent residence status Refugees under obligation to leave the federal territory	Support for third-country nationals to voluntarily return; aftercare in their country; North Rhine-Westphalia and nationwide networking with other counselling offices	EU State (Bundesland NRW)	Anna Laumeier Südstr. 46 D- 48153 Münster
Project to voluntary return	Verband für interkulturelle Arbeit (VIA)	2009 - 2011	Refugees with a permanent residence status Refugees with acceptance	Qualification and integration in the labour market in the country of origin and in the EU	EU	Bundesgeschäftsstelle- Am Buchenbaum 21 D- 47151 Duisburg Phone: +49 203 72 84 28 2 Fax: +49 203 72 84 28 3






LIST OF VOLUNTARY RETURN PROJECTS

Project title		Organisation	Project period	Target group	Objectives	Financing	Contact data
 Perspective Home		Malteser Werke GmbH 	Since 07/2007	Asylum seekers in the central accommodation facility in Hemer, North Rhine-Westphalia in the current asylum procedure	Open outcome counselling and support of the voluntary return to the country of origin.	State	Sabine Knipps Apricker Weg 21 D- 58675 Hemer Phone: +49 2372 96 82 38 Fax: +49 2372 62 47 5 Sabine.knipps@malteserwerke.de
Perspectives- Advice for refugees who voluntarily return to their home country		Caritasverband für die Diözese Hildesheim e. V./ Raphaels-Werk Hannover 	12/2008 – 12/2011	Refugees with a permanent residence status Refugees under obligation to leave the federal territory	Independent and open outcome consultation of returnees; open up new perspectives; development of an individualized-concept for return; strengthening own capabilities on the basis of personal resources; family reunification; creation and use of network structures; integration of returnees for the use of information and network structures in the country of origin.	EU State (Lower Saxony) Church	Doris Schneider Magdalena Kruse Vordere Schönworth 10 D- 30167 Hannover Phone: +49 511 71 32 38 Fax: +49 511 71 32 39 hannover@raphaelswerk.de
Information and Return Counselling Office		IOM Berlin  Project partner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senate Administration of the Interior and Sport in Berlin 	10 months	Refugees under obligation to leave the federal territory	Neutral consulting for third-country nationals for voluntary return.	Senate Administration of the Interior and Sport in Berlin	Friedrich-Krause-Ufer 24 D- 13353 Berlin Phone: +49 30 90 26 94 848
Counselling center of the 36 districts (Kreise) and urban district cities (kreisfreie Städte) for all issues of assisted return		Diakonisches Werk ev. Kirchenkreise Trier und Simmern – Trarbach gGmbH 	Since 2005	Refugees with a permanent residence status Refugees under obligation to leave the federal territory	Enduring return to the people's home countries.	EU Integration Ministry of Rhineland-Palatinate	Theobaldstr. 10 D- 54292 Trier

GERMANY



LIST OF VOLUNTARY RETURN PROJECTS

GERMANY						
Project title	Organisation	Project period	Target group	Objectives	Financing	Contact data
Liaison Office in Kosovo for voluntary/supported return	Diakonisches Werk ev. Kirchenkreise Trier und Simmern - Trarbach gGmbH 	Since 2007	Refugees with a permanent residence status Refugees under obligation to leave the federal territory	Sustainability of the people from returning to their countries of origin [T6]	EU Integration Ministry of Rhineland- Palatinate	Theobaldstr. 10 D- 54292 Trier
Chances for a future in the homeland	Hilfe von Mensch zu Mensch e. V. Projekt partner: • United Youth	03/2008 – 02/2011			EU	Schahman Al-Taie Schwanthalerstr. 70 D- 80336 Munich Phone: 49 89 59 99 26 28 Schahnam.atruschi@hvmzm.de
Return counselling in the district Calw	Kreis Diakonie Calw	11/2009 – 05/2012	Refugees with a permanent residence status Refugees under obligation to leave the Federal territory	Open outcome counselling.	State church	Bernd Schlanderer Hohe Straße 8 D- 72202 Nagold Phone: +49 7452 84 10 29 b.schlanderer@kreisdiakonie-calw.de





LIST OF VOLUNTARY RETURN PROJECTS

HUNGARY						
Project title	Organisation	Project period	Target group	Objectives	Financing	Contact data
 Complex Assistance for Potential Returnees	Police Project partner: Menedék- Hungarian association for Migrants	2011	Refugees with a permanent residence status Refugees under obligation to leave the state	The main objective is to enhance the chances of potential returnees detained in alien police detention centres for return and re-integration. The project provides individual social counselling as well as support in developing individual reintegration strategies, furthermore it minimises mental deterioration that occurs during detention.	EU State Church	Menedék - Hungarian Association for Migrants 1081 Budapest, Népszínház utca 16. III./3. Phone: +36 1 32 21 50 2 Fax: +36 1 47 90 27 2 ildiko.szasz@gmail.com
ITALY						
Project title	Organisation	Project period	Target group	Objectives	Financing	Contact data
 NIRVA – Italian Networking for the Assisted Voluntary Return, Phase I and II	Italian council for refugees Project partners: CIR, OIM	06/2009 – 06/2011	Refugees with a permanent residence status Refugees under obligation to leave the state	Strengthening the NIRVA Network as Italian referral system on the AVR which, adequately structured and turned, will be in a position to interact and promote at a territorial level; a wider awareness of the AVR instrument; information, guidance and counselling to those migrants potentially interested and who qualify, in order to facilitate access at the service; planning out the cooperation with country of origin.	EU State	Carla Olivieri Piazza di Trevi, 86 00187 Rome Phone: +39 355 5312500 olivieri@aiccre.it






LIST OF VOLUNTARY RETURN PROJECTS

THE NETHERLANDS						
Project title	Organisation	Project period	Target group	Objectives	Financing	Contact data
 Stichting Duurzame Terugkeer (Foundation for Sustainable Return)	Maatwerk bij Terugkeer Project partners: COA, SMS, VWN, HIT, IOM, Pharos, Nidos and Healthmet TPO	02/2010	Refugees under obligation to leave the state	Return with a sustainable perspective. W.m. [17] attention for work, health(care) and social network.	EU State	Jan Vranken Goeman Borgesiuslaan 77 N- 3515 ET Utrecht Phone: +31 65328382
Steunpunt Toekomst in Perspectief (STIP) (Project Future in Perspective)	Stichting Nieuwkomers en Vluchtelingenwerk Brabant Centraal Project partners: VWZHN, VVWN	Since 10/2009	Refugees under obligation to leave the state	To create a network for counselling and support for voluntary return. In five cities, we provide coaching for illegal immigrants, in order to help make a choice between illegality and return.	EU State	Bart Paaimans Postbus: 700 N- 5000 AS Tilburg Phone: +31.13 5363630 bpaaimans@snnvbrabantcentraal.nl
Netherlands Migration Institute	Netherlands Migration Institute	Since 2011	Refugees with a permanent residence status	Assist potential returnees to make a conscious decision about return	State	Pedro Arens Pedro.arenas@nmigratie.nl
Dreams Foundation World Wide	Stichting Wereldwijd	02/2011 – 06/2012	Refugees under obligation to leave the state		EU Private funds	Stichting WereldWijd Klompenstraat 1a 6251 NE Eckelrade Phone: +31.43 4083122 wwijd@xsqall.nl
World tools	Stichting Wereldwijd	09/2009 – 02/2011	Refugees under obligation to leave the state		EU Private funds	








LIST OF VOLUNTARY RETURN PROJECTS

POLAND						
Project title	Organisation	Project period	Target group	Objectives	Financing	Contact data
 Assisted Voluntary Returns	Foundation Ternopilska Project partner: IOM  IOM • OIM	ongoing	Refugees under obligation to leave the state	Helping migrants in need. Assistance in reintegration activities.	EU	96 - 300 Zyrdow Mazowieckie Wojewodship Narutowica Street 32/6 Phone: + 48 (46) 854 80 15
PORTUGAL						
Project title	Organisation	Project period	Target group	Objectives	Financing	Contact data
 Voluntary return and integration in the country of origin	IOM  IOM • OIM Project partner: Jesuit Refugee Service Portugal 	01/2010 – 06/2012	Only persons from Brazil, Ukraine, Russia, Guinea, Angola, Cape Verde, Georgei, Kazakhstan, Australia	The objective of the Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme is to help individuals to return to their home country in an orderly and dignified way. And who are the beneficiaries? Migrants who don't have financial capacity to pay the trip, for themselves and their family and want to return to their home country. The project also promotes the reintegration in the country of origin by financially supporting small businesses. The project provides assistance at arrival and throughout the reintegration process.	EU State	JRS-Portugal Rua 8 ao Alto do Lumiar, n. 59 1750-342 Lisbon

LIST OF VOLUNTARY RETURN PROJECTS

ROMANIA						
Project title	Organisation	Project period	Target group	Objectives	Financing	Contact data
 Voluntary return and integration in the country of origin	Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR)	04/2010 – 06/2011			EU State	Str. Mantuleasa nr. 42 Etaj 3, Apt. 10 sector 2 023962 Bucharest
Legal Assistance of Destitute Persons	Jesuit Refugee Service Romania 	2009 - 2011	Refugees with a permanent residence status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide accurate information and counselling to refugees (from closed centres outside) on conditions in their country of origin in order to assist them to make an informed choice. Undertake activities (referral of cases) to facilitate voluntary return in cooperation with IOM/other organisation Advocate for proper standards for return. Provides accommodation for persons who are in the voluntary return programs run by other NGO's, for a limited period of time during the preparation of the return. Establishing a documentation and research centre on Country of Return information (CRI) able to provide relevant, reliable, balanced, accurate and verifiable, as well as transparent, country of return information. 	Foundation	Bianca Albu Phone: +40 21 332 24 57 or +40 31 102 14 23 Mobile: +40 732 129 237 Fax: +40 21 332 53 01 biancamihaela.albu@yahoo.com
Developing Positive Jurisprudence on Detention and Destitution and Assistance Network of Practitioners		2011 - 2012	Refugees under obligation to leave the state		Foundation	
SLOVAKIA						
Project title	Organisation	Project period	Target group	Objectives	Financing	Contact data
 The legal aid in the detention centres in the territory of Slovakia	Human Rights League	01/2011 – 12/ 2011	Refugees with a permanent residence status Refugees under obligation to leave the state	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve the quality of legal protection of the foreigners in the detention centres in the territory of Slovakia To ensure foreigner in detention access to the legal aid To support the possibility to exercise legal rights by the foreigners in detention 	EU	Zuzana Stevulova stevulova@hrl.sk





LIST OF VOLUNTARY RETURN PROJECTS



S W E D E N

Project title	Organisation	Project period	Target group	Objectives	Financing	Contact data
Swedish red cross Network on Return	Swedish Red Cross 		Refugees under obligation to leave the state	<p>To contribute to a return in safety and dignity for rejected asylum seekers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To facilitate the return through increased support return[T8] and improve conditions for social reintegration of asylum seekers from Iraq, Kosovo, and Serbia, who were not granted a residency permit in Sweden To facilitate return through basic support for asylum seekers from six countries, in addition to those covered by first objective To ensure that the Swedish Red Cross is a part of a Swedish and European network for assisting returnees, which through coordination will strengthen and further develop existing activities To raise awareness of return; opportunities and obstacles, within and outside the Swedish Red Cross 	European Union State authorities	Ewa Jonsson Bos 17563 11891 Stockholm Phone: + 46 8 452 4624 ewa.jonsson@redcross.se
Returning Afghans	Swedish Migration Board	2009 - 2011	Refugees under obligation to leave the state	Legal advice and information on how to obtain different documents and how to enter the social society[T9]	State	Tillståndsenheten, Box 55 721 04 Västerås
Iraq Project	Swedish Migration Board	2010	Refugees under obligation to leave the state		State	
Serbia	Swedish Migration Board	2009 - 09/2011	Refugees under obligation to leave the state		State	

LIST OF VOLUNTARY RETURN PROJECTS



UNITED KINGDOM

Project title	Organisation	Project period	Target group	Objectives	Financing	Contact data
Travel Assistance Scheme	Children and families across borders (CFAB)	From 1970 to present	Refugees with a permanent residence status	Permanent return	Home Office	Marek Ganther Unit 1.03, Canterbury Court 1-3 Brixton Road London SW9 6DE Phone: +44 20 77 35 89 41 Fax: +44 20 75 82 06 96
Assisted Voluntary Return Programme	Refugee and Migration Centre	2013	Refugees under obligation to leave the state	To support the assisted voluntary return of people who have sought for asylum, and those with certain forms of related temporary status in the UK. There are 3 forms of returns: VARRP (Voluntary Assisted Return & Reintegration Programme) - these are people who have sought asylum and those with certain forms of related temporary status in the UK; AVRFC (Assisted Voluntary Return for Families and Children) - these are families comprising of a maximum of 2 adults parents or legal guardians and at least 1 child (under 18) who have either sought asylum or who are in the UK illegally and wish to return home; AVRIM (Assisted Voluntary Return for Irregular Migrants) - these are migrants who have not sought asylum, but who are in the UK illegally and wish to return home.	EU	Lukano Omunson 1st Floor Roma Parva, 9, Waterloo Road Wolverhampton, WV1 4NB Phone: +44 1902 331 15 54 Fax: +44 1902 31 19 06



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