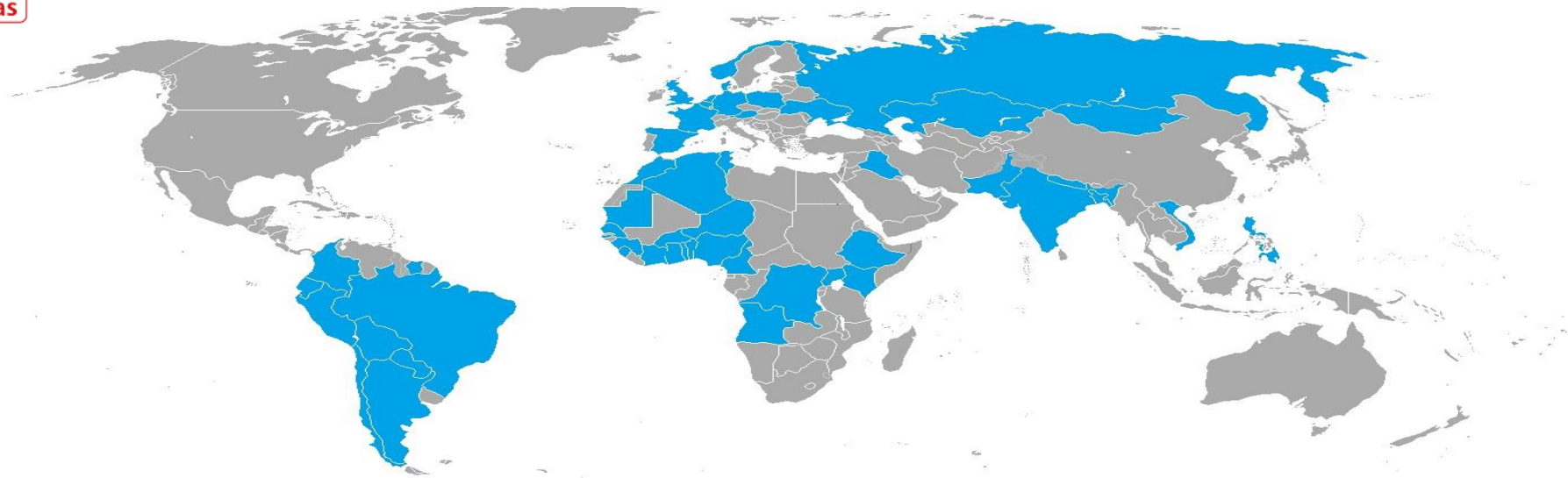# Rethinking Return from EU EMN conference 2016

Panel II : practical cooperation in achieving sustainable return and reintegration : ensuring an efficient return scheme

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A Global Support Network |www.erso-project.eu|

Vision: Safe, Dignified and Sustainable AVR

Main Goals of the network

- a NETWORK of pre-departure counsellors who share knowledge on AVR

- a FOCALPOINT SYSTEM as link with the overseas partners for all counsellors within the EU

1. VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION IN PRACTICE
Focal Point System : Best Practice

Member States

Diaspora

Civil Societies

ERSO counsellors

ERSO Focal Point in EU And

55 Overseas Partners

Social assistant : counseling and assessment

Monitoring and evaluation

Income generating activities

Specialized medical Psychological support

2. Added value of ERSO in the AVR programme

- **Trust of migrants** in NGOs makes it possible to reach target group of potential returnees or irregular migrants

- **Pre-departure counselling**: impartial and neutral environment

- **Direct input of countries of return**: local partners in more than 50 countries know the local context and country-specific vulnerabilities

3.1 Harmonisation : FEASIBILITY

- **We need national programmes**
  - ➢ Different migration history
  - ➢ Flexibility required → quick response
  - ➢ National programmes are complementary with ERIN
  - ➢ Streamlined approach

- **National return policy should tackle shopping**
  - ➢ Sums : large differences while migrants' needs are very similar
  - ➢ Services : streamlined through ERIN
  - ➢ Target groups : some EUMS include nationalities ↔ while other EU countries exclude them for reintegration support
  - ➢ Package: some EUMS offer large packages ↔ other nothing

3.2 Harmonisation: example ERSO SURE

- Project on Sustainable Return of vulnerable people : Pakistan,Iraq,Mongolia

- **Manual** including vulnerability criteria for vulnerable returnees
  prior-and-post return based on the returnees' profiles in each country

Medical issues	Social problems and gender issues	Economic challenges
Mentally challenged: facilities hardly available	Lack of social network	Unskilled people
Returnees with severe health issues	Unmarried pregnant women (risk of honour killing)	Students who return and are frustrated due to lack of job opportunities
Physically disabled people	Victims of forced marriages	
	Women without male relatives	
	UAM and orphans	
	Victims of labour trafficking	
	Elderly people	

3.3 ERSO SURE: Findings

➢ Focus on pre-departure counselling and input of CSOs in countries of origin before return = experts and knowledge of local vulnerability/ local challenges

➢ Harmonization in reintegration support and exchange of best practices

➢ Assessment of country-specific vulnerability indicators

4. Monitoring and evaluation

➢ Important to monitor **people' s process** and not only the programme

➢ Monitoring : evaluate the whole process **from the start till …**

- pre-departure counselling in the EU

- return and reintegration process

- midtime monitoring and longtime (changes)

➢ Attention to **what you monitor** :

(post)-conflict countries (Iraq)

↔

return to economic difficult areas (Senegal-Armenia)

4.1 Monitoring and evaluation : best practices

Joint monitoring

- reintegration counsellors and EU counsellors

  with the local partner

- better knowlegde of the realities in the

  countries

Exchange on broader level:

- partner weeks in Belgium / EU (e.g. Augsburg)

  → focus on exchanges of practices and capacity

  building

- geografic and thematic exchanges : Caucasus

  meeting, UAM in Guinea

- CoO : twinnings – learning mission

5.1 Synergy of development cooperation with return policy policy → Impact on sustainability.

Most returnees start a « **survival business** » to meet their and the family's basic needs

Development cooperation :

need to invest in sustainable

and structural development

programmes

5.2 Synergy of development cooperation with return policy policy → Impact on sustainability.

- **Awareness**: returnees are sometimes excluded in their communities ➜ peer groups and correct information for society

- Feelings of shame → **social vulnerability**

- In some regions **other barriers** exist such as difficulties to develop sustainable economic activities : e.g. Armenia, Georgia (corruption, no industry, companies, employment)

5.3 RAPID – Return As a Positive Impact on Development

Expected outcomes :

- Peer groups – group support process, exchange of experiences and knowledge, matching of skills, etc.

- Awareness

- Additional support for returnees and local partner (capacity-building) →

  reinforcement of the reintegration

  activities : training, equipment, micro-credits

- Role and experience of the local partner organisation

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Thanks for your attention