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Return of irregular and vulnerable migrants : exploring opportunities and challenges

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Caritas International Belgium (CIB)

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Name programme	Strengthening Tailor-Made Assisted Voluntary Return & the Belgian national return and reintegration programme
Implementing actors	CIB & local partner organisations
Target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● (ex)asylum seekers and undocumented migrants considering the possibility of voluntary return to their country of origin ● UAM and young adults, vulnerable groups
Description of activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strengthening reintegration support in country of return by psycho-social, administrative and medical assistance, assistance in setting up income generating activities etc. ● Additional reintegration support for vulnerable groups ● Pre-departure counseling of individual returnees/families. ● Institutional support of local partner organisations ● Exchange meetings in Belgium to facilitate exchange between counselors in Belgium and reintegration providers in the countries of origin
Funding source	National Funding Fedasil and Co-funding via European AMIF-fund
Monitoring/Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Follow-up and counseling by the local partner organisation (individual cases) during 12 months ● Narrative report describing psycho-social and economic situation of the returnee after 3, 6 and 12 months ● Yearly international partner week organized by CIB ● Observation missions in the countries of origin ● Quality framework
Good practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Focal point system - collaboration with local partner organisations (NGOs) ● Pre-departure counseling ● Reintegration-support in kind and follow-up by local partner organisations
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rapidly changing contexts: fluctuation in destination countries, number of returnees ● Challenging circumstances in countries of origin (big countries including remote areas, political instability, unemployment, lack of infrastructure or services provided by the government) ● Profile of the returnees varies

Caritas International Belgium (CIB)

Name programme	ERIN-Russia
Implementing actors	CIB, Caritas Moscow and Sintem NGO (Chechnya)
Target groups	Russian nationals, returning from the ERIN EU member states, voluntarily (BE, NL, FR, NO, FI or the GB) or non-voluntarily (BE and NL)
Description of activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Providing reintegration assistance: basic assistance upon arrival, support for professional training and education; support for accessing the job market, finding a job or starting an income generating activity ● Other forms of support tailored to the needs of the returnee, with particular attention to vulnerable groups
Funding source	Service costs funded by ERIN fund; Reintegration support financed by each European Partner Institution separately
Monitoring/Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Follow- up and counseling by the local partner organisation (individual cases) during 12 months ● Narrative report describing psycho-social and economic situation of the returnee after 3, 6 and 12 months
Good practices	Reintegration assistance is organized through local Caritas offices all over the country - for the North Caucasus region, Caritas Moscow cooperates with Sintem NGO in Grozny to assist the returnees to Chechnya, Dagestan, Ingushetia, Kabardino Balkaria and North Ossetia;
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● High number of returnees; ● Complexity of the project because of different requirements & budgets per EPI; ● Manage nervous returnees upon return.

Caritas International Belgium (CIB)

Name programme	European Collaboration
Implementing actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ERSO (European Reintegration Support Organizations), Accem (ES), Caritas Austria, Caritas Europa, CIB, Danish Refugee Council, France Terre d'Asile, Vluchtelingenwerk Nederland, Micado Migration, Raphaelswerk (DE), Refugee Action (GB) ● CY (MICAR), PL
Target groups	
Description of activities	<p>The European Reintegration Support Organisations – ERSO Network is a network of non-governmental return counselling and reintegration support organisations working and closely cooperating in the field of migration and development.</p>
Funding source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Members meeting and working groups (pre-departure counseling, advocacy, awareness and network) ● CY, PL - trainings on the implementation of a return and reintegration project
Monitoring/Evaluation	
Good practices	<p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Handbook --> <i>Working with Vulnerable Returnees - A Guide for Practitioners</i> This guidance manual was developed by the ERSO-SURE VD project and financed by the EU Return Fund. The manual is based on practical, operational experience derived from interventions in the field. ● Quality Framework
Challenges	

Caritas International Belgium (CIB)

Name programme	Targeted and region-specific information sessions
Implementing actors	CIB
Target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Migrants in precarious, irregular and therefore vulnerable situation. ● Social organizations (migrant communities volunteer organisations) who are in direct contact with the target group of migrants.
Description of activities	<p>Providing correct and complete information on all the possibilities, adapted to the situation of the migrant (basis for an independent and informed decision for their own future) --> and this by organizing information sessions for the different social services</p>
Funding source	National funding Fedasil
Monitoring/Evaluation	Evaluations, participations lists and reports of meetings
Good practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dissemination of correct information (through social organisations) to the target group that often has no access to this information, are not willing to hear about the topic of voluntary return. ● Meeting between the local partner- organisations in the countries of origin and the representatives of the diaspora in Belgium (African region)
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The resistance with respect to the theme of voluntary return (also within the social organisations) and the difficult accessibility of the target group. ● Incorrect or inappropriate information - breaking taboos.

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IOM – Country Office for Belgium and Luxembourg

International Organisation for Migration

Name programme	Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme in Belgium (REAB) (01/01/2015- 31/12/2015)
Implementing actors	IOM Brussels Country Office
Target groups	(Rejected) asylum seekers and irregular migrants; Fedasil; Red Cross; REAB partner network; Closed centres ; other stakeholders in Belgium (embassies, migrant organisations, etc.); IOM offices in the country of origin and their local partners
Description of activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of pre-departure counselling to interested beneficiaries in close cooperation with Fedasil and REAB partners • Organization of a humane and dignified voluntary return to the countries of origin/destination • Post-arrival counselling and reintegration assistance in the countries of origin/destination • Post-arrival counselling and vulnerable case assistance in the countries of origin • Monitoring and evaluation of the reintegration assistance in the countries of origin/destination • Increase the capacity of REAB partners to inform potential beneficiaries of the programme (online application and information, training workshops, meetings with REAB partners, etc.)
Funding source	Fedasil
Monitoring/ Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear indicators & benchmarks and a long-term evaluation • Internal guidelines and procedures for implementation • Internal databases (Mimosa, reintegration, etc.) for statistics, analysis and close follow-up of AVRR cases • Reintegration monitoring reports to measure impact of the AVRR assistance • Monitoring missions in countries of origin to evaluate impact of AVRR programmes (meetings with beneficiaries and local stakeholders)
Good practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible approach to adjust assistance packages to the migrant's return and reintegration needs • Strong link between pre-departure counselling and post-return follow-up & evaluation • Specific approach on AVR(R) for <u>vulnerable cases</u> (i.e. medical cases, UAMs, VoTs, and other vulnerable individuals) • Up to date, thorough & objective information on country of origin • Strengthening network of REAB partners to inform potential beneficiaries and stakeholders • Linking individual reintegration assistance to needs and concerns of local communities
Challenges	<p>Cooperative approaches and responsibility-sharing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dialogue and cooperation among states : bilateral, regional and international dialogue can help countries of origin, destination and transit to build partnerships and cooperatively design and implement effective return/migration policies. • Partnerships with & between other stakeholders such as civil society, particularly NGOs, IO & other institutions -> important role to play in return policy and practice • Reinforcing sustainability of return: addressing needs and concerns of returnees (address factors compelling individuals to emigrate in the first place, but also take into account needs of the communities in countries of origin)

International Organisation for Migration

Name programme	Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) Belgium Advanced (01/01/2015 - 30/06/2016)
Implementing actors	<p>IOM Brussels Country Office + Partner(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Belgium: The Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (Fedasil), Fedasil return counsellors, pre-departure reintegration counsellors (Fedasil, IOM, Rode Kruis), REAB Partners Network (Belgium AVRR Network), Immigration Office, guardianship services, and other stakeholders in AVRR activities in Belgium (amongst others, Embassies and Consulates), • In the countries of origin: IOM Country Offices and their local partners
Target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asylum seekers and irregular migrants as beneficiaries of the specific reintegration assistance packages • Fedasil return counsellors, pre-departure reintegration counsellors Fedasil, IOM, Rode Kruis), REAB Partner Information and Registration Network, and other stakeholders in AVRR activities in Belgium (Embassies and Consulates...) • IOM Reintegration assistants in countries of return
Description of activities	<p><u>As above and in addition:</u> 279 enhanced in-kind reintegration package of maximum 2200 EUR per principal applicant that is eligible and returned in 2015. The grant is allocated pre-departure during a reintegration counselling session which identifies the applicants' eligibility, needs, and capacities; and is confirmed by the Fedasil regional counsellors. The delivery of the reintegration services in country of return is done on a case by case basis by local reintegration assistants, following a flexible, needs orientated, and participative approach with specifically focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income generation through self employment and entrepreneurship: assistance with the set up / restart / partnership in a micro business activity developed with a Micro-business Plan. • Income from employment /skills development: supporting beneficiaries with a wage subsidy/ training support scheme. • Vulnerable cases: medical or material assistance to respond to the immediate and basic needs of the household.
Funding source	EU AMIF (National Actions) and Fedasil co-funding
Monitoring/ Evaluation	<p><u>As previous</u> and with innovative aspect of monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sample long term monitoring of 25 cases assisted in the past years. Production of stories of return (info. Material) for a focus on visibility. • Post- return emergency reintegration assistance top-up of 500 EUR per case available to 20 vulnerable beneficiaries in need of emergency extra support identified after monitoring. • Presentation of monitoring results to Fedasil AVRR counsellors in Belgium by IOM local Missions reintegration counsellors through 4 Skype conference calls. • To evaluate pre-departure counselling and service & provide recommendations during the conf. calls: questionnaire completed by 15 reintegration counsellors in country of return.
Good practices	<p><u>As previous</u> + increased and more complex reintegration packages, development of business plans, identification of local work opportunities, and additional innovative approach to monitoring.</p>
Challenges	As <u>previous</u>

International Organisation for Migration

Name programme	EUROPEAN REINTEGRATION NETWORK (ERIN) (01/02/2015 -31/05/2016)
Implementing actors	IOM Brussels Country Office for pre-departure counselling of Belgium AVRR cases and for IOM management site + IOM Offices in 9 countries of Return: Afghanistan; Iran; Iraq KRG; Nigeria; Somaliland; Sri Lanka; Congo DRC; Guinea; Morocco.
Target groups	AVRR, PARA, and UAM Third Country Nationals (TNC) returning from 6 EU Member States (Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom) and Norway. These can also be vulnerable cases.
Description of activities	Arrival assistance: arrival meet and greet assistance ; onward transportation; Emergency housing after return (min. 1 week); referral to medical care & Reintegration Assistance: Temporary accommodation; Referrals to local services; Support social network; School enrolment; Vocational training enrolment; Wage subsidy allowance ; Micro-business set up and refer to micro-financial organisations; legal, admin support; Refer to Medical assistance; Social or psychological assistance; Additional reintegration services for unaccompanied minors.
Funding source	EU ERF 2013- Community Actions- at 90% for service fees and 8 European Partner Institutions for the reintegration grants.
Monitoring/ Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IOM provides: sign-in sheet per returnee with complete case follow up (up to 12 months post return); monthly case registration and assistance reports; 6 monthly operations and financial reports. • IOM can provide: field monitoring. • Evaluation and monitoring of the service providers is performed by the European Partner Institutions during Evaluation Missions in 2016.
Good practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination from management site in Europe: Project Management Unit; • It complements national funding streams for return programmes, providing flexibility to the participating governments when it comes to the actual organization of returns (and in particular in the pre-return counselling, for which governments can decide to partner with IOM, NGOs or do it themselves); • It has allowed several countries interested in return (both voluntary and forced) and reintegration to be together under one project/contractual framework and with common partners (mostly IOM) for reintegration in selected countries of origin; • Contributed to make more uniform the implementation modalities of reintegration among participating countries. • 1st step towards Standardisation which is desirable but difficult to achieve due to the number of participating countries and different parameters of the respective AVRR projects. • Support from IOM Brussels to assist with liaison sending countries/IOM Local Missions in country of origin • IOM participation in assessment missions • IOM participation in Steering Group meeting
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of returns are lower than foreseen; • For cases not counselled by IOM in sending countries: returnees lack accurate information on the conditions of the return process itself, the conditions of countries of origin, the entitlements under the programme, the in-kind nature of the assistance and IOM's procurement process; High expectation of returnees on the support to be received by IOM in countries of origin; Recognising returnees at the airport without previous communication from IOM office in host country and often without IOM bag. • Delay in the verification/approval process by host countries; • Disproportion of reintegration packages (some as low as EUR500) with actual costs in countries of origin; • Short notice for arrival assistance for PARA cases; • The security situation is a challenge for IOM offices in Afghanistan and Somalia; • Heavy administrative requirements.

International Organisation for Migration

Name programme	RESTART NIGERIA (October 2014 - March 2016)
Implementing actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IOM offices in Lagos or Abuja: beneficiary counselling, implementation and monitoring of the reintegration plan, information, counselling and referral for vulnerable migrants, engagement with national and local stakeholders. • IOM London and IOM Missions in EU MS: Share materials for dissemination among the Nigerian diaspora. Provide counselling and information on the project assistance for returnees before departure.
Target groups	450 Nigerian migrants returning from Europe with reintegration needs. Special attention is paid to vulnerable migrants that may include Victims of trafficking (VoTs), Unaccompanied Minors (UAMs).
Description of activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement of key stakeholders in Nigeria to foster socio-economic integration and income generating opportunities for returning migrants. • Assistance of SMEs by offering consultations and in kind grants. • Capacity building programmes for return migrants on business management techniques. • Delivery of specific social and psychological rehabilitation and reintegration for vulnerable persons. • Engaging the diaspora in EU MS in information campaigns on the project. • Strengthening of referral procedures for VoTs and UAMs through capacity building programmes and engagement with key stakeholders. • Reintegration Assistance: Temporary accommodation; · Educational/ Vocational training; Business training; Small business setup; medical; Emergency Support
Funding source	EU ERF 2013- Community Actions
Monitoring/ Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly monitoring of individual beneficiaries project implementation will be carried out by telephone. • IOM will conduct monitoring interviews on the occasion of field visits of the businesses supported by the project of all returnees within 6 months after return.
Good practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further identification of vulnerability post-return and corresponding reintegration allocation. • Capacity building on business management techniques. • Reintegration plan
Challenges	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the variety of returnees' profiles implying the need for tailored reintegration packages for special cases such as unaccompanied children, returnees with health concerns, and victims of trafficking; 2) the varying reintegration packages and the high cost of living posing a challenge in facilitating sustainable reintegration activities.

International Organisation for Migration

Name programme	MoTuSe: Enhancing the sustainability of reintegration schemes for migrants returning to Morocco, Tunisia and Senegal from the EU (1/01/2015 – 30/06/2016)
Implementing actors	IOM Rabat, IOM Tunis, IOM Dakar, IOM Missions in EU MS and IOM Partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morocco: Ministry of Moroccans Residing Abroad, Entraide Nationale, OFPPT and ANAPEC • Tunisia: MRC, OTE and ANETI • Senegal: Agences Régionales de Développement (ARD), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad, UN agencies
Target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migrants returning to Morocco, Tunisia and Senegal under IOM's EU national AVRR programmes as of 1/1/2015 • Local stakeholders in the 3 countries of origin
Description of activities	<p>(i) an increased support to the returnees' reintegration plans with coaching and training courses</p> <p>(ii) capacity building of local institutions and organizations potentially active in reintegration management: referral network in Morocco, set up of Bureaux d'accueil, d'orientation et de suivi in Louga and Tambacouna Senegal.</p> <p>(iii) short-term cash reinsertion assistance as well as longer-term in-kind reintegration top up grant for selected cases for: Business set up; Job placement; Accommodation; Medical assistance; Education and training; Psychosocial assistance; Emergency support; Legal assistance</p>
Funding source	EU ERF 2013- Community Actions
Monitoring/ Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reintegration staff in the CoOs will maintain regular (monthly) contact with returnees to inquire about their general welfare. • In addition, each case assisted must be monitored after the support has been provided. During the field visits to be carried out at the returnees' business site or at their place of living, the reintegration staff in the CoOs will carry out in-depth interviews and observe the reintegration process and assistance outcomes. A monitoring report, including an analysis of the project's impact, will then be elaborated.
Good practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coaching and training courses • Capacity building of local institutions • Top-up of classical reintegration programs according to vulnerability and wuality of reintegration plan • Information/ outreach in the EU
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No guarantees on additional financial assistance can be promised pre-departure • Difficult to inform migrants not eligible for reintegration assistance about the additional options of support • Migrants of these countries stayed often for a long period (irregular) in (different) European countries, disconnected from family for years with implications on psycho-social stability

International Organisation for Migration

Name programme	MAGNET II: job placement project for Voluntary Returnees from Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom returning to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) (1/04/2014 – 31/03/2016)
Implementing actors	IOM Iraq (Erbil) ; IOM Paris ; IOM Missions in 6 participating EU MS + Partners: Kurdistan Regional Government (Bureau of Migration and Displacement, and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs)
Target groups	Voluntary Returnees from Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom returning to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I).
Description of activities	Provide Iraqi returnees with information on existing potential job opportunities as well as liaison with employers in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-departure information and counselling • Communication tools: Leaflet; job placement opportunities booklet; Public website; Forum; Facebook page • Strengthening of the links with the private sector in KR-I • Strengthening of the links with the local authorities in KR-I • Post arrival counselling • Job and training referrals: the tool is the database for matching returnee profile with local job offers
Funding source	EU ERF 2013- Community Actions and co-funded by the French Ministry of Interior (Immigration Directorate), the British Home Office, the Belgian Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (FEDASIL), the Finnish Immigration Service (Migri), the Dutch Repatriation and Departure Service (Ministry of Security and Justice).
Monitoring/ Evaluation	Monitoring done by external 'Altai Consultants' of: Job fairs organized by IOM in the three governorates through site visits; Online platform & forum through a desk review; Internal processes through interviews with IOM staff.
Good practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on job referrals, with a focus on social media in order to reach migrants. • The project offers a joint way of proceeding between EU Member States (EU MS) but also between EU MS and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). • Involvement of the 6 EU MS participating is much appreciated by the KRG • Established partnerships with the local private sector and strengthened a network of potential employers to identify available vacancies and to encourage them to hire returnees.
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security crisis: ISIS security threat affected trade routes, fragmented local, national and regional markets. Transit trade and tourism have reduced, and investment and growth were inhibited. Foreign direct investment has declined by two-thirds in 2014. Unemployment has increased. • Humanitarian crisis: Inflows of IDPs and refugees in KRI, constituting a 28% increase in KRI's population and placing strains on the local economy and access to public services. IDPs entering the labour market are also pushing wages down. • Fiscal crisis with the suspension in early 2014 of the payment of KRG's share from the federal budget (17% from the central government budget, representing 12 billion USD a year or 80% of KRG's total revenues). This resulted in delays in wages and salaries payments and in putting on hold public investment projects.

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European Committee for Training and Agriculture (CEFA – Morocco)

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR TRAINING AND AGRICULTURE (CEFA - MOROCCO)

Name programme	REMIDA I (duration: September 2011 - June 2013)
Implementing actors	In Italy: CEFA + organisations delivering support and services to migrants, In Morocco : CEFA
Target groups	Maroccan returnees from Italy with a residence permit - most beneficiaries in a very vulnerable situation in Italy (no job, homeless, addiction, health problem, pore knowledge of Italian language, ...)
Description of activities	<p>1) In Italy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance in elaboration of "return project" and preparation of the return itself • Information and awareness actions through networks of associations in the regions concerned • Presentation of the project by social workers supported by cultural mediators • Submission of applications to Ministry of Interior for authorization • Support to develop a custom-made project for socio-economic reintegration • Delivery of pocket money for first needs (ex. transportation airport-home, etc.) -> condition: residence permit handed over to Italian border authorities <p>2) In the countries of return:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisting beneficiaries in implementation of return project and delivery of an in-kind subsidy (+/- €2000) • Research of potential partner institutions and / or private organisations for collaboration in assistance, entrepreneurship, microcredit, vocational training • Follow-up activities: 1st day , 1st visit, ... • After spending of the whole subsidy, further visits by field officer keep track of each beneficiary's situation and the performance of the economic activity.
Funding source	Italian Ministry of Interior with ERF (2008-2013)
Monitoring/Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationals of targeted third countries assisted in voluntary return & reintegration ; • Implemented individual reintegration plan / micro-business development projects ; • Meetings with organizations working in the field of reference ; • Interviews with potential beneficiaries in Italy; • Updated mapping of networks and stakeholders in the economic sector in return countries ; • Small businesses created by beneficiaries & employed beneficiaries
Good practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of CEFA operators both in Italy and in return country -> knowledge and understanding of each beneficiary, to build confidence and providing full custom-made support • Feasibility of beneficiaries' ideas checked against updated information from the field. • Availability of templates for potential activities. • Motivation of the operators
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of collaboration with local institutions delivering public services and local associations • Excessive stress on economic reintegration & lack of resources to address serious social and health problems • Lack of resources & tools to address minors' specific problems (language, schooling, feeling of non belonging); • Subsidy too limited as compared to cost of living in Morocco

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR TRAINING AND AGRICULTURE (CEFA - MOROCCO)

Name programme	REMIDA II (duration: September 2012 - June 2014)
Implementing actors	In Italy: CEFA + organisations delivering support and services to migrants - In countries of return: CEFA
Target groups	Maroccan, Tunesian, Senegalese and Sri Lankan returnees from Italy with a residence permit - most beneficiaries in a very vulnerable situation in Italy (no job, homeless, addiction, health problem, pore knowledge of Italian language, ...)
Description of activities	<p>1) In Italy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance in elaboration of the "return project" and the preparation of the return itself • Information & awareness actions through networks of associations in the regions concerned • Presentation of the project by social workers supported by cultural mediators • Submission of applications to Ministry of Interior for authorization • Support to develop a custom-made project for socio-economic reintegration • Delivery of pocket money for first needs (ex. transportation airport-home, etc.) -> condition: residence permit handed over to Italian border authorities <p>2) In the countries of return:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisting beneficiaries in implementation of return project and delivery of an in-kind subsidy (+/- €2000) • Research of potential partner institutions and / or private organisations for collaboration • Follow-up activities: 1st call the day after the arrival; 1st visit, ... • After the spending of the whole subsidy, further visits by the field officer keep track of each beneficiary's situation and the performance of the economic activity.
Funding source	Italian Ministry of Interior with funds of the ERF (2008-2013)
Monitoring/Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationals of targeted third countries assisted in voluntary return & reintegration ; • Implemented individual reintegration plan / micro-business development projects ; • Meetings to present the project with organizations working in the field of reference ; • Interviews with potential beneficiaries in Italy; • Updated mapping of networks and stakeholders in the economic sector in return countries ; • Small businesses created by beneficiaries & employed beneficiaries
Good practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of operators both in Italy and in the return country -> knowledge & understanding of the history of each beneficiary, to build confidence, thus providing full custom-made support. • Feasibility of beneficiaries' ideas checked against updated information from the field. • Availability of templates for potential activities. • Motivation of the operators
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of collaboration with local institutions delivering public services and local associations • Excessive stress on economic reintegration & lack of resources to address serious social and health problems • Lack of resources and tools to address minors' specific problems (language, schooling, feeling of non belonging); • Subsidy too limited as compared to cost of living in Morocco

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR TRAINING AND AGRICULTURE (CEFA - MOROCCO)

Name programme	ERMES (duration: February 2014 - June 2015)
Implementing actors	In Italy: organisations delivering support and services to migrants - In countries of return: no local actors
Target groups	Maroccan, Tunesian and Albanian returnees from Italy - most beneficiaries in a very vulnerable situation in Italy (no job, no residence permit, homeless, addiction, health problem, pore knowledge of Italian language, ...)
Description of activities	<p>Two modules:</p> <p>1) In Italy: beneficiaries are assisted in the elaboration of their "return project" and the preparation of the return itself</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information and awareness actions addressed to the migrant population through networks of associations in the regions concerned • Presentation of the project by social workers supported by cultural mediators • Submission of the applications to the Ministry of Interior for authorization • Support to the beneficiary to develop a custom-made project for socio-economic reintegration • Delivery of pocket money for first needs (ex. transportation airport-home, etc.) - residence permit must be handed over to border Italian authorities <p>2) In the countries of return: beneficiaries are assisted in implementation of return project & the delivery of an in-kind subsidy (+/- €2000)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research of potential partner institutions and / or private for the establishment of collaborations in the areas: assistance, entrepreneurship, microcredit, vocational training • Follow-up : choice of work / activity / training, during each visit, the field officer takes the necessary measures to provide the goods and services, paying personally to ensure effective support and safeguard the project's success • After the spending of the whole subsidy, further visits by the field officer keep track of each beneficiary's situation and the performance of the economic activity.
Funding source	Italian Ministry of Interior with funds of the ERF (2008-2013)
Monitoring/Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationals of targeted third countries assisted in voluntary return and reintegration ; • Implemented individual reintegration plan / micro-business development projects ; • Meetings to present the project with organizations working in the field of reference ; • Interviews with potential beneficiaries in Italy; updated mapping of networks and stakeholders in the economic sector in return countries ; • Small businesses created by beneficiaries & employed beneficiaries
Good practices	The program structure with operators both in Italy and in the return country is highly effective. It allows, in fact, the creation of strong ties, to deepen knowledge and understanding of the history of each beneficiary, to build confidence, thus providing full custom-made support. The feasibility of beneficiaries' ideas are always checked against updated information from the field. Availability of templates for potential activities. The motivation of the operators has also reduced the limits of the program (ex. lack of specialized counseling) still offering very strong support to beneficiaries.
Challenges	Idem as previous

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Immigration Office

IMMIGRATION OFFICE

Name programme	Special needs (2009 -)
Implementing actors	Immigration office (in cooperation with local partners)
Target groups	<p>Vulnerable, irregularly staying persons in detention, prison or psychiatric institution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons with specific needs (psychological or physical) • Pregnant women • Elderly persons, ...
Description of activities	<p>Providing support before, during and after the return:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Urgent psychiatric admissions 2. Assistance of a medical/social escort during the flight 3. Medical/social support in country of origin
Funding source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2009 - June 2015: European Return Fund • From June 2015: Belgian national return budget
Monitoring/Evaluation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By local partners 2. By immigration office
Good practices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use of national return programs 2. Role of a confidant: social workers and psychologists in the centers 3. Contact with family in the country of origin 4. A good and reliable partner in the country of origin
Challenges	<p>Organising the return of vulnerable persons in general and more specific of persons with a psychiatric disorder, is a complex process</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transition from Belgian to local medical and legal system 2. In case we can't find relatives, a local partner, a reintegration programme or a doctor who is willing to accept the patient 3. Dependence on goodwill of third parties 4. No cooperation of the returnee

IMMIGRATION OFFICE

Name programme	European Reintegration Network (ERIN) • ERI: June 2012 - Febr. 2014 • ERIN: June 2014 - June 2016
Implementing actors	Immigration office (in cooperation with local partners)
Target groups	All returnees in detention centers to: Afghanistan ; Pakistan ; Guinea ; Iran ; Iraq ; Nigeria ; Russia ; Somaliland ; Sri Lanka ; DR Congo ; Morocco
Description of activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-departure counseling • Reception service at the airport • Onward travel assistance • Technical and vocational training • Job placement assistance • Business startup assistance • Medical facilitation assistance • Temporary accommodation assistance
Funding source	Co-financed by the European Return Fund
Monitoring/Evaluation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By local partner 2. By monitoring missions 3. Monthly returnees review list 4. Sign-in sheets returnees 5. Six-monthly operational & financial report
Good practices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. European project so best practices are shared 2. At arrival the returnee can be confused. A point of reference is a help for them to get back on their feet. 3. In vulnerable cases the budget is raised by the immigration office.
Challenges	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Some of the local partners do not want to participate in forced return. This means that returnees are not supported by the local partner. 2. Extension of the project to other countries of origin.