



# **European Migration Network**

## Ad-Hoc Query on premiums of AVR-programs

Requested by BE EMN NCP on 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2008

Responses from DK, EE, DE, NL, PL, HU, UK, IE, SL, SK, SE, AU, LV, LT, PT, MT, ES, BG (18 NCPs)

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### **1. Background Information**





As from a humanitarian as well as from a cost-effective point of view, (assisted) voluntary return is to be preferred above forced removals, policy makers are exploring methods and possibilities to stimulate irregular migrants to make use of the assisted voluntary return programs. One important aspect in the consideration (of the migrant) can be the height of the amount (the premium) or the financial incentive. Therefore we would like to know the financial incentive that is used in your country for 1 adult and for a family.

If you have apart from the current (IOM) programs also specific reintegration schemes which provide financial assistance, it would be appreciated if you can mention the height of the amounts.

### **2. Responses**

		<b>Wider Dissemination?</b>	
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	Belgium	yes	<p><b>In Belgium the amounts are the following:</b></p> <p><b>IOM REAB-program</b></p> <p>1 Adult: 250 Euro Accompanying child: 125 Euro (for example a family with 2 children: 750 Euro)</p> <p><b>New reintegration scheme (since 2006)</b></p> <p>700 Euro per person, with a maximum of 1750 per family. In case of vulnerable persons, this can be increased with an additional 700 Euro per person.</p> <p>The total national resources allocated for AVR-programs in Belgium: 2008: 4.700.000 Euro ; budget 2009: 5.300.000.</p>
	Bulgaria	yes	<p>In Bulgaria no financial assistance is provided to the voluntarily returning migrants other than purchasing of tickets and assistance for issuance of travel documents (when needed).</p>
	Czech Republic		
	Denmark	yes	<p>Denmark has no general AVR-programmes.</p> <p><b>AVR-programme for rejected asylum seekers from Iraq:</b></p> <p>1 adult: <b>4000 euro (2000 extra after 6 months)</b></p> <p>1 family: <b>2 adults one child: 4000 + 4000 + 2000 : 10.000 euro – after 6 months: 2000 + 2000+ 1000 : 5000.</b></p> <p><b>Total 15.000 Euro</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- upon arrival: 4.000 euro</li> <li>- after 6 months stay: 2.000 euro</li> <li>- Buisness start up: 1.500 euro</li> <li>- One child: 2000 euro</li> </ul>

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- Each child after 6 months:1000 euro.

**Repatriation Act** (people with residence permit in Denmark who returns)

*An overview on the financial benefits available according to the rules in the Repatriation Act (2008):*

<b>The Repatriation Act</b>
Travel expenses from Denmark to the country of origin.
Freight costs for personal belongings up to 2 sq. m. per person.
An establishment grant up to DKK 27.406 (3.770 Euro) per adult and DKK 8.770 (1.170 Euro) per minor child payable in two parts: DKK 16.444 (2.350 Euro) per adult at leaving the country (DKK 5.481 pr. child / 785 Euro) and DKK 10.963 (1.460 Euro) per adult after 12 months (for immigrants) or after the right to return to Denmark has lapsed (refugees).
Expenses of up to DKK 12.733 (1.698 Euro) for the purchase of professional equipment, which is suitable to improve the foreigner's occupational opportunities and the reconstruction of the country of origin, and expenses of up to DKK 16.444 (2.192 Euro) for transportation of the equipment.
Expenses of up to DKK 12.733 (1.698 Euro) for transportation of equipment already owned by the foreigner necessary for the occupation of the foreigner or the family of the foreigner.
Expenses for health insurance for one year, if no public health insurance is available in the country of origin. – Alternatively, municipalities may pay the foreigner DKK 5.481 (785 Euro), thus the foreigner can take out a health insurance or pay medical treatment him/herself.
Expenses for prescribed medicine brought from Denmark and limited to a 1-year consumption period.
Expenses of up to DKK 5.373 (Euro 716) for medical aids (i.e. rolling walker) and vaccination.

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**Reintegration allowance**

For foreigners meeting the conditions described below, the Danish Reintegration Act provides a reintegration allowance on a monthly basis for five years.

The preconditions for receiving the reintegration allowance are:

- The foreigner wishes to return to and settle permanently in the country of origin or the prior country of residence.
- The foreigner has permanent residence permit in Denmark.
- The foreigner has had residence permit in Denmark for at least five years.
- The foreigner is over 60 years of age, or is over 50 years but is considered as not able to provide for him/herself on grounds of health or has been granted a disability pension regardless his/her age.
- The foreigner has no means to cover his/her needs by other means;



The foreigner can choose between the reintegration allowance for five years as described above and a reduced lifelong reintegration allowance that will be settled to 80 pct. of the five-year reintegration allowance.

The reintegration allowance's monthly amount is defined by the State and depends on which group the home country is placed in. All countries are divided in four groups depending on the living expenses in the country in question.


*Figure on the reintegration allowance:*

	<b>The reintegration allowance in five years</b>	<b>The reduced lifelong reintegration allowance</b>
Group 1 (i.e. Afghanistan, Somalia and Pakistan)	DKK 1.000 per month	DKK 800 per month
Group 2 (i.e. Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, Iraq, Turkey and Sri	DKK 1.500 per month	DKK 1200 per month



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	<b>Germany</b>	yes	<p>REAG/GARP-Program - <b>Within the framework of the program the following types of assistance are granted:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Payment of transportation costs (by plane, train or bus)</li> <li>b) Petrol allowance per car €205</li> <li>c) Travel assistance €100 for adults/youth, €50 for children under 12 years</li> </ul> <p><b>GARP start up cash: €200 per adult/youth, 100 € per child under the age of 12 (max. €600 per family) for nationals of:</b> Algeria, Angola, China, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Lebanon, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Syria and Vietnam.</p> <p><b>GARP start up cash:</b> €250 per adult/youth, €125 per child under the age of 12 (max. €750 per family) for nationals of: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran,</p> <p>Macedonia, Montenegro, Russian Federation, Serbia, Kosovo (except Serbian and Roma minorities), Turkey and Ukraine.</p> <p><b>GARP start up cash:</b> €500 per adult/youth and €250 per child under the age of 12 (max. €1.500 per family) for nationals of: Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo (only for Serbian and Roma minorities from Kosovo).</p>									
	<b>Estonia</b>	yes	<p>Estonian Migration Foundation (EMF) may support financially:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the settlement of ethnic Estonians in Estonia;</li> <li>2. the voluntary resettlement of aliens, who have not integrated into Estonian society, in their ethnic countries of origin or other countries;</li> <li>3. Expulsion – the return of aliens who stay in Estonia without a legal basis to their countries of origin.</li> </ol> <p>Financial support of migration processes is a right rather than as an obligation of the EMF.</p> <p>Amount of the <u>voluntary resettlement</u> of aliens in their ethnic countries of origin or other countries (assisted voluntary return)</p>									


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			<p>consists of the basic support and additional support:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the basic support is up to 5 000 kroons (approx. 320 Euro);</li> <li>2. the additional support for a minor child is up to 3 000 kroons (approx. 192 Euro) per each child;</li> <li>3. the additional support for a pensioner is up to 5 000 kroons (approx. 320 Euro) (this amount is paid if an applicant has received an old-age pension in Estonia but has lost the right to receive this pension due to the remigration);</li> <li>4. the support for buying housing is 10 000 kroons (approx. 640 Euro);</li> <li>5. the compensation for transport expenses of personal property up to 10 000 kroons (approx. 640 Euro).</li> </ol> <p>In total the sum of the remigration support may not exceed 15 000 kroons (approx. 959 Euro) per applicant.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Amount of the <u>settlement of ethnic Estonians in Estonia</u> (reintegration) consists of the basic support and additional support: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the basic support is up to 5 000 kroons (approx. 320 Euro);</li> <li>2. the additional support for a minor child is up to 10 000 kroons (approx. 640 Euro) per child;</li> <li>3. the additional support for a pensioner is up to 5 000 kroons (approx. 320 Euro) (this amount is paid if an applicant has received an old-age pension in a foreign country but has lost it due to settlement in Estonia).</li> <li>4. the support for buying housing is 10 000 kroons (approx. 640 Euro);</li> <li>5. the compensation for transport expenses of personal property up to 10 000 kroons (approx. 640 Euro);</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>In total the sum of the return support may not exceed 35 000 kroons (approx. 2237 Euro) per applicant.</p> <p><u>Starting from year 2007</u> and with the support of European Refugee Fund, EMF is providing assistance to voluntary returning asylum seekers. Assisted voluntary return is a program that helps those who have sought international protection on their return home. The return costs (documents, travel costs, transportation costs, etc) will be covered and a sum for financial support will be paid to the applicant. The amount of the sum will be decided by an expert commission.</p>
	<b>Ireland</b>	<b>yes</b>	<p>With regard to your ad hoc query on AVR programmes, we have received the following response from the Irish Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform:</p> <p>The Irish Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration scheme is run by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform in conjunction with the International Organisation of Migration (IOM). All non-EEA nationalities are covered under the same VARRP programme.</p>








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			<p>Travel costs are met in respect of those who return to their home country under the under the VARRP. In addition IOM will provide assistance in securing travel documents if required and also assistance can be provided at the airport at departure and arrival.</p> <p>People who are planning to return voluntarily can apply for reintegration assistance before they depart. They can access this reintegration assistance once they have returned to their home country. Irish reintegration assistance is not in the form of a cash grant but rather payment in kind, for example help starting up a small business, or reviving an existing one, vocational training classes or educational courses.</p> <p>The value of this reintegration assistance for single individuals is up to €600 and for families it is up to €1200.</p>
	Greece		
	Spain	yes	<p><u>Voluntary return</u></p> <p>The voluntary return programme is aimed at foreigners with different legal statuses in Spain who, due to a variety of circumstances, express a desire to return to their country: refugees, displaced persons, asylum seekers, people under subsidiary protection and immigrants with residence and work permits or in an irregular situation who meet the following minimum requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In a situation of need and social vulnerability</li> <li>• Residing in Spain for no less than six months</li> </ul> <p>The voluntary return programmes are carried out through subsidies to NGOs and Convention with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), and they include the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information and advice to the person involved</li> <li>• Training for the return</li> <li>• International return ticket to their country of origin from their place of residence in Spain, including payment of hotels, food and all exceptional circumstances that could arise en route.</li> <li>• Unexpected duly justified expenses for medicine or others, such as travelling companions.</li> <li>• Financial travel aid, presented at the time of the international departure.</li> <li>• Financial aid for reintegration in their country of origin, which may be as much as €400 per adult and €150 per child, up to a maximum of €1,400 per family.</li> </ul>


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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional financial aid up to a maximum of €5,000 for training and social/productive initiatives in their home country.</li> </ul> <p><u>Evolution of the programme (2006 –2007)</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Year</th> <th rowspan="2">Amount (€)</th> <th colspan="3">No. of returnees</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Asylum Seekers</th> <th>Other immigrants</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2006</td> <td>1,441,259.02</td> <td>47</td> <td>911</td> <td>958</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2007</td> <td>1,694,109.33</td> <td>59</td> <td>1,125</td> <td>1,184</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Amount (€)	No. of returnees			Asylum Seekers	Other immigrants	Total	2006	1,441,259.02	47	911	958	2007	1,694,109.33	59	1,125	1,184
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	France	yes	<p>In France, the device on aids on return is as follows :</p> <p>The current assisted voluntary returns have been introduced by a government circular of December 7 2006. There are 2 kinds of aids, assistance for the voluntary repatriation ("aide au retour volontaire", ARV) and humanitarian assistance to returning ("aide au retour humanitaire, ARH).</p> <p>1- the "ARV":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Are concerned: foreigners who have been refused residence or whose residence permit has expired.</li> <li>. Aids: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assumption of total travel, and social support for people living in precarious.</li> <li>- Financial aid: 2000 euro for a single adult, 3500 euro for a couple, 1000 euro per child until the third included, 500 euro from 4th child.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>This aid is paid amounts in 3, 30% paid out, 50% paid 6 months after return and 20% paid 12 months after return.</p> <p>2- the "ARH":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Are concerned: foreigners (including from the EU) in precarious and unaccompanied minors.</li> <li>. Aids:</li> </ul>																		







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			<p>- Assumption of total travel.</p> <p>- Financial aid of 153 Euro per adult and 46 Euro per child. This aid is increased to 300 Euro per adult and 100 Euro per child on a experimental basis since November 26 2007.</p> <p>3- Resettlement assistance.</p> <p>In addition to such aids, migrants returning home and wanting to establish their business can be helped.</p> <p>Under development solidarity with the source countries of emigration, an Agency of the French State, which specializes in hosting and helping migrants, the "ANAEM" ("agence nationale de l'accueil des étrangers et des migrations"), acts as operator to assist migrants who wish to establish their business in their country of origin.</p>
	Italy		
	Cyprus		
	Latvia	yes	There is no assisted voluntary return program in Latvia, because the number of forced return persons is comparatively small. Foreigners who are willing to leave Latvia return to their country of origin on their own costs (expense) and they themselves turn to the authorities in order to deal with the formalities.
	Lithuania	yes	In Lithuania financial initiative is provided only to migrants who return using AVR scheme (coordinated by IOM Vilnius). Every person gets <b>300 Euros</b> (pocket allowance or partial re-integration). Starting from 2009 IOM Vilnius plans to include reintegration in the home countries scheme (if accepted by the Return Fund). This will include support for finding a job/training.
	Luxembourg		
	Hungary	no	This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However they have requested that it is not disseminated further.
	Malta	yes	<p>Assisted Voluntary Return programmes in Malta are still considered to be in their infancy. The first Assisted Voluntary Return project was launched in collaboration with the IOM in 2005. This AVR pilot programme had limited scope but laid the foundations for later programmes a limited re-integration package was offered.</p> <p>A more recent scheme also in collaboration with IOM envisages a reintegration package that could offer a Voluntary Returnee a maximum of €1500. A total of €147690 are available for this scheme. Apart from the</p>



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			<p>financial aspect the scheme includes counselling, the preparation of personalised reintegration plans, preparatory sessions for returnees, informational material, pre-departure and post departure assistance and monitoring of the reintegration process.</p> <p>During the course of the last and the current year an AVR scheme run in collaboration with ICMPD for 18 months on an experimental basis provided a more generous package. Under this scheme the reintegration package could reach a maximum of €5000, depending on an assessment of the particular situation of the person/s concerned. This scheme offers returnees the facility to improve their knowledge or skills ( e.g. languages, business set-up) before departure and meeting their tuition costs. IOM assist in the country of origin.</p>
	<p>Netherlands</p>	<p>yes</p>	<p><b>Financial contribution when returning from the Netherlands in an AVR program.</b> IOM has been assisting aliens in The Netherlands who would like to return to their country of origin or resettle in a third country since 1992. IOM offers this support based on the REAN programme. REAN is an acronym for “Return and Emigration of Aliens from the Netherlands”.</p> <p>Within IOM REAN programme there are two categories of support contributions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. a standard contribution of €500 per adult or single minor and €100 per minor family member.</li> </ol> <p>Foreigners who meet the following criteria are eligible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- are still in a immigration law procedure or for whom the departure date has not elapsed, and who have resided in the Netherlands for over three months;</li> <li>- have a residence permit</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. a limited contribution of €200 per adult or single minor and €40 per minor family member.</li> </ol> <p>Foreigners who meet the following criteria are eligible:</p>


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			<p>- are still in a immigration law procedure or for whom the departure date has not elapsed, and who have resided in the Netherlands for less than three months;</p> <p>- are no longer legally entitled to remain in the Netherlands.</p> <p>The Return and Reintegration Regulation applies to people who submitted their asylum application before 15 June 2006. Who meets the criteria of the regulation is eligible for a complementary contribution of €1.750 per adult.</p>
	<b>Austria</b>	<b>No</b>	This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However they have requested that it is not disseminated further.
	<b>Poland</b>	<b>yes</b>	<p>OM AVR (in cooperation with Border Guard and Office for Foreigners):</p> <p>200 EUR / person (in case of a family: 200 EUR X number of family members)</p> <p>Additional assistance is provided to foreigners wishing to undertake financial activity in the country of return. In order to obtain the assistance, the foreigner needs to submit a business plan of the future establishment. If qualified, <u>material</u> assistance (purchase of equipment, etc.) of up to</p> <p>1500 EUR / person</p> <p>is foreseen</p>
	<b>Portugal</b>	<b>yes</b>	<p>IOM VRP</p> <p>2008: 400 euros (adult) 150 euros (child)</p> <p>2009: up to 1100 euro (per person)</p>
	<b>Romania</b>		
	<b>Slovenia</b>	<b>yes</b>	Slovenia does not implement assisted voluntary return programmes, so therefore we cannot provide you with the information on the financial incentives.
	<b>Slovak Republic</b>	<b>yes</b>	The Government of the Slovak Republic has been implementing assisted voluntary returns in co-operation with IOM since 1998 based on the <i>Agreement on Cooperation between the International Organization for Migration and the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic on the Assistance to the Rejected Asylum Seekers and Illegal</i>

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			<p><i>Migrants with the Return to the Country of Origin.</i> The programme is funded through a combination of resources: the basic funding is provided through the state budget, complementary activities have been funded through the European Refugee Fund and through the European Return Fund Preparatory Actions. The contributions provided to returnees differ according to the financial framework under which the return is implemented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In case the return is implemented on the basis of the agreement alone (no other complementary funding is available), no contribution is provided.</li> <li>- In the framework of the ERF funding, a sum of 80 EUR is provided per one person (including minors).</li> <li>- In the framework of the European Return Fund Preparatory Actions, a sum of 100 EUR is provided per one person (including minors). As a complementary action to facilitate the person's reintegration after the return, the returnee may apply for a contribution of 2.000 EUR to cover the implementation of a business plan elaborated in co-operation with IOM and subsequently monitored by IOM in the country of origin.</li> </ul> <p>It has to be noted that the above-mentioned contributions provided to returning migrants are perceived as contributions to cover basic needs and expenses connected with the return rather than an incentive to return.</p>
	Finland		
	Sweden	yes	<p>Since 1 August 2007, an asylum seeker are eligible for reestablishment support from the Migration Board if he wishes to return to his home country. The support is intended for those who plan on returning to a country where re-establishment is difficult because of the situation there. At the present, the Migration Board considers that such difficult circumstances exist in for example Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia and Gaza.</p> <p>The reestablishment support is 30 000 Swedish crowns (approximately 3000 euro) for each adult person 18 years and over and 15 000 Swedish crowns (1 500 euro) for each child under 18 years but a maximum of 75 000 Swedish crowns (7 500 euro) for each family.</p> <p>If the asylum seeker are from Afghanistan or Iraq and has been informed that support has been granted, the Migration Board will inform IOM. This is because IOM is the organisation which pays the asylum seeker the money in these countries.</p> <p>I would like to emphasise that the support are not granted to everyone but only to those that come from certain countries or areas with a difficult situation.</p>

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	<b>United Kingdom</b>	<p>yes</p>	<p>The <b>Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme</b> is the UK's generic voluntary return programme for those in the asylum system and those with temporary status in the UK who wish to return voluntarily and permanently to their country of origin or to a third country to which they are admissible. VARRP is operated by IOM.</p> <p>Since October 2007 assistance is 'tailored' to the needs of the individual and the country of return, which ensures all returnees are not seeking a maximum package amount. The maximum assistance available is not published. However IOM have published on their website <a href="http://www.iomlondon.org">www.iomlondon.org</a> the 'individual return plan' which is attached. IOM complete this with the returnee. In the individual return plan, specific amounts are given for the Resettlement Grant of £500 paid to each returnee at the airport and the Business Start Up payment £1,500.</p> <p><b>AVRIM</b> is the scheme that is available for the assisted return of irregular migrants. This is again administered by IOM. In this instance, as a general principle, reintegration assistance is not payable. However up to £1000 is payable assessed on a case by case basis for vulnerable categories. These categories include victims of trafficking, UASCs and those with health problems. Again this figure is not published but the fact is generally well known and publicised by organisations such as Refugee Council and Refugee Action.</p>