

# Recommendations for the improvement of return management based on the experiences of the CCM Projects

*Return management of the individual returnee depends on the one hand on the perspective after return and on the other hand on the capacity to cope with the different tasks of the return process. (Push & pull factors, stay & deter factors)*

The best return preparation is allowing someone to further develop his/her talents during the stay in the host country and being able to cope with new developments in life.

European member states in the past have neglected this principle by placing asylum seekers in secluded reception centres and denying them access to the labour market, education and the society at large. This has led in many cases to the degradation of peoples' capacity to cope with the demands of life. Many of these people - even if they would be willing to return - have lost their potential to actively cope with the demands of the return process and to establish their own self-reliant existence. This negative side-effect of asylum policy of some member states has to be born in mind when shaping a return management policy.

On the way to an integrated return planning the following recommendations should be considered.

## **Recommendations concerning the normative level**

1. Return management is part of the globalised world and asks for a **coherent policy on the European level. This policy should be of advantage to the member states, the (development needs of) return countries** and the individual migrant.
2. There is a broad **variety of promotion measures for return** between European member states asking for more **homogeneity** and for **minimum standards** for return promotion.
3. Based on activities in the host countries (HC) the emphasis of promotion measures should be on the **further improvement of reintegration measures in countries of return (COR)**, especially on measures for the economic reintegration as the main base for sustainable return.



### Recommendations concerning the strategic level - institutions

4. For the implementation of integrated return planning and the **development of networks** - chains of cooperating institutions, each with specialised services - in host countries (HC) and countries of return (COR) needs further attention. **Institutions** in this field are asked to **identify further cooperation possibilities**.
5. Institutions cooperating in such networks should set up a **common workflow, a code of conduct and tools** for a transparent monitoring and the evaluation of the impact of promotion measures.
6. The experiences collected so far from existing return networks are not sufficient there is a **need for further experiences with such networks**.

### Recommendations concerning the strategic level - personnel

7. **Return counselling** has its own profile of competencies. It can not be done by anybody, but **requires specialised further training**.
8. Within **return counselling teams** it is important to **include members of the target communities**, because of their familiarity with the returnees and the countries of return and the cooperation with counsellors in COR.

### Recommendations concerning the level of returnees

9. Within informing and counselling in the host country prior to return **realistic information by people from the COR** about the situation in the country and a given region should be promoted further.
10. Pre-departure counselling should be conducted as **integrated return planning**. This means that it should be a common exercise of the returnee, the counsellor in the host country and a counsellor in the country of return.
11. **The integrated return plan** should address specifically the **economic reintegration as the main base for reintegration**. Here the potential returnee and the counsellors in HC and COR have to cooperate as closely as possible.
12. Pre-departure counselling should take notice of the fact that in most developing return countries **social services comparable to European standards do not exist**. The first priority of counselling is the contribution to the returnees' development as individuals who in cooperation with their social nets in the host country and the country of return are capable for a **self-reliant way of life**.

#### The CCM Training Project

is a cooperation of European partners from Sweden (Goeteborg Initiative), the Netherlands (HIT) and Germany (AGEF, Coming Home), which have tested the Case Chain Management approach and have trained counsellors from host countries and countries of return in its use. During the course of the project other institutions have joined the common efforts: COA from the Netherlands, Danish Refugee Council and Danish Red Cross and other institutions from Germany. Further details can be found under [www.ccm-training.net](http://www.ccm-training.net).

This CCM Flyer has been prepared by HIT with the consultation of the other partners.



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