

# Assisted voluntary return and reintegration: strategy of EU Member States and European coordination

## EMN Annual Conference

**European Migration Network (EMN) – Annual Conference 2022**  
**Organised by EMN France**

**Translation English - French**

**Tuesday, 21 June 2022 (9:30 am to 5:45 pm)**

### CONCEPT

In the framework of the French EU Presidency, EMN France and the General Directorate for Foreign Nationals in France (DGEF) within the Ministry of the Interior have the pleasure of inviting you to the EMN's Annual Conference 2022 on 'Assisted voluntary return and reintegration'.

This conference will bring together policy makers, practitioners, researchers, NGOs and international organisations at national and European level, aiming to provide a forum for constructive exchange.

The conference will be opened by Mr Claude d'Harcourt, General Director for Foreign Nationals in France, followed by a welcome speech by Mr Michael Shotter, Director of the Directorate for Migration and Asylum, DG Home.

## AIMS AND OVERVIEW OF THE EVENT

This conference will be dedicated to the issue of assisted voluntary return and reintegration, focusing on EU and non-EU Member State approaches and European coordination.

The EU strategy on voluntary return and reintegration published on 27 April 2021 promotes the importance of voluntary returns and aims at increasing their share and number, while increasing the quality of the support provided to returnees. The aim of this strategy is to develop a more uniform and coordinated approach among EU Member States as well as to boost the effectiveness and sustainability of the common EU system for returns for the mutual benefit of the returnees, the EU and countries of origin.

During the conference all participants will have the opportunity to discuss best practices and challenges related to voluntary return and reintegration.

Starting with EU tools and the legal framework, discussions will also focus on national schemes for assisted voluntary return and their promotion, as well as on reintegration programmes. Panellists and participants will make an analysis of the EU and national level, while also taking into account the perspectives of some countries of origin / transit.

## AGENDA

This conference is hosted as a face-to-face event on 21 June 2022 in Paris.

<b>Tuesday 21 June</b>	
09:00-09:30	<b>Registration of participants</b>
09:30-09:45	<b>Opening and introduction of the conference</b> EMN France
09:45-10:15	<b>Keynote speech</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Claude d'Harcourt, General Director, General Directorate for Foreign Nationals in France, Ministry of the Interior</li> <li>- Michael Shotter, Director, Directorate for Migration and Asylum, DG HOME, European Commission</li> </ul>
10:15-11:00	<b><u>Panel 1: The EU's political and financial framework</u></b> <i>Moderator (representative of the Sub-Directorate for Combatting Irregular Migration, French Ministry of the Interior)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishment of the common EU system on return and the EU strategy on voluntary return and reintegration: Silvena Pesta, Head of Unit, Irregular Migration &amp; Returns, DG HOME, European Commission</li> <li>- Role and work of the Return Coordinator (DG HOME/Return Coordinator) Return Coordinator (tbc)</li> </ul>

<p>11:00-11:15</p>	<p>The relevant financial instruments for internal and external actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Asylum Migration and Integration Fund, AMIF (2021-2027) (Alexander Smits, DG HOME, European Commission)</li> <li>- Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, IPA (representative of DG NEAR)</li> <li>- Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument, NDICI (representative of DG INTPA)</li> </ul> <p><b>Coffee break</b></p>
<p>11:15-13:00</p>	<p><b><u>Panel 2: Towards a better understanding of schemes for assisted voluntary return and reintegration</u></b></p> <p><i>Moderator (EMN France or head of department)</i></p> <p><b>Part 1: EU actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The new mandate of Frontex on voluntary return             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Frontex wider return actions (Dries Lensen, Team leader, European Centre for Returns Division, Frontex)</li> <li>✓ Joint Reintegration Services (Frontex) – Dries Lensen</li> <li>✓ Presentation of the Reintegration Assistance Tool (RIAT) (Alexander Smits, DG Home)</li> <li>✓ Professionalisation of return counselling – structures and curriculum (DG Home / Frontex / ERRIN) Mr Dries, Alexander and Peter Neelen</li> </ul> </li> <li>- ERRIN: outcome and exchange of experience (Ruben Laurijssens, Head of Program)</li> <li>- Innovative return and reintegration actions planned and developed under the Reintegration and Return Facility (Peter Neelen, Head of Program, ICMPD)</li> </ul> <p><b>Part 2: National schemes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complementary actions of the French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII) for the benefit of other EU Member States and returnees (Fabrice Blanchard, Deputy General Director, OFII)</li> </ul> <p>EU Member State interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pablo Izquierdo Ranea, Voluntary Return Service of Directorate General for Humanitarian Assistance and Social Inclusion of Immigration, Secretariat of State for Migration, Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration, Spain</li> <li>- Maximilian Kirchner, Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, Division 72C, Policy on return, reporting, Germany</li> <li>- Matěj Urban, Voluntary Returns Unit, Department for Asylum and Migration Policy, Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions &amp; Answers</b></p>

<b>Lunch break</b>	
14:30-16:00	<p><b><u>Panel 3: Mapping of challenges and practices to promote voluntary return</u></b></p> <p><i>Moderator (representative of EMN France)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Main findings of the EMN Inform on return incentives and motives for decision-making on voluntary return from EU Member States (Martin Stiller, Legal Associate, EMN Austria)</li> </ul> <p>Innovative initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Belgium: Migrants’ reach out programme (Jeroen Vandekerckhove, Project Officer, International Unit, FEDASIL)</li> <li>- Switzerland: digressive return assistance (Federal Department of Justice and Police, State Secretariat for Migration, Directorate International Affairs)</li> </ul> <p>Intervention of SEEFAR (Michele Anne Vennat, Senior Programme Manager)</p> <p>Intervention by non-EU countries (Commissariat for Refugees, Republic of Serbia)</p> <p><b>Questions &amp; Answers</b></p>
<b>Coffee break</b>	
16:15-17:30	<p><b><u>Panel 4: Reintegration programmes - towards a sustainable reintegration?</u></b></p> <p><i>Moderator (representative of the sub-directorate for combatting irregular migration, French Ministry of the Interior )</i></p> <p>Main findings of the European study EVALUA (Didier Leschi, General Director, OFII)</p> <p>EU Member States’ innovative practices :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South-South reintegration: the role of the OFII representations in third countries to reduce the migratory flows in the Schengen area (Geneviève Ortel or Thomas Péguy, DIRRI, OFII)</li> <li>• Pre-departure entrepreneurial training project for Iraqi nationals (Niina Lääperi, Senior Adviser, Reception Unit, Finnish Immigration Service)</li> </ul> <p>Good practices in non-EU countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Armenia’s national reintegration scheme with social aspects, collaboration between the national immigration services and ERRIN, (Haykanush Chobanyan, Head of Return and Reintegration Division, Migration Service of Armenia)</li> <li>• Tunisia: reintegration scheme for Tunisian returnees supported by the OFII (Nehed Rajhi, General Director, OTE – Office for Tunisian nationals abroad)</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions &amp; Answers</b></p>

17:30-17:45	<b>Closing remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Magnus Ovilius, Head of Sector Forecasting, Preparedness and Policy Monitoring, Chair of the EMN, DG HOME, European Commission</li><li>- Claude d’Harcourt, General Director, General Directorate for Foreign Nationals in France, Ministry of the Interior</li></ul>
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