

Assisted Voluntary Return

AUSTRIA

STRUCTURE

COUNSELLING PROVIDER

NGOs only:

- Caritas Austria “Integrated Return Management - IRMA” in 7 federal states
- Verein Menschenrechte Austria in 8 federal states

COUNSELLING SYSTEM

AVR counselling is centralized in Austria. There are no differences with regards to rules and regulations between the 9 federal states.

ONE – STOP – SHOP ASSISTANCE

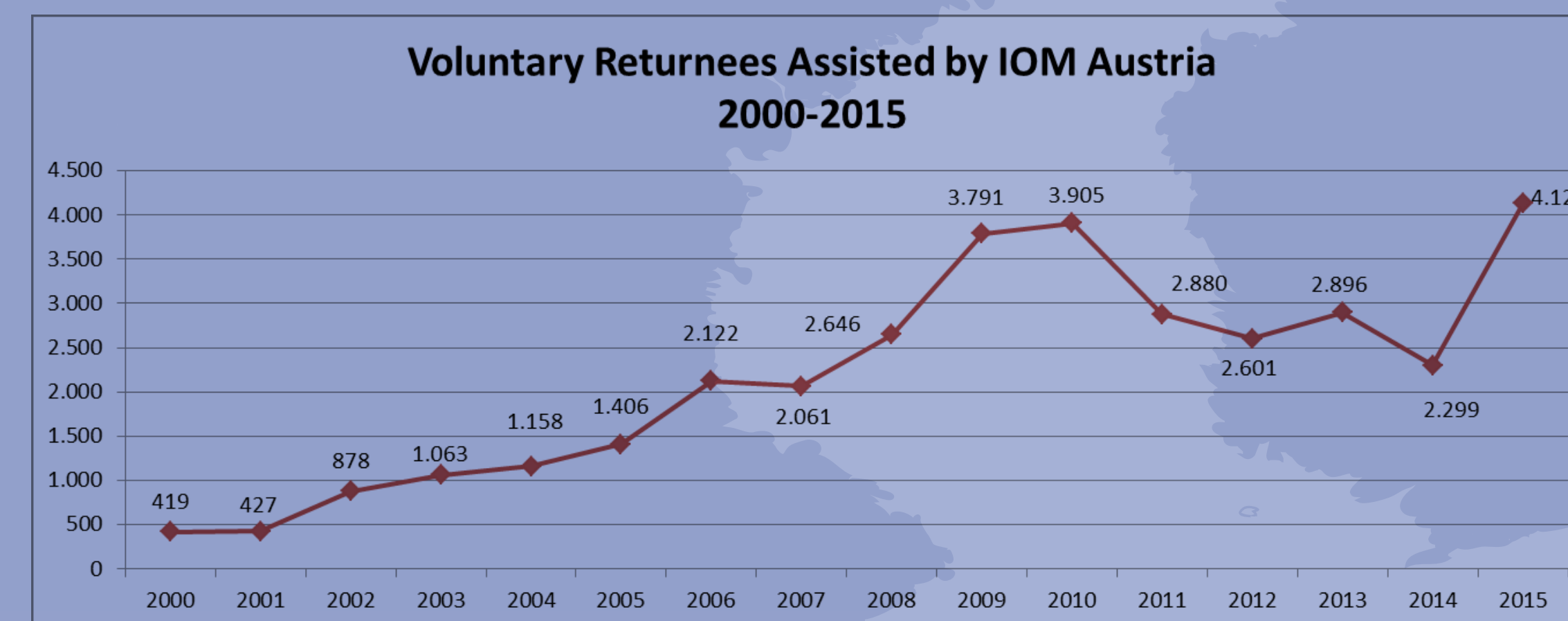
- Counselling on perspectives in Austria and Country of Origin
- Assistance with organization of travel documents
- Organization of return flight in cooperation with IOM
- Application for financial support to asylum authorities (Bundesamt für Fremdenwesen und Asyl)
- Registration of returnee in matching reintegration program
- Occasional escort to the airport by Caritas employees
- Hand out of travel assistance at the airport always by Caritas employees
- Hand out of flight ticket by IOM staff at the airport

REINTEGRATION PROJECTS

- Caritas Austria: in January 2017 Caritas Austria is going to introduce the new reintegration assistance project “IRMA Plus”. The reintegration assistance is not limited to a few countries of return with existing national reintegration projects anymore but it is rather available in almost all countries of return by using the many contacts of the reintegration partners which are connected and accessible through the ERSO network
- IOM: Iran and Afghanistan
- Ministry of the Interior (ERIN): Afghanistan, Nigeria, Morocco
- Caritas Voralberg: MigDev Armenia

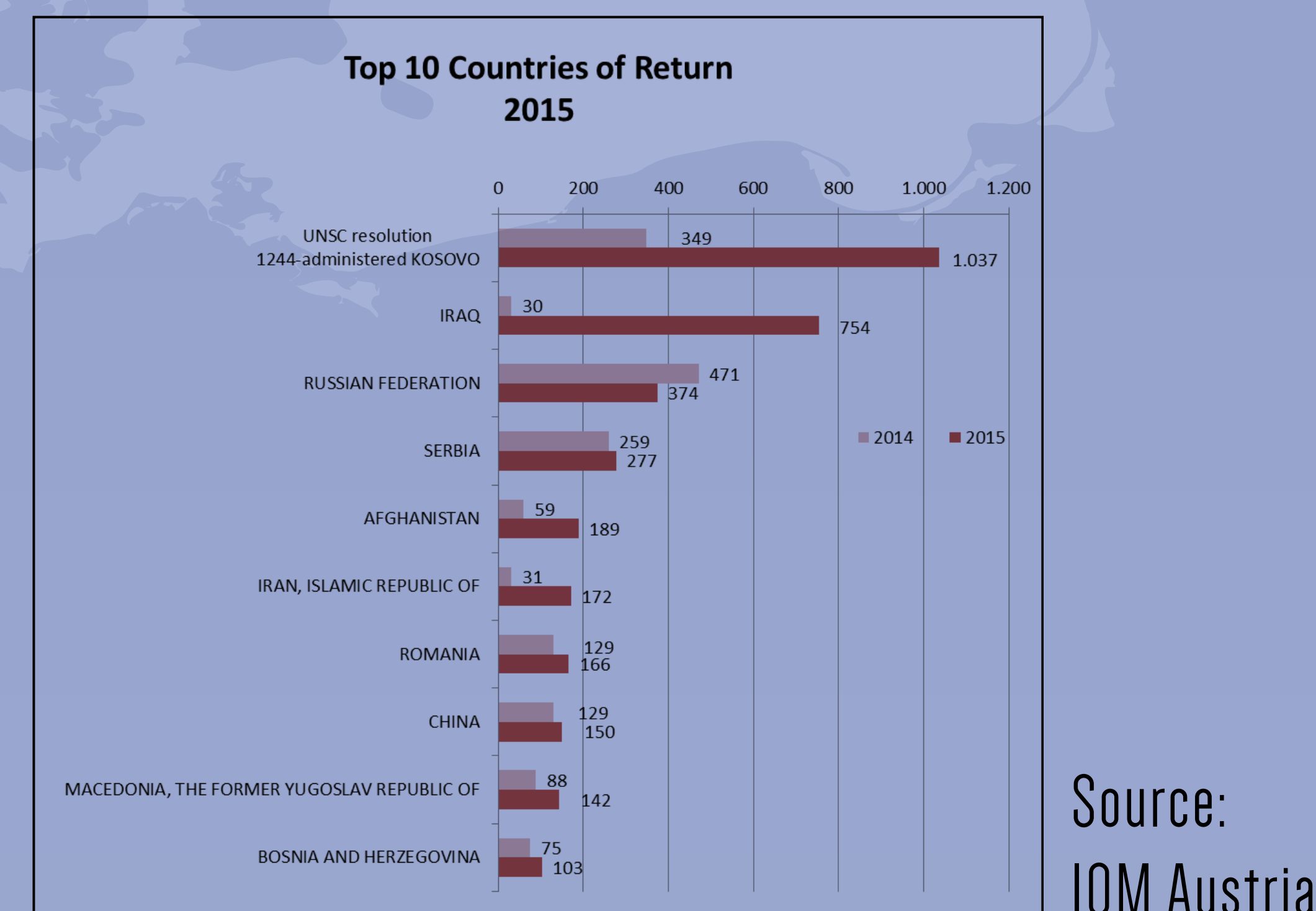
RETURN FIGURES

NUMBERS OF VOLUNTARY RETURNEES



Comment: The AVR counselling was provided by the NGOs; IOM arranged the travel schedule (flight ticket)

MAIN COUNTRIES OF RETURN



COUNTRY SPECIFIC DETAILS

DONORS

- Funded by AMIF and Ministry of the Interior
- Projects based on specifications of Ministry

HANDLING OF VULNERABLE CASES

- Special procedure for unaccompanied minors: The legal guardian is included or informed about every step in the return preparation
- The asylum authorities provide additional 1000 € for travel escorts (usually the AVR counsellor), when a mortally ill returnee wants to stay for the remaining life time in the country of origin; a travel escort is also financed for severely mentally ill returnees
- Exception: in case the return does not seem like a unanimous decision of the whole family single family members aged above 14 get an individual counselling session (in order to provide a space to voice possible fears of professional or educational disadvantages, forced marriage, prostitution, etc.)

SPECIAL FEATURE

- Returnees from the Federal State Vorarlberg may receive additional 1000 € reintegration support

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Returnees to all countries of return receive between 50 € minimum and 370 € maximum according to regulations, which are decided by the BFA (Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum). The reintegration assistance of ERIN or IRMA Plus can amount to 3000 € per client.

NEW PROJECT

In March 2016 the graded voluntary return project was launched for returnees from Nigeria, Morocco and Afghanistan. The return support is graded according to the length of stay in Austria:

- Return within the first three months of arrival -> 500 €
- Return between 3rd and 6th month -> 250 €
- Return after 6 months -> only 50 €