



Towards a more integrated migration policy, made possible by the AMIF

**fedasil**  
FEDERAL AGENCY FOR THE  
RECEPTION OF ASYLUM SEEKERS

# Voluntary Return

Information on voluntary return to migrants in irregular stay

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EMN conference, December 4, 2015

# Fedasil

## Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers

Agency ° 2002

Legal responsibilities:

- ❖ Accommodation of asylum seekers (> 30.000 reception places)
- ❖ Reception of unaccompanied Minors
- ❖ Resettlement – relocation
- ❖ Voluntary return.

# Voluntary return - framework

## Context:

Person in irregular stay = obligation to leave the territory.

In principle: independent / autonomous departure.

However: not feasible for everyone.

Risk: removal (SEFOR).

## 2 objectives / challenges:

- ❖ Voluntary return = make return feasible
- ❖ Make voluntary return known and accessible.

# Voluntary return – reception network

Return path (= 'terugkeertraject'):

- ❖ Information on voluntary return at standard key moments.
- ❖ Standard communication (asylum – reception).
- ❖ Reintegration support if return during asylum procedure / order to leave the territory.
- ❖ Impact of transfer to 'open return place' after negative decision.

Result:

- ❖ Resident gets a clear message (stay = temporary).
- ❖ Resident is informed about possibilities of voluntary return program (cf. evaluation 2014).
- ❖ Resident is referred to alternatives (return desks).

# Voluntary return – irregular stay

Systematic 'path' = impossible for migrants in irregular stay.

Strategy, based on 3 action points:

- ❖ Content of the program – assistance must be meaningful to target group.
- ❖ Communication channels (how to reach target group?).
- ❖ Accessibility of the AVR program.

Field study (KUL): actual state of affairs.

# Assistance - migrants in irregular stay

Objective : make a return feasible.

Support:

- ❖ Tailored reintegration support (directives on [www.fedasil.be](http://www.fedasil.be)).
- ❖ Country specific reintegration projects (key aspect: referral).

Deontology - values:

- ❖ Confidentiality.
- ❖ Ownership of the decision.

# Channels

Combination of different channels:

1. Direct communication = difficult. Target group = broad, no internal structure.
2. Fedasil @ (in)formal representatives.
  - ❖ Consular representations.
  - ❖ Diaspora-associations.

Migrants in irregular stay = predominantly in large cities.

Large cities = dense network of (in)formal service delivery towards target group.

3. Co-operation with municipalities – local actors.
  - ❖ °2015: Antwerp, Aalst, Charleroi, Eupen, Ghent.
  - ❖ 2016: Ostend, Brussels.
  - ❖ 3 objectives: inform civil society, integration of voluntary return in social & administrative service delivery / referral.

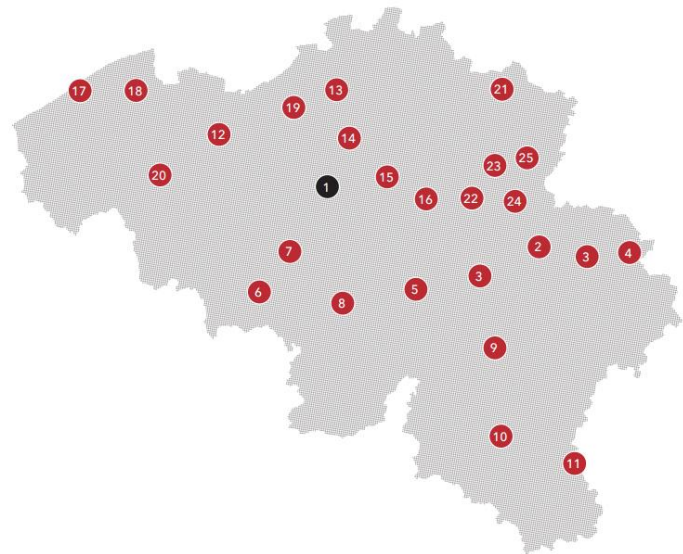
# Accessibility

## Return partners

- ❖ Network of civil society organizations.
- ❖ Voluntary return = part of service delivery to migrants in irregular stay.
- ❖ Challenge: program / context = more complex.

## Return desks

- ❖ Brussels, Antwerp, Liège and Ghent.
- ❖ Central free 0800 phone number.
- ❖ Harmonized operating procedures.

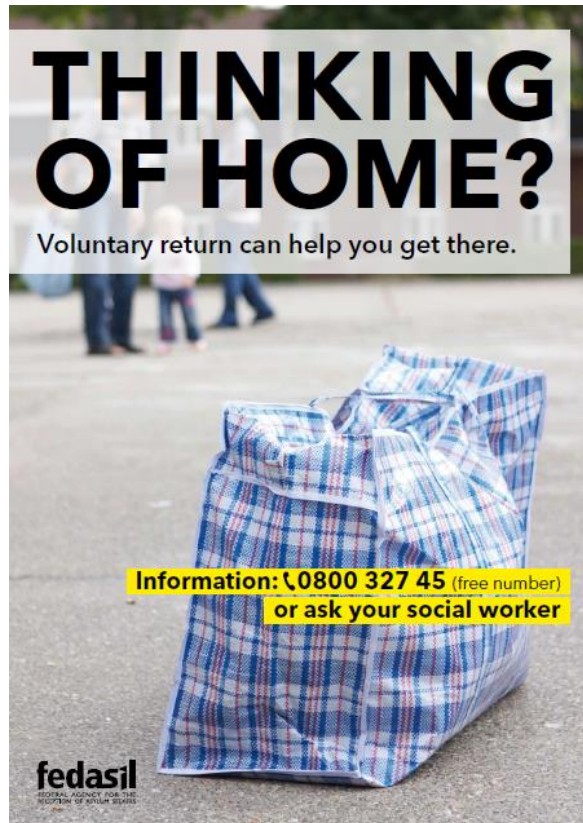




# Communication tools

Visual support:

- ❖ Poster (evolution in image and style).
- ❖ Flyer (basic information – 11 languages).



# Communication tools

[www.voluntaryreturn.be](http://www.voluntaryreturn.be) (New website in construction)



## Voluntary return can help you get there.

Voluntary return programme helps you to organise **your return**. Also, according to your personal situation, Fedasil offers **certain types of assistance**. Lorem ipsum solar sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit unc. Id auctor sem aliquam eget.

## LOTS OF QUESTIONS WHICH WE WOULD LIKE TO ANSWER FOR YOU

### SELECT YOUR LANGUAGE:

<b>English</b>	gjuha shqipe	Français
العربية	فارسی	فارسی
کوردی	普通话	Español
کوردی	русский язык	हिंदी
کوردی	Tiếng Việt	Português
کوردی	ગુજરાતી	සිංහල

1. WHAT IS A VOLUNTARY RETURN?
2. HOW CAN I APPLY FOR MY RETURN?
3. WHO WILL ORGANISE MY RETURN?
4. DO I HAVE TO PAY?
5. HOW MUCH LUGGAGE CAN I TAKE WITH ME?
6. IS THE JOURNEY ACCOMPANIED?
7. LIFE IS NOT EASY IN MY COUNTRY, WHAT SUPPORT CAN YOU PROVIDE?

#### 1. WHAT IS A VOLUNTARY RETURN?

The voluntary return is intended for asylum seekers and all foreigners who do not have a resident's permit in Belgium. It is a return chosen by you. The journey is the same as that for ordinary passengers; the authorities are not informed before your arrival. You are free to decide not to leave right up until the end of the process.

#### 3. WHO WILL ORGANISE MY RETURN?

Fedasil is responsible for the voluntary return. The KLM, the International

#### 2. HOW CAN I APPLY FOR MY RETURN?

For further information or to make an appointment, call the free number 0800 32 745. You can also go to the Return desk every workday between 9:30 am and 4 pm, at 57 chaussée d'Ixelles, 1050 Brussels (Dispatching Fedasil). A Fedasil return advisor will answer your questions and help you to organise your return. *N.B.: remember to take any useful documents with you.*

#### 4. DO I HAVE TO PAY?

NO, you do not have to pay.

# Actual state of affairs

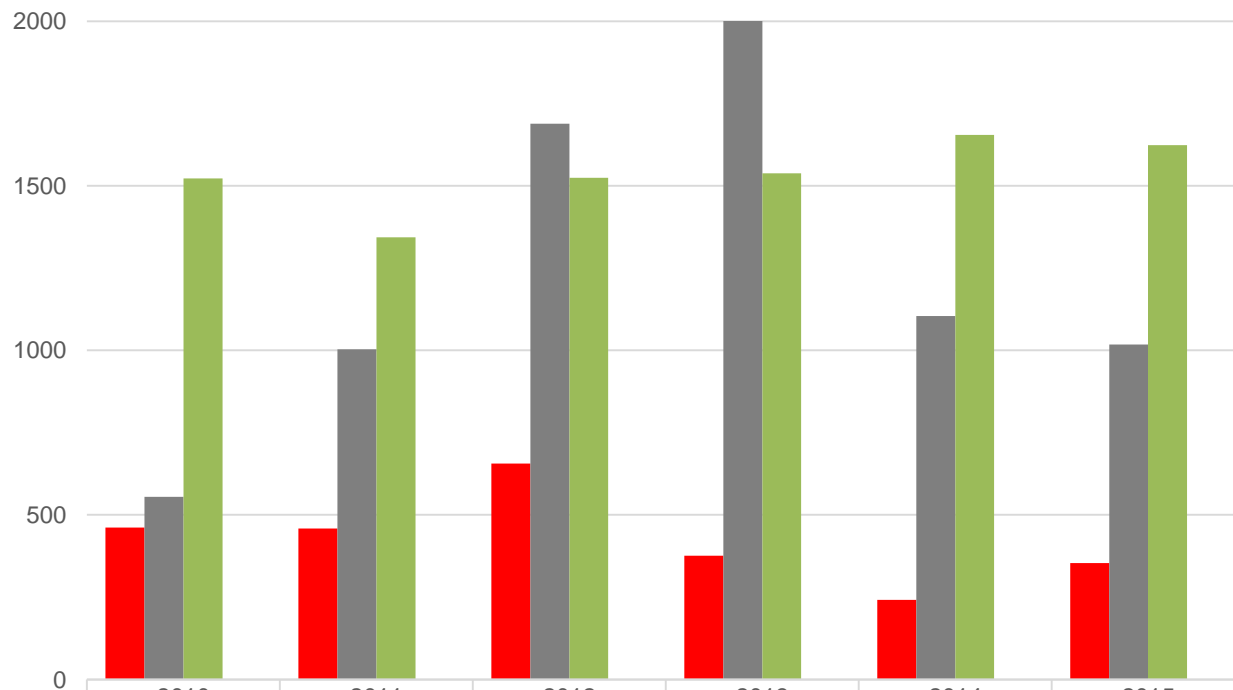
Reception network:

- ❖ 'Return path' is implemented.
- ❖ Update after internal evaluation.
- ❖ Capacity building program for return counseling.

Outside reception network – migrants in irregular stay:

- ❖ Assistance – channels – accessibility: implementation.
- ❖ Challenge: coherence between different initiatives (cities – desks – information campaigns – return partners).

# Figures



	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
■ Asielzoeker in procedure	462	459	656	376	242	354
■ Uitgeprocedeerde asielzoeker	555	1003	1689	2016	1104	1018
■ Migrant in illegaal verblijf	1522	1343	1524	1538	1655	1623
TOTAL	2539	2805	3869	3930	3001	2995