



SUSTAINABLE REINTEGRATION OF RETURNING MIGRANTS

A BETTER HOMECOMING



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Livestream launch

15 October 2020



Why discuss sustainability of reintegration now?

- Higher policy priority in many OECD countries, especially in Europe
- Pressure to reduce the number of migrants who are subject to removal
- More resources dedicated to reintegration by migration management and development bodies
- Need to increase trust with countries of origin
- Possible future changes in demand for return



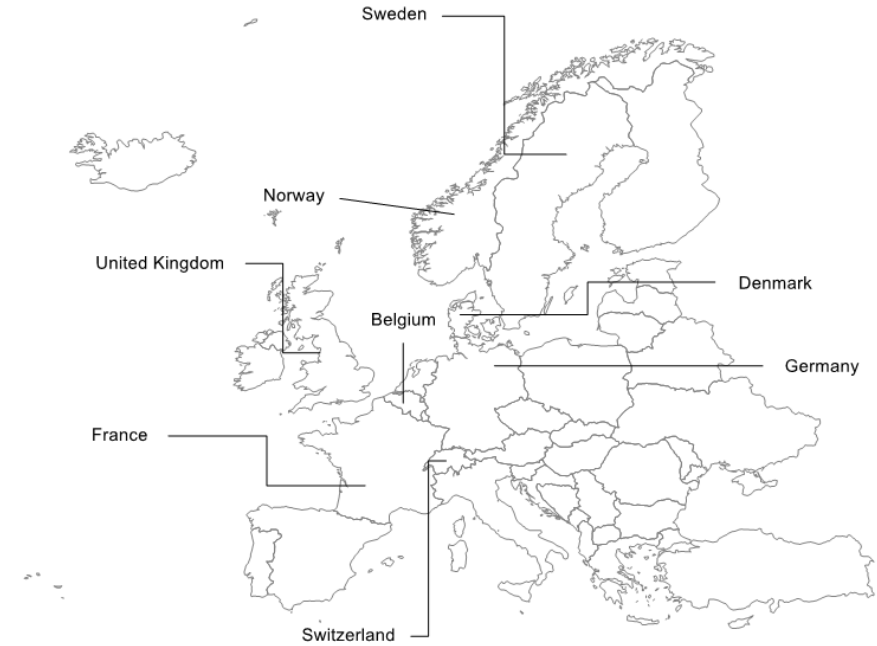
A multi-country peer-review study



Over 12 months, together with eight European partner countries, visits in 11 countries in Europe and Africa

A great diversity of programmes and actors

No two programmes are alike, although they share common features



13-14/6/19



2-3/7/19



5-6/9/19



26-27/9/19



14-17/10/19



7-8/11/19



20-21/11/19



9-11/12/19



27-28/1/20



12-13/2/20



8-10/6/20



15/10/20





The sustainability of reintegration assistance is tied to the sustainability of reintegration programmes

Support a migration cycle in line with migration management





6 recommendations from the report

1. Increase the **visibility** of opportunities for assisted return and reintegration
2. Invest in reinforcing the **legitimacy** of return as an acceptable outcome to a migration project
3. Adapt reintegration assistance to both **individual** needs and the cost-savings represented
4. Improve **coordination** and referral
5. Invest in the capacity of **origin countries** to support reintegration and maximise development impact
6. Expand **evaluation** of programmes



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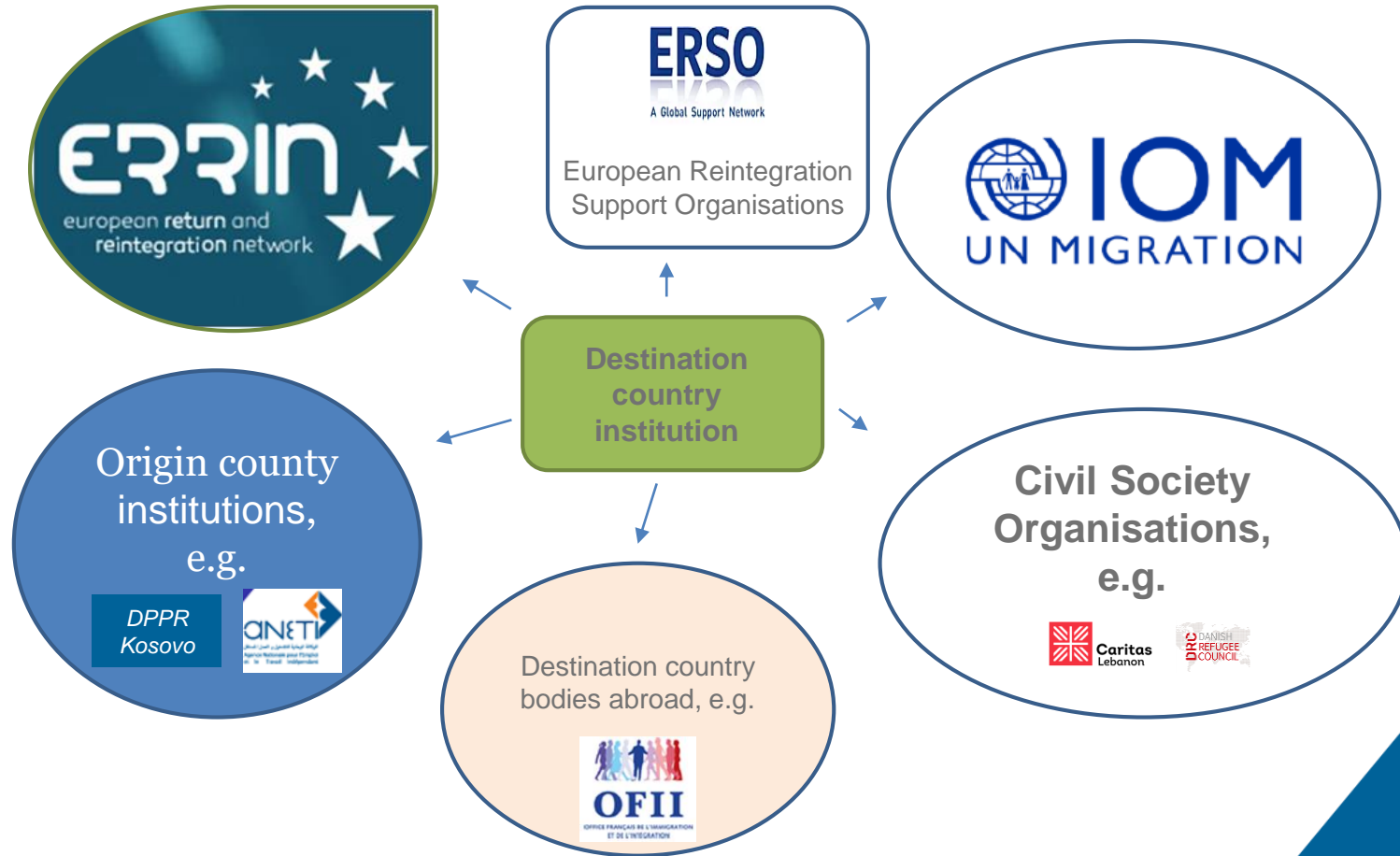


4. Improve coordination and referral

Different models of service provider in origin countries

Coordination is complex and usually managed in the origin country by a single coordinating partner

For the return migrant, it's important to have an accessible contact

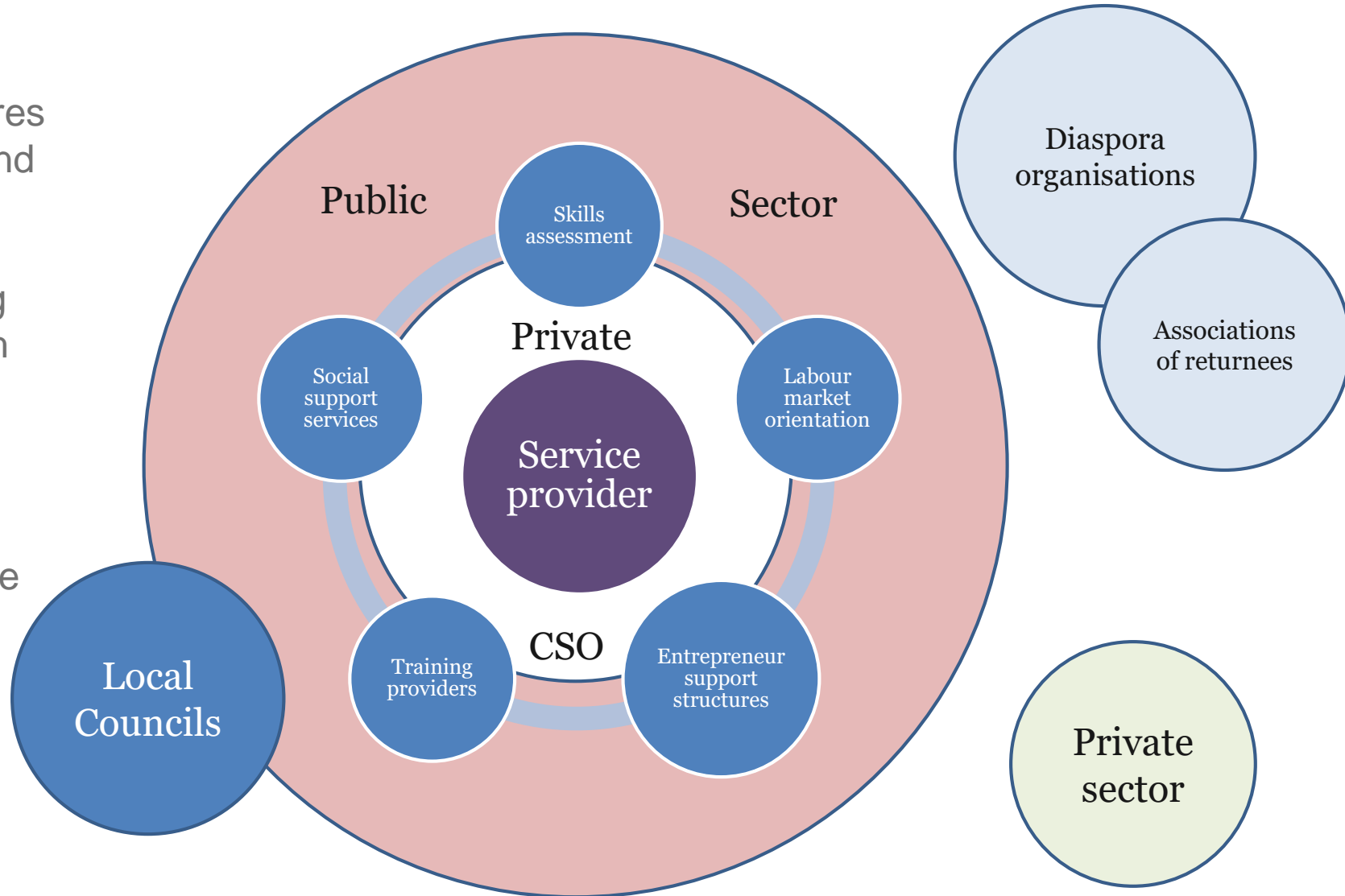




5. Invest in the capacity of **origin countries** to support reintegration and maximise development impact

Reintegration assistance requires many partners and coordination

Capacity building can work through and outside of individual assistance programmes directly with these partners






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Report and policy brief available after the event

 **Migration Policy Debates**
www.oecd.org/migration N°24, October 2020

Return is sometimes part of the migration process, whether as an intrinsic component of the initial migration project or due to change in opportunities in the destination or home country. Returns may also be imposed when migrants have no options for legal stay in the destination country. This can be the case for example for asylum seekers who received a negative decision, or when the authorisation of stay expires and cannot be renewed. Whatever the motivation of returning migrants, most OECD countries have developed specific offers to assist voluntary return and support reintegration for migrants meeting eligibility. These programmes play a key role in comprehensive migration management systems and have recently attracted more attention from migration policy makers, development actors and origin country institutions.

This Migration Policy Debate summarises the key findings of the first OECD multi-country peer review of reintegration assistance, including Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration programmes (AVRR), in 8 destination countries and 3 origin countries. The review, funded by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), looks at the conditions under which these programmes can not only support the sustainable reintegration of individual returning migrants but satisfy broader policy goals affecting host and origin communities.

What improves the sustainability of the reintegration component in AVRR?

Summary of the main recommendations to improve the sustainability of reintegration programmes

Increase the visibility of opportunities for assisted return and reintegration

- Better target information campaigns and messaging about options for reintegration support, including via social media
- According to migrant profile, identify key moments for communication about options for return and reintegration assistance. For asylum seekers, this includes the moment of communication of final refusal.
- Focus on appropriate locations and contexts for promoting return to potential beneficiaries and their communities

Invest in reinforcing the legitimacy of return as an acceptable outcome to a migration project

- Partner with existing trusted actors in the destination and origin country, notably civil society organisations, community leaders and caseworkers
- Work in the destination country with institutional and other actors who have a bias against return to improve consensus around circumstances where return is a potentially positive option
- Shift from information provision to support for developing a reintegration plan and a vision of life after return
- Support initiatives which address the stigmatisation and negative perception of return

Adapt reintegration assistance to both individual needs and the cost savings represented

- Strengthen psychosocial support in the reintegration process before and after return
- Focus in-kind packages on the support needed, including broader family needs, rather than the amount of funding available
- Allow greater expenditure for complex cases, taking into consideration costs associated with the difficulty of removal
- Balance scope and ambition of programmes against the number of potential beneficiaries targeted or applying

Improve coordination and referral

- Ensure continuous case management from the destination to the origin country
- Include pre-return training opportunities where possible to reinforce skills for return and maintain motivation
- Strengthen communication, referral and exchange among implementers of individual and community initiatives to support reintegration, through visits and liaison activities

Invest in shared platforms for case management, data exchange, monitoring and evaluation, building on existing models.

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Invest in the capacity of origin countries to support reintegration

- Open initiatives in the origin country to serve all return migrants and potentially also local residents
- Ensure that individual reintegration assistance is compatible and aligned with, and contributes to, existing community-based programmes and state-offered services
- Empower communities origin to develop local solutions and support existing grassroots initiatives benefitting returning migrants

Expand evaluation of programmes

- Expand the use of external monitoring and evaluation beyond project reporting by implementers and partners, including through building the capacity of local expertise
- Measure individual outcomes of returnees against the difficulty of the starting point rather than in absolute terms
- Broaden assessment of individual outcomes beyond the reintegration plan and the timeline of support to include longer-term capacity to adapt
- Ensure that monitoring and evaluation effectively cover different groups of returnees and their households

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