



IOM International Organization for Migration  
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations  
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

### ANNEX III:

## IOM ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN PROGRAMMES IN EUROPE<sup>1</sup>

(May 2002)

### Types of IOM Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes

IOM operates three types of assisted voluntary return programmes:

- Programmes generally available to all irregular migrants (e.g., REAB, REAN, REAG, etc.);
- Programmes for irregular transit migrants (e.g., SSRP, SMIT, etc.);
- Country- or Caseload-specific return programmes (e.g., BORK, RCA etc.).

These programmes provide a variety of services and assistance to returnees and involve various forms of donor funding which may include cooperation with different government partners.

IOM's assisted voluntary return programmes may rely on donor funding (e.g., SMIT, SSRP, etc.), host government funding (e.g., REAB, REAG, REAN, etc.), or a combination of donor/host government funding (e.g., General Return Programme from Central Europe, etc.).

For example, IOM's partners for programmes listed below include the following:

IOM PROGRAMME	FUNDING SOURCE/COUNTERPART
REAB	Ministry for Security, Social Integration and the Environment
REAN	Ministry of Justice
REAG/GARP	Federal Ministry of Interior (50%), Bundesländer (50%)
SMIT/SSRP	Various donor countries (100%)

### IOM Assisted Voluntary Return Programme - Chronological Stages

The assistance provided to returnees in IOM's programmes is spread out to cover a number of activities conducted at different stages of implementation. This assistance may differ from programme to programme.

Each of IOM's assisted voluntary return programmes consists of three basic stages:<sup>2</sup>

- *Pre-departure;*
- *Transportation;*
- *Post-arrival.*

The *pre-departure stage* may consist of information (dissemination and counselling), medical (medical examinations and documentation, health care availability database, medical care), and transport assistance (pre-departure assistance, travel allowances and reinstatement grants). IOM's experience also shows that the earlier information on assisted return programmes can be given to asylum seekers the more effectively the programmes operate.

<sup>1</sup> This compendium of IOM Assisted Voluntary Return programmes is appended as Annex III to IOM's comments on the EU Green Paper on a Community Return Policy, May 2002.

<sup>2</sup> IOM Document MC/INF/236, *IOM Return Policy and Programmes: A Contribution to Combating Irregular Migration*, 5 November 1997, p. 4.

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The **transportation stage** may include transport (movement coordination, transit assistance, escort assistance, unaccompanied baggage, documents and formalities) and medical assistance (pre-embarkation medical checks and medical escorts).

The **post-arrival stage** may consist of inland transport (reception, return grants), medical (medical and accident insurance), and various reintegration assistance (often in cooperation with development agencies and non-governmental organizations) as well as statistics.

Although the components of each country programme may differ significantly, most IOM assisted return programmes now offer **basic information, counselling, return grants** (pre-departure stage), and **document assistance and airline tickets** (transportation stage).

### **IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return Programme Inventory**

The following pages offer a brief description of the current state of IOM's assisted voluntary return programme implementation in Europe.

- Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes from Western Europe;
- Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes from Central and Eastern Europe;

The list of programmes is not exhaustive, but is rather meant to give an indication of the diversity of assisted voluntary return programme activities now under implementation in Europe.

IOM implements other projects which are not included here - those in Asia, Africa and the Americas, Return of Qualified Nationals (RQN) programmes, as well as a number of other projects supported by the European Union or other sponsors. Thus, the full range of IOM's programmes covers a whole variety of activities beyond the scope of this present document. Nevertheless, taken together, these programmes complete the picture of return services and programming possibilities globally.

## **A ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN PROGRAMMES IN WESTERN EUROPE**

### **AUSTRIA**

#### **Austrian Humanitarian Return Program**

- Eligible Beneficiaries:**
- Asylum seekers whose application have been refused
  - Asylum seekers who have given up on their application
  - Other migrants who have been given an administrative order by the responsible authorities to leave the territory of Austria or who fulfil all pre-conditions to receive such an order

**Budget:** Approx. USD 200,000 (for 2001)

**Funding Source:** Ministry of Interior

**Movements to Date (end 2001):** Since 1996, nearly 1,500 migrants have been assisted in returning to more than 50 countries.

#### **Programme Services:**

*pre-departure assistance:* information dissemination and counselling in cooperation with partner agencies.

*transport assistance:* departure assistance, transit assistance.

### **BELGIUM**

#### **Center for Voluntary Return and Development (CVRD)**

*Special Programme for the Voluntary Repatriation or Emigration of Certain Aliens from Belgium (REAB)*

- Eligible Beneficiaries:**
- Asylum seekers who withdraw their application for asylum;
  - Asylum seekers whose applications for asylum have been refused;
  - Any other foreign aliens (excluding however European Community citizens and recognized refugees) who are at the charge of the authorities and who want to return to their country of origin or emigrate to a third country for which they have obtained an immigration visa.

**Budget:** The Ministry allocates a yearly budget of EUR 1,735,000

**Funding Source:** Ministry for Budget, Social Integration and Social Economy

**Movements to Date (end 2001):** Since 1984, REAB has assisted nearly 23,000 migrants to return to 125 different destinations and resettle.

#### **Programme Services:**

*pre-departure assistance:* information dissemination, counselling in cooperation with partner agencies.

*transport assistance:* transport, documents and formalities, baggage assistance, transit assistance and onward transportation (up to EUR 50), reintegration assistance of maximum EUR 250 per adult and EUR 125 for those up to 18 years old.

*Others:* Countries of origin actions, as identified and decided in consultation with the Government and programme partners.

## **Prevention of Illegal Migration and Voluntary Return and Reintegration of Asylum Seekers from the Region of Kosice**

- Eligible Beneficiaries:** • Slovak asylum seekers originating from the Kosice region and residing in Belgium
- Budget:** EUR 71,018
- Funding Source:** Belgium Ministry of Interior
- Assistance to Date (end 2001):** 23 families (75 persons) assisted between June and October 2001.

### **Programme Services:**

The project is based on a comprehensive approach to the migration issues between Belgium and Slovakia, through information dissemination to prevent irregular migration from the Kosice region of Slovakia, provision of return and reintegration assistance to returning asylum seekers as well as capacity-building of communities (training and workshops) in Kosice and local development initiatives in the main locality of return. The third phase started in May for the duration of 8 months.

## **FINLAND**

### **Information, Counselling, Return and Reinsertion Assistance for Asylum Seekers Currently Residing in Finland (RAFIN)**

- Eligible Beneficiaries:** • Asylum seekers who withdraw their asylum applications  
• Asylum seekers who have received a negative decision on asylum and residence permit as well as the decision on removal from the country.
- Budget:** EUR 154,664 (in 2001)
- Funding Source:** Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour, European Refugee Fund
- Movements to Date (end 2001):** Since the project started in late 1998, nearly 1,600 migrants have been assisted (excluding RCA returnees in 2000/2001).

### **Programme Services:**

**pre-departure assistance:** information dissemination and counselling in cooperation with partner agencies; travel arrangements, coordination with origin country missions.

**transport assistance:** departure assistance, documents and formalities, transit assistance as necessary; return allowance of FIM 300 (in 2001).

Return and reintegration of Kosovo Albanian Refugees from Finland (DRITA), providing reintegration assistance such as vocational training at the pre-departure and/or post-arrival stage, has assisted more than 300 persons in their return and reintegration.

## **GERMANY**

### **Reintegration or Emigration of Asylum Seekers from Germany (REAG)**

- Eligible Beneficiaries:** • Asylum seekers who withdraw their application for asylum;  
• Asylum seekers whose applications for asylum have been refused;  
• Any foreign national staying in German territory who have approached an authority with a request for asylum;  
• Recognized refugees (persons who have been granted asylum, Convention refugees as defined in international law on measures taken for refugees under humanitarian aid campaigns of 22 July 1980 and other conventional refugees as defined in Article 1 of the Treaty on the Legal Position of Refugees (GRC) of 28 July 1951);

- War and civil-war refugees as defined in sections 32, 32a and 54 of the German Foreigners Act who have not applied for asylum.
- Vietnamese former contract workers;
- Persons who have applied for asylum in one of the Schengen Agreement states, have entered Germany and wish to return to the Schengen Agreement state.
- Persons residing illegally in Germany may also qualify, depending on the decision of the respective Federal State or other funding source to support this group of people.
- Victims of forced prostitution or trafficking
- Foreigners who come under the so-called Airport Regulation should not, in principle, be supported through the REAG Program.
- Foreign spouses and children of persons leaving Germany can also be supported through the REAG Program. IOM can also provide inexpensive air tickets, if necessary for German spouses and children (SMAP-Program).
- Unaccompanied minors can be assisted through the REAG Program if at least one parent or legally appointed guardian gives his or her written consent to the transportation. Minors must be picked up at the destination in the relevant country by a person authorised in writing by the parents.
- In the case of a necessary escort, e.g. for disabled or sick persons transport costs can be covered by IOM when a statement of willingness to cover costs is provided by the funding agency. IOM can offer its inexpensive flights to any necessary escort.
- A prerequisite in all cases is the willingness of the competent Aliens' Office to issue a border-crossing certificate.

<b>Budget:</b>	USD 10 millions for 2002
<b>Funding Source:</b>	Ministry of Interior and Bundesländer (Federal states)
<b>Movements to Date (end 2001):</b>	Since 1979, some 487,000 persons have been assisted to return to more than 110 countries.

#### Programme Services:

*pre-departure assistance:* information dissemination and counselling in cooperation with voluntary agencies

*transport assistance:* travel and formalities in coordination with partner agencies and baggage allowance in exceptional cases, and transit assistance. Travel allowance up to EUR 90 per adult and EUR 45 for children under 12 years, if approved by IOM prior to departure.

Reintegration grants are provided for returns to the below countries:

- To Egypt, Serbia and Montenegro (including Kosovo), the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Ukraine, Georgia and FYROM: EUR 230 per adult and EUR 115 per child under 12 years of age (max. EUR 690 per family)
- To Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, Eritrea, Ghana, India, Lebanon, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Togo and Vietnam: EUR 180 per adult and EUR 90 per child under 12 years of age (max. EUR 450 per family)

## **Special Migrants Assistance Program (SMAP)**

- Eligible Beneficiaries:**
- Asylum-seekers and refugees, as well as their dependants and other persons accompanying them, who cannot be assisted through the REAG Program; aliens whose application for admission to the Federal Republic of Germany and ethnic German or emigrants of German origin has been rejected; ethnic Germans and emigrants of German origin; aliens in specially justified cases of need (e.g. when the responsible embassy offers no support); foreign workers and students; persons who have attained German citizenship and would like to return to their native country, other comparable groups of persons) .
  - German employees (teachers and integrated experts, for example) and students; emigrants; persons who due to practical training, attending lectures at a university, or through working as an au-pair spend a lengthy time abroad; staff members of national and international relief organizations; other comparable groups or persons.

**Assistance to Date (end 2001):** Some 4,000 migrants have been assisted in the past decade.

### **Programme Services:**

Arrangement of flights with IOM-special-fares. Flight costs have to be covered by the migrants themselves or any other entity before departure.

## **Berlin Occupational Reintegration of Kosovars (BORK)**

- Eligible Beneficiaries:** Kosovars
- Budget:** EUR 1,628,975
- Funding Source:** Federal State of Berlin, European Union (European Refugee Fund )
- Assistance to Date (end 2001):** 374 returnees and locals could find employment through the programme. Another 130 Kosovars are selected and will be placed in the beginning of 2002.

### **Programme Services:**

The project provides financial assistance for an amount of up to 6,000 DM (EUR 3,067) for returning Kosovars who find employment in Kosovo; returnees who establish themselves as micro-entrepreneurs or returnees who are in need of an upgrade of their qualifications in order to find employment., The financial assistance is granted for one family member of a returning family. The direct beneficiary is the employer who hires a returnee, the micro-entrepreneur or the institution offering vocational training to the returnee. Pre-conditions are guaranteed employment for a minimum of one year (6 months in the case of vocational training) and the payment of local standard wages. IOM conducts two unannounced inspections of the workplace.

## **IRELAND**

### **Pilot Voluntary Return Programme (Nigeria, Romania\*)**

- Eligible Beneficiaries:**
- 200 Nigerian and Romanian migrants
  - Open to persons whose asylum applications are still being process
- Budget:** EUR 403,623
- Funding Source:** Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform

The Programme started in late 2001. \*Return to Romania is implemented as part of a comprehensive programme, RCAII (see below).

### **Programme Services:**

*pre-departure assistance:* information dissemination and counselling in cooperation with the Government counterparts and partner agency; travel arrangements, coordination with origin country missions.

*transport assistance:* departure assistance, transit assistance as necessary

*post-arrival assistance:* reception and onward transportation as appropriate; some reintegration assistance.

## ITALY

### **National Asylum Programme (PNA) (Return measures)**

- Eligible Beneficiaries:**
- Those denied refugee status or any other form of protection as foreseen by Italian law
  - Those who have given up their demand of refugee status
  - Those for whom protection by the Italian state comes to an end and who do not have any other claims to stay
  - Those who have given up their refugee status
- Budget:** EUR 645,570
- Funding Source:** Ministry of Interior/European Refugees Fund
- Movements to Date (end 2001):** Since the programme's launch in June 2001, 103 persons have been assisted in their returns.

### **Programme Services:**

*pre-departure assistance:* information dissemination and counselling in cooperation with partner agencies, including MoI, national Association of Italian Municipalities, UNHCR and other specialised agencies.

*transport assistance:* departure assistance, documents and formalities, transit and reception assistance as necessary.

Reintegration assistance: pre-departure reinstallation grant amounting to EUR 200 per person and a post-arrival reintegration grant amounting to EUR 1,446 per case/family.

During the first phase (2001), IOM was requested to carry out also a research to identify expectations and needs of refugees and asylum seekers. The study also included an evaluation of the psychological aspects of refugees in reception centers with reference to their personal and cultural background and migratory expectations. The outcome of this analysis aimed at providing adequate training and counselling sessions to reception centers' operators and civil servants as well as necessary operational feedback to all governmental actors involved.

Formal renewal of tasks will be signed shortly between IOM and Italian Government for the continuation of assisted returns and reintegration activities.

## THE NETHERLANDS

### **Programme for Reintegration or Emigration of Asylum Seekers from the Netherlands (REAN)**

- Eligible Beneficiaries:**
- Asylum seekers and illegal migrants;
    - non-EU national who came to the Netherlands with the intention of settling there, and do not have authorization to become a resident permit.
    - Beneficiary should not be able to finance the return trip
    - Deportation arrangements have not been made yet.
- Budget:** Annual budget of approx. EUR 5.2 millions (USD 4.84 M)

**Funding Source:** Ministry of Justice  
**Movements to Date (end 2001):** Between January 1992 and June 2002, REAN has assisted some 17,000 migrants - including the return of more than 13,000 migrants.

**Programme Services:**

*pre-departure assistance:* counselling and information dissemination in cooperation with partner agencies.

*transport assistance:* transport (including transit assistance if necessary), documents and formalities, and reintegration assistance of EUR 135-800 (USD 125-750) per adult/family and EUR 25-90 (USD 23-84) per child (extra allowance for inland transportation if necessary).

Since 2000, enhanced and streamlined counselling service is provided through the District Offices with a mobile team of counsellors, in close collaboration with Reception Centers and other partners.

**Others:**

Several projects are currently implemented in parallel that aims to facilitate more sustainable returns. For example:

- Pilot Project: Prepared Return - Survey on profiles of Somali and Angolan asylum seekers and refugees in the Netherlands and on income generating opportunities in Somalia and Angola
- Educated Returns: Counselling to asylum seekers within the current curriculum of schools; gathering of information in order to facilitate sustainable return and reintegration.
- Return and reintegration of rejected asylum seekers from the South Caucasian states and Russia: research and assistance project

**Project Bosnia - Reintegration Fund**

**Eligible Beneficiaries:** Bosnian refugees who entered the Netherlands before 1 June, 1997, and who renounced their residence status upon arrival in Bosnia. They also have to prove permanent residence in Bosnia.  
**Budget:** DEM 931,900  
**Funding Source:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
**Movements to Date:** More than 200 families (350 persons) were assisted.

**Programme Services:**

*pre-departure assistance:* counselling and information dissemination;

*transport assistance:* transport.

*post-arrival assistance:* Provision of one-time reintegration grant of 5,000 NLG.

**NORWAY**

**Assistance to the Voluntary Return of Unsuccessful Asylum Seekers from Norway**

**Eligible Beneficiaries:**

- Asylum seekers whose application for refugees status has been rejected
- Asylum seekers who have renounced their pursuit of refugee status

**Budget:** Estimated USD 5,5 millions for a year  
**Funding Source:** Norwegian Immigration Department (UDI) and the Directorate of Police (DP)  
The programme started in May 2002.



(Norway)

**Programme Services:**

*pre-departure assistance:* information dissemination and counselling in cooperation with partner agencies.

*transport assistance:* departure assistance, documents and formalities, transit and reception assistance as necessary. Travel allowance of NOK160 (approx. USD 20) only per returnee.

**PORTUGAL**

**Programme for Voluntary Return (PVR)**

- Eligible Beneficiaries:**
- Persons whose requests for asylum are pending of final decision or are rejected;
  - Refugees or beneficiaries of temporary protection who wish to return to their country of origin;
  - Foreigners who find themselves in an irregular situation in Portugal;
  - The present programme is still extended to other foreigners residing in Portugal without prejudice to the commitments contained in agreements or international obligations of which Portugal is part.
  - The foreigners already mentioned in the above categories but who are minors could also benefit from the programme provided that:
    - They are accompanied by the person who has paternal power or guardianship;
    - They present authorisation from whom has paternal power or guardianship in order to enable them to return their country of origin with a view to rejoining them, and are committed to be present at the moment of their disembarkation.

**Budget:** Approx. USD 245,000 for 2001/USD 135,380 for 2002

**Funding Source:** Ministry of Interior

**Movements to Date (end 2001):** More than 1,300 migrants have been assisted since in their returning to nearly 40 countries.

\* Pilot programme started when Cooperation Agreement and Protocol was signed on 15 December 1997 with MFA/Minint/High Commissioner for the Immigration and Ethnic Minorities. The current protocol was signed on 20 December 2001.

**Programme Services:**

*pre-departure assistance:* information dissemination and counselling

*transport assistance:* transport (air ticket for candidate and family, if applicable, to nearest port of entry in country of final destination) and reintegration assistance of EUR 250 per adult granted on case by case.

**UNITED KINGDOM**

**Voluntary Assisted Returns and Reintegration Programme For the United Kingdom (VARRP)**

- Eligible Beneficiaries:**
- Persons with pending or rejected asylum applications, and those granted time-limited exceptional leave to enter or remain.
  - Special consideration to be given to vulnerable individuals (unaccompanied minors, unsupported young people, single women and women with families, along with those suffering from health or disability problems).

**Budget:** About GBP 4,470,000 estimated for 2002  
**Funding Source:** Home Office  
**Movements to Date (end 2001):** Since the pilot programme started in late 1999, nearly 1,750 migrants have been assisted in returning to some 70 countries.

**(VARRP)**

**Programme Services:**

***pre-departure assistance:*** information dissemination and counselling in cooperation with partner agencies; travel arrangements, coordination with origin country missions.

***transport assistance:*** departure assistance, transit assistance.

***post-arrival assistance:*** Reception and onward transportation as appropriate; information/referral services; various reintegration assistance; monitoring and follow up evaluation. (Enhanced reintegration assistance is starting in spring 2002).

***Others:*** Gathering and provision of return related information; management of Reintegration Fund which provides financial support for activities that would benefit the returnees.

**SWITZERLAND**

**IOM Bern Coordinating Bureau**

**Programme Services:** The IOM Coordinating Bureau in Bern is entrusted by the Swiss Federal Office for Refugees to assist in the planning, implementation and evaluation of activities aimed at promoting the voluntary return or resettlement of persons residing in Switzerland under the asylum regime. It also is tasked to concern itself with the prevention of irregular migration to CH. The main focus of IOM Bern's work lies on the return and reintegration assistance for rejected asylum seekers. IOM Bern hereby provides conceptual work, and whenever requested by FOR, operational support. IOM Bern works in close co-operation notably with the FOR, cantonal return counselling offices, pre-departure training providers and with the SDC. Return assistance consists of several components, namely: a nation-wide return counselling network, an individual return assistance scheme, a training schemes for young asylum seekers and country-specific return/reintegration projects (e.g. Kosovo Reintegration Programme).

IOM Bern's Coordinating Bureau forms an important part of the Swiss return assistance network; its regular annual budget is approx. CHF 700,000. IOM Bern is mandated to promote voluntary return by:

1. Supporting & training return counselling offices, especially in the field of info and networking;
2. Channelling information about return related issues to cantons and other target groups;
3. Planning, developing and implementing measures to increase voluntary return;
4. Co-operation with the FOR and the Swiss Development Co-operation (SDC) in the conceptualisation and implementation of country specific return assistance programmes
5. Advising the FOR on return specific issues;
6. Coordinating third-country resettlement programmes vis-à-vis the cantons;
7. Assisting in individual return cases (e.g. medical cases).

**Return Information Fund (RIF)**

**Programme Services:**

The project provides the Swiss national partners with updated, accurate, reliable, objective, non-sensitive and non-protection related return-relevant information mainly on socio-economic matters in countries of origin. Its primary purpose is to support them in their capacity to design useful pre-departure vocational training courses for potential returnees, improve their return counselling activities and increase the attractiveness of the various assisted voluntary return programmes by putting the emphasis on a sustainable socio-economic reintegration in the country of origin.

## **REGIONAL**

### **Kosovo Humanitarian Return Programme (KHRP)**

**Eligible Beneficiaries:** Kosovars  
**Budget:** Estimated USD 37.7 million (2001)  
**Funding Source:** Various Governments  
**Movements to Date (end 2001):** Since 1999, some 181,560 persons have been assisted.  
\*Host countries in W. Europe had their own national framework to provide assistance; the programme also covered host countries without sufficient resources to assist Kosovars in their returns.

#### **Programme Services:**

*pre-departure assistance:* counselling and information dissemination; travel arrangement

*transport assistance:* transport, transit and medical escort as necessary.

### **General Return Fund for Bosnia and Herzegovina (GRF BiH)**

**Eligible Beneficiaries:** BiH nationals residing abroad  
**Funding Source:** Various - mostly but not exclusively by host countries  
**Movements to Date (end 2001):** Since 1996, 4,612 persons have been assisted.

#### **Programme Services:**

*pre-departure assistance:* counselling and information dissemination; travel arrangement

*transport assistance:* transport, transit and medical escort as necessary.

### **Voluntary Return and Reintegration of Elderly Bosnian Nationals from the Nordic Countries**

**Eligible Beneficiaries:**

- They must be willing to return to their place of origin (for purposes of registration and social assistance);
- They have to be eligible for pension benefits in their place of return;
- They have to have permanent accommodation in BiH; and
- in the place of return, the necessary medical services have to be available and accessible for the returnees with special medical needs.

**Budget:** USD 500,000  
**Funding Source:** Governments of Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland.  
**Assistance to Date (end 2001):** Since April 2000, 125 returnees received medical and housing assistance.

#### **Programme Services:**

- assistance to access local pension funds and health insurance;
- in special cases, a medical allowance is provided to cover additional medical expenses, either on a monthly or reimbursement basis, for a maximum period of two years up to USD 480 per beneficiary;
- a monthly accommodation subsidy until their own property is repossessed and/or completely repaired for a maximum period of one year;
- a monthly special housing allowance for elderly returnees who require upon return temporary accommodation and home care services. This benefit is mostly paid out to host families in cases where returnees can not live alone.
- a monthly home care allowance for home care providers for a maximum period of up to two years;
- assistance with repossession of property;
- minor repairs of houses or apartments, where necessary.

## **Programme for Return and Reintegration of Asylum Seekers from Central and Eastern Europe Residing in Belgium, the Netherlands, Ireland (RCA II)**

**Eligible Beneficiaries:** Asylum seekers from Bulgaria, Romania, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

**Budget/Funding Source:**

- Belgium: European Refugee Fund and Ministry of Justice/REAB  
EUR 493, 908 Euro (until Sept. 2002)
- Netherlands: European Refugee Fund and Ministry of Social Integration/REAN  
EUR 297, 472 Euro (until Sept. 2002)
- Ireland: Ministry of Justice  
EUR 154, 107 Euro (until Oct. 2002)

**Movements to Date (end April 02):** 73 persons have been assisted in their return to their home country  
The Netherlands: 46 returned mainly to Slovakia; 7 from Ireland and 20 from Belgium.

Reinforcing the RCAI (see below in the Appendix A), RCA II is based on a comprehensive approach, consisting with three specific projects with different funding sources and specific scopes. It involves 3 host countries: Belgium, The Netherlands and Ireland and 5 countries of origin: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Romania as well as Hungary as transit country. For Ireland, Romania is the main target country. The programme aims at facilitating the voluntary return of asylum seekers from these origin countries and at increasing their capacity to successfully reintegrate into their country of origin.

### **Programme Services:**

***pre-departure assistance:*** social and economic guidance and counselling and information dissemination;

***transport assistance:*** most of the transport assistance provided under a general return programme of respective host countries (return ticket, financial support for the transportation of extra luggage, departure assistance).

***post-arrival assistance:*** social and economic guidance and counselling upon arrival; reintegration assistance through referral; Follow-up visits after the arrival of the returnees to ensure durable return - this is also achieved through activities aiming at reinforcing the network of partners both in host and origin countries; Implementation of programs that enhance civil society in origin countries.

In addition, the Belgian and Dutch projects includes the provision of professional and vocational training in the country of origin for a set target group of returnees as well as the setting up of local development initiatives in the main locality of return.

## **B. ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN PROGRAMMES FROM CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE**

### **HUNGARY**

#### **Hungarian Assisted Return Programme (HARP)**

- Eligible Beneficiaries:**
- Asylum seekers who withdraw their application for asylum;
  - Asylum seekers whose applications for asylum have been refused;
  - Destitute aliens without the financial means to organize their return.
- Budget:** Approx. USD 110,000 (2001)
- Funding Source:** Ministry of the Interior
- Movements to Date (end 2001):** Since 1993, nearly 3250 persons have been assisted (including some 400 Kosovars).

#### **Programme Services:**

*pre-departure assistance:* information dissemination and counselling, cash allowance of USD 50 per person, or USD 60 if travelling with a child.

*transport assistance:* transport, documents and formalities; transit assistance, and escorts as necessary (minors, large groups, medical cases etc.)

### **CZECH REPUBLIC**

#### **Czech Assisted Return Programme**

- Eligible Beneficiaries:**
- Asylum seekers who withdraw their application for asylum;
  - Asylum seekers whose applications for asylum have been refused;
  - Destitute aliens without the financial means to organize their return.
- Budget:** US\$ 155,094 for 1998.
- Funding Source:** Ministry of Interior
- Movements to Date (end 2001):** 617 migrants have been assisted to return to some 20 countries.  
\*Building on the regional programme (GRPCE), the Protocol was signed in 2001

#### **Programme Services:**

*pre-departure assistance:* information dissemination and counselling, cash grants of US\$ 50 per person;

*transport assistance:* transport, documents and formalities and transit assistance of US\$ 10 per person.

Other support measures are implemented in parallel (e.g. enhanced information dissemination, workshops and training for the Government counterparts, partners and social workers).

### **SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

#### **Slovak Assisted Return Programme**

- Eligible Beneficiaries:**
- Asylum seekers who withdraw their application for asylum;
  - Asylum seekers whose applications for asylum have been refused;
  - Destitute aliens without the financial means to organize their return.

**Budget:** USD 16,100  
**Funding Source:** Ministry of Interior  
**Movements to Date (end 2001):** More than 50 migrants have been assisted in 2000 and 2001 (excluding returns implemented under General Return Fund for BiH and Kosovo Humanitarian Return Programme)

**Programme Services:**

*pre-departure assistance:* information dissemination and counselling, cash grants of US\$ 50 per person;

*transport assistance:* transport, documents and formalities, transit assistance of US\$ 10 per person.

**BALKAN REGION**

**Assisted Voluntary Returns of Irregular Migrants from the Balkans**

**Eligible Beneficiaries:** Stranded migrants, rejected asylum seekers  
**Funding Source:** Switzerland and UK Government; contribution from Government of Slovenia  
**Movement to Date (end 2001):** Some 363 migrants were counselled and assisted in their returns home in 2001.

In 2002, the programme is operational in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro (starting).

*pre-departure assistance:* information dissemination and counselling in cooperation with relevant Government authorities and other agencies, through a referral system. Shelter management where reception facilities are not available (Albania, BiH).

*transport assistance:* transport, documents and formalities, travel allowance, and transit assistance as necessary.

**Facilitation of Cross-Border Returns between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia (CBR)**

**Eligible Beneficiaries:**

- Displaced persons and refugees in Croatia and BiH

**Budget:** USD 3 millions  
**Funding Source:** Various Governments  
**Assistance to Date (end 2001):** Some 4,400 assisted in their returns since 1998.

**Programme Services:**

*pre-departure assistance:* information dissemination and counselling in cooperation with relevant Government authorities and other agencies; liaises with local and state authorities, such as customs and border police

*transport assistance:* transport, medical escorts, food and secondary transportation from municipal centers to the home villages; transport of household goods and farming implements.

*Post-arrival assistance:* reintegration grants, reintegration support through extensive referral systems.

The project assistance includes organising "Go and See" visits, including its logistics, security escorts, liaison with relevant authorities and documentation.

## **BALTIC REGION**

### **Voluntary Returns of Stranded Migrants from the Baltic countries (SMIBAL)**

<b>Eligible Beneficiaries:</b>	Stranded migrants and rejected asylum seekers
<b>Budget:</b>	Approx. USD 400,000 (mid Oct 1998-2001)
<b>Funding Source:</b>	Governments of Finland, USA
<b>Assistance to Date (end 2001):</b>	Some 640 migrants assisted in their returns from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia since mid Oct. 1998

#### **Programme Services:**

***pre-departure assistance:*** information dissemination and counselling in cooperation with relevant Government authorities, Reception Centres and other agencies.

***transport assistance:*** transport, documents and formalities; reintegration allowance of USD 50 per adult and USD 25-50 per children under 18 years of age. An additional 20 USD, as required, for onward transportation; escorting as necessary, esp. to support returns of vulnerable migrants.

Additionally, several capacity-building measures (training, workshops) are implemented to complement the SMIBAL project.

## Appendix A:

### RECENTLY COMPLETED / PAST PROGRAMMES:

The below listing includes some of the projects which were recently completed and those which were implemented in the recent years.

#### AUSTRIA

##### Kosovo return project

- Eligible Beneficiaries:** • Kosovars residing in Austria
- Funding Source:** Ministry of Interior, various national and local authorities
- Movements:** Since 1999, approximately 5,000 persons were assisted in their returns.

##### Programme Services:

*pre-departure assistance:* information dissemination and counselling in cooperation with partner agencies.

*transport assistance:* departure assistance, transit assistance.

*post-arrival assistance:* provision of reintegration grants of EUR 70-300.

#### BELGIUM

##### Voluntary Return Programme for Kosovars under Temporary Protection (RKB)

- Eligible Beneficiaries:** Kosovars and their family members (approximately 2500 persons) residing in Belgium under displaced persons status.
- Budget:** BEF 260,000,000 for 1999-2000
- Funding Source:** Ministry for Social Integration.
- Movements:** Convention signed on 1 October 1999. 2,712 persons have been assisted.

##### Programme Services:

*pre-departure assistance:* counselling and information dissemination;

*transport assistance:* transport by plane, private car or public bus fully covered, reintegration assistance of BEF 25,000 (US\$ 658) per case/family;

*post-arrival assistance:* housing subsidy of BEF 100,000 (US\$ 2,632) per adult and BEF 50,000 (US\$ 1,316) per child (under 18 years old).

The housing subsidy is provided as follows: 60% upon departure and 40% at least 2 months after arrival and submission of evidence from candidates that further support is still necessary.

*Occupational Reintegration of Kosovo Albanians (ORKA)* project provided with targeted reintegration assistance including job placement and business training.

##### Voluntary Return Programme for Bosnian Nationals Residing in Belgium under Temporary Protection (RBB)

- Eligible Beneficiaries:** 200 Bosnian nationals and their family members (approximately 600 persons) residing in Belgium under displaced persons status and who arrived in Belgium before 1 March 1995.
- Budget:** BEF 65,000,000 (US\$ 1,710,526) for 1997-1998.



**Funding Source:** Ministry for Security, Social Integration and the Environment.  
**Movements:** Convention signed on 10 November 1997. In two years, 98 persons were assisted.

**Programme Services:**

*pre-departure assistance:* counselling and information dissemination;

*transport assistance:* transport by plane, private car or public bus fully covered, reintegration assistance of BEF 25,000 (US\$ 658) per case/family;

*post-arrival assistance:* housing subsidy of BEF 100,000 (US\$ 2,632) per adult and BEF 50,000 (US\$ 1,316) per child (under 18 years old).

Pre-departure and transport assistance are offered to candidates by IOM Brussels. Post-arrival assistance is provided by IOM Sarajevo. The housing subsidy is provided as follows: 60% upon arrival and 40% after six-months and submission of evidence from candidates that further support is still necessary.

**GERMANY**

\* The below two programmes as such ended in 2001, and are currently implemented within the large, REAG/GARP programme as of 2002.

**REAG/GARP for Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**Eligible Beneficiaries:** Bosnian refugees residing in Germany.  
**Budget:** Assistance under REAG (travel cost, baggage assistance, pocket money) approx. US\$ 285 on average per refugee.  
**Funding Source:** Federal Ministry of Interior (50%) and federal state funds or other public funding sources (50%)  
**Movements:** More than 180,000 persons were assisted.

**Programme Services:**

*pre-departure assistance:* information dissemination and counselling;

*transport assistance:* transport, documents and formalities;

*post-arrival assistance:* reintegration grant of DM 450 (US\$ 244) per adult and DM 225 (US\$ 122) per child for a maximum of DM 1,350 (US\$ 734) per family. There are currently five Bundesländer participating in the programme, each with slightly different levels of assistance.

This was a modified version of the usual REAG/GARP programmes to facilitate the voluntary return of displaced persons from BiH. In addition to the standard REAG assistance, Bosnian nationals receive significantly enhanced reintegration allowances. The reintegration grant was paid by IOM Sarajevo, Bihac and Tuzla upon presentation of an original IOM payment order issued before candidates leave Germany.

**REAG/GARP for Kosovo**

**Eligible Beneficiaries:** Kosovar refugees residing in Germany.  
**Budget:** Assistance under REAG (travel cost, baggage assistance, pocket money) approx. US\$ 285 on average per refugee.  
**Funding Source:** Federal Ministry of Interior (50%) and federal state funds or other public funding sources (50%)  
**Movements:** More than 85,000 persons have been assisted since 1999.

**Programme Services:**

*pre-departure assistance:* information dissemination and counselling;

*transport assistance:* transport, documents and formalities;

*post-arrival assistance:* reintegration grant of DM 450 (US\$ 244) per adult and DM 225 (US\$ 122) per child for a maximum of DM 1,350 (US\$ 734) per family. There are currently five Bundesländer participating in the programme, each with slightly different levels of assistance.

**ITALY**

**Sustainable Return for Persons from the Balkans**

- Eligible Beneficiaries:**                   • Citizens of former Yugoslavian countries who had been granted temporary protection in Italy
- Budget:**                                    EUR 744,390
- Funding Source:**                        Ministry of Interior, European Commission
- Movements:**                             991 families were assisted between Nov. 1998 and Feb. 2002

**Programme Services:**

*pre-departure assistance:* information dissemination and counselling in cooperation with partner agencies;

*transport assistance:* departure assistance, documents and formalities, reinstallation grants

**Sustainable Return for Kosovars**

- Eligible Beneficiaries:**               • Kosovars who had been granted temporary protection in Italy
- Budget:**                                    EUR 566,766
- Funding Source:**                        Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior
- Movements:**                             229 persons were assisted between July and November 2000.

**Programme Services:**

*pre-departure assistance:* information dissemination and counselling in cooperation with partner agencies;

*transport assistance:* departure assistance, documents and formalities

*post-arrival activities:* reintegration assistance provided to the 229 cases during the period 1 Sept 2000 to 1 Jul 2001.

**THE NETHERLANDS**

**Kosovo Return Project**

- Eligible Beneficiaries:**                Refugees from Kosovo
- Budget:**                                    EURO 1,526,027 (NLG3,362,921)
- Funding Source:**                        The Dutch Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Movements:**                             Since the start in mid 1999 and the end in December 2001, more than 3,500 Kosovars have been assisted.

**Programme Services:**

*pre-departure assistance:* counselling and information dissemination;

*transport assistance:* return ticket to Skopje or Pristina airport.

*Post-arrival assistance:* Support allowance in the framework of the REAN-project (NLG 1000 per adult, NLG 500 for minors, NLG 4000 maximum per family). Reintegration allowance from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Assistance at the airport of Skopje: IOM Skopje brings the returnees by bus to Pristina IOM Pristina brings the returnees by bus to a few cities in Kosovo.

## **SWITZERLAND**

### **Kosovo Return Programme (Phases 1&2)**

**Eligible Beneficiaries:** Kosovars residing under the asylum law in Switzerland.  
**IOM- Budget:** Approx. CHF 58'200'000, -  
**Funding Source:** Swiss Federal Office for Refugees (FOR)  
**Movements to Date (end 2001):** 32,797 persons (including 441 from Liechtenstein)

#### **Programme Services:**

*pre-departure assistance:* counselling and information dissemination; coordination with IOM offices in Pristina/Skopje, travel arrangements.

*transport assistance:* transport, transit assistance, escorts as necessary.

*post-arrival assistance:* reception, secondary transport assistance, reintegration assistance; The entire Swiss return package was provided by various players, notably by FOR, SDC and IOM.

### **Bosnia Reintegration Programme**

**Eligible Beneficiaries:** Bosnian citizens residing under the asylum law in Switzerland.  
**Funding Source:** Swiss Federal Office for Refugees (FOR)

#### **Programme Services:**

This programme was implemented, complemented by reconstruction/rehabilitation aid by the Swiss Disaster Relief Agency, in close collaboration with IOM Bern and the FOR.

*pre-departure assistance:* information dissemination in Switzerland; registration and processing of applications;

*transport assistance:* transport, luggage allowance and limited reintegration assistance is offered through the FOR's individual return assistance scheme executed by the various cantons;

*reintegration assistance:* provided through offices of the Swiss Department for Development and Technical Cooperation (DEZA) in BiH, supported by IOM. Reintegration assistance included financial assistance for returnees to support their reintegration in Bosnia as well as to the local community in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the rehabilitation of local structures.

## **REGIONAL**

### **Programme for Return and Counselling Assistance of Asylum Seekers from Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Romania currently living in Belgium, Finland, the Netherlands (RCA I)**

**Eligible Beneficiaries:** Asylum seekers from Romania, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.  
**Budget:** EUR 1,280,531

- Funding Source:** European Commission and the governments of Belgium, Finland, the Netherlands
- Movements:** A total of 1,235 persons were assisted in their returns home during RCAI (2000).
- From Finland in 2000: 419
  - From Belgium in 2000: 372
  - From The Netherlands: 444

**Programme Services:**

*pre-departure assistance:* counselling and information dissemination;

*transport assistance:* Most of the transport assistance provided under a general return programme of respective host countries (return ticket, financial support for the transportation of extra luggage, departure assistance).

*Post-arrival assistance:* reintegration assistance through referral; Follow-up visits after the arrival of the returnees to ensure durable return. Implementation of programs that enhance civil society. Counselling by the IOM mission in the country of return upon arrival.