Effective and sustainable reintegration of returnees

The added value of vocational training and building third country ownership

Presentation by the German delegation

Working Party on Integration, Migration and Expulsion

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• The German Federal Ministries work together in order to form a coherent policy approach and to create an important **connection between voluntary return and sustainable reintegration**.

• This **whole-of-government approach** includes the expansion of reintegration services at home and in the countries of origin.

• Development cooperation projects **open for returnees and those who have not left the country**

> Following the **‘do no harm – principle’** and to avoid **‘pull factors’**
1a) Vocational trainings as part of reintegration programmes of returnees
• **31 destination countries** for returnees from Germany
• **Implementation of reintegration services** by local partners:
  • Post-arrival counselling
  • Categorization of vocational qualifications
  • Help with finding a job
  • Support with setting up a business
• Bilateral programme, Started in 2008
• In 2019: 855 persons received support
• Individual needs will be assessed during a counselling session in Kosovo and can include the following services:
  – Help with finding a job
  – Support in the application process & personal assistance for interviews
  – Workshops to re-enter the job market + application training
  – Financial assistance for educational trainings
  – Financial assistance for promising business ideas
  – For children: Provision of basic school equipment + extra school counselling, language courses
  – For single working parents: additional support to pay the Kindergarten if it is necessary for the job
Cooperation between Germany and France started in September 2019

Implemented by the French Office for Immigration and Integration in Armenia

Individual needs will be assessed during a counselling session in Armenia and can include the following services:

- Categorization of vocational qualifications and
- Help with finding a job
- Support with setting up a business
Perspektive Heimat

- started in July 2017 (based on bilateral development programmes)
- Reintegration measures for people returning to: Afghanistan, Albania, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Iraq, Kosovo, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Serbia or Tunisia
- Individual needs are assessed during a counselling session and can include the following services:
  - Vocational training & Vocational qualifications
  - Internships & Career fairs
  - Support in the application process & help finding a job
  - Support with setting up a business or self-employment
- 221,600 qualifications or trainings (19,400 for returnees)
- 183,500 in jobs or supported in self-employment (11,700 returnees).
1b) Positive correlation between reintegration programmes and the increase in voluntary returns

• Return and reintegration programmes are not the only decisive factor for the return decision
• but also very **personal factors** (family ties, residence perspective in Germany, or the political and economic situation in the respective country of origin)

• Every year thousands of people from Germany return to their countries of origin. The job and training opportunities offered help returnees with their **sustainable reintegration** in their country of origin, offer a **new perspective** and possibly **reduce incentives for remigration**.
1b) Positive correlation between reintegration programmes and the increase in voluntary returns

• Latest **evaluation** study on the German reintegration funding programme StarthilfePlus: 1,339 voluntary returnees were asked 6-8 months after their return in their country of origin.

• They confirm the **positive effect of support in the area of non-monetary support**, especially for long-term reintegration.

• Even if purely financial support is of great benefit, most of the respondents indicated that they would like further reintegration support, e.g. access to education, looking for work or starting your own business.
2. German experiences with supporting vocational training in third countries & ownership

- **URA**: Close cooperation and exchange of experiences with the Kosovar Ministry of the Interior and government agencies. Goal: perspective takeover of all reintegration services by the local authorities, including the work components.

- **Perspektive Heimat**: It is managed together with national authorities in partner countries - mainly labour ministries and employment agencies. It strengthens the reintegration capacities and responsibility of the partner countries, for example by operating "Advice Centres for Jobs, Migration and Reintegration"
3a) Do you agree that building and strengthening the reintegration capacities of countries of origin and their ownership of reintegration schemes through government-led bodies could lead to more success in the reintegration process?

YES

• It is a support for the countries of origin in the short and medium term, but at the same time also places them under the obligation to assume personal responsibility.

• In addition, we work in parallel with civil society and private sector organizations from the countries of origin.

• In the long term, reintegration is the responsibility of the authorities in the countries of origin.

• Goal: not to replace government structures in the long term, but only to support them in the short to medium term.

• This gives the capacity building a prominent role and the gradual transfer of the reintegration offers to government agencies.
3b) Should vocational training be provided/ arranged by national/ local authorities?

**YES**

- They are best acquainted with the labor market policy situation and the needs of the local labor market, especially since they are also originally responsible for making these offers available.
Thank you very much for your attention!
Please contact us for more information regarding

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