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Ad-Hoc Query on 2024.61 Procurement of return service outside Europe

Requested by EMN NCP Luxembourg on 7 November 2024

Compilation produced on 5 January 2025

Responses from EMN NCP Bulgaria, EMN NCP Croatia, EMN NCP Cyprus, EMN NCP Czech Republic, EMN NCP Estonia, EMN NCP Finland, EMN NCP France, EMN NCP Germany, EMN NCP Greece, EMN NCP Hungary, EMN NCP Ireland, EMN NCP Italy, EMN NCP Latvia, EMN NCP Lithuania, EMN NCP Luxembourg, EMN NCP Netherlands, EMN NCP Slovakia, EMN NCP Slovenia, EMN NCP Spain, EMN NCP Sweden (20 in Total)

Exported for: Wider Dissemination

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## 1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### **Oh behalf of EMN Norway:**

*The Norwegian Immigration Service (UDI) have for a number of years been outsourcing return services/activities to service providers/partners (for example Organizations like IOM or NGOs) to conduct return and reintegration operations. However, we have to a limited extent established contracts through public procurement, meaning publishing tenders on the official European procurement platform TED.*

*Return services represent markets where procurements may be difficult to conduct through tenders. In some cases only one service provider is able to fulfil the services needed. However, in other cases more than one service provider might deliver and it should be possible to establish some sort of competition. In these cases the European Procurement Regulations is most likely relevant and we might be obliged to publish tenders on TED.*

*We are especially interested to establish dialogue with EMN Member and Observer Countries on two aspects within the matter. First, we would like to know if return services in your country are outsourced or not, and also the background for the elected set-up. Second, we like to know which assessments you have carried out towards the European Procurement Regulations when it comes to running tenders or not.*

*Norway then would like to ask the following questions to the members of the EMN.*

**We would like to ask the following questions:**

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- 1. Does your Member State conduct the return and reintegration operations directly without the use of a service provider? YES/NO. If you answer YES, can you please explain how you conduct this type of operations.**
- 2. If you answer NO to Q.1, can you indicate us (if possible) which service providers do you use and also what types of contracts (framework agreements or others) and duration of contracts.**
- 3. If you answer NO to Q.1, can you please indicate if what type of procurement you use to hire the services (e.g. public procurement, restricted/limited procurement, direct contract?). Please explain on which bases you have chosen your procure method**
- 4. When choosing the type of procurement which assessment you have carried out towards the European Procurement Regulations (for example – do you claim exceptions from the European Procurement Regulations which represent a legal argument for direct contracts).?**

We would very much appreciate your responses by **5 December 2024**.

## 2. RESPONSES

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<sup>1</sup> If possible at time of making the request, the Requesting EMN NCP should add their response(s) to the query. Otherwise, this should be done at the time of making the compilation.

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		Dissemination <sup>2</sup>	
	EMN NCP Bulgaria	Yes	<p>1. No</p> <p>2. The competent authority in Bulgaria does not conduct direct reintegration operations. We rely on partners like IOM who use their own network and programs to implement it or we use EU-RP by FRONTEX. These are ready to use external partners and we do not have experience to work directly with service providers.</p> <p>3. We use directly the services of IOM and FRONTEX by signed Cooperation agreements to use and promote their services. We find this very easy and practically to use as we do not have much experience in providing reintegration services in our country except the one mentioned above.</p> <p>4. Please see the answers of questions 3 and 4.</p>

<sup>2</sup> A default "Yes" is given for your response to be circulated further (e.g. to other EMN NCPs and their national network members). A "No" should be added here if you do not wish your response to be disseminated beyond other EMN NCPs. In case of "No" and wider dissemination beyond other EMN NCPs, then for the Compilation for Wider Dissemination the response should be removed and the following statement should be added in the relevant response box: "This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further."


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	<b>EMN NCP Croatia</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. Yes, in Croatia the Border police (which is part of the Ministry of Interior) conducts return procedures. Airplane tickets are purchased by use of FAR. Currently we do not have organization for implementing AVVR, but in previous period (2018-2022), we had agreement with IOM. Regarding reintegration activities, Croatia do not have national program, we participate in the EURP program provided by FRONTEX .</p> <p>2. n/a</p> <p>3. n/a</p> <p>4. n/a</p>
	<b>EMN NCP Cyprus</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. Yes, in Cyprus, the return operations are processed directly without the use of a service provider. Returns are handled by the Returns Office and the Aliens and Immigration Unit, which are public sector bodies and no other service provider is involved. Regarding reintegration operation, CY has the EURP programme provided by FRONTEX , where it cooperates with other providers.</p> <p>2. N/A</p>

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			3. N/A
			4. N/A
	<b>EMN NCP Czech Republic</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. Yes, all return operation are conducted directly by Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic (Moi), Department for Asylum and Migration policy (DAMP) and specifically by the Return Unit which is responsible for conducting this type of operations. Return unit staff is employed either according to the Act. No 234/2014 Coll. Service Act or Act. No 262/2006 Coll. Labour Code.</p> <p>The Voluntary Return Unit staff is trained to handle all return related activities such as counselling, operational issues, services to vulnerable or people with special needs, purchase of tickets (use of FAR), reintegration counselling (use of RIAT – selected staff only), Airport assistance etc. There is a general training scheme of the Ministry within which all new staff needs to go through. Apart that specific trainings are organised in the area of return, starting with return counselling trainings, through technical trainings on FAR, RIAT and other systems ending with language trainings and specific trainings such as interview technics etc. which are provided to the return unit staff.</p> <p>Airplane tickets are also purchased directly by service operators in the Czech Republic. However, there is no service within the return process that would be hired externally only. There are activities of other institutions/organisations (namely IOM or NGOs) that are complementing services of the DAMP, but in general DAMP is self-sufficient in return operations including vulnerable or medical cases.</p> <p>2.</p>

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			<p>In case of need to purchase any services, we used the public procurement that is set by the Act. No 134/2016 Coll. – Public Procurement Law. The purchase of the services or goods with the total price under 2 mil CZK is set by the internal regulation of Mol in accordance with the Public Procurement Act.</p> <p>3. N/A</p> <p>4. No.</p>
	<b>EMN NCP Estonia</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. No and Yes.</p> <p>2. In Estonia, the assisted voluntary return and reintegration services are carried out by IOM Estonian Office.</p> <p>3. The assisted voluntary return and reintegration services are not selected by using procurement procedure.</p> <p>4. At first the activities were funded through an open call for proposals. Then the Ministry of the Interior made analysis which came to a conclusion that IOM is in Estonia <i>de facto</i> in a monopoly position and this gave legal basis to fund the activities by using direct call for proposals. Similar approach has been taken in the 2021-2027 programming period.</p>

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+	EMN NCP Finland	Yes	<p>1. No.</p> <p>2. Finland has a contract with IOM for assisted voluntary return until the end of the year 2024. Duration of the IOM contract was two years. We also have two so-called top-up agreements for EURP reintegration partners (Caritas International Belgium and ETTC). The EURP top-up agreements' length is approx. two years till early 2026.</p> <p>3. For the IOM contract we used direct procurement as no alternative service provider were available in open markets. To determine if other suitable service providers are available we made an official market mapping/research and based on the results we concluded that there are no alternative service providers available. In 2024 this is changing in that we will have open procurement/tender for the services that have been provided by IOM. If there is no alternative offer that meets our service requirements we will do a direct contract with IOM. For the EURP top-up agreements we have used direct contracts as the value of service for us is under the EU threshold.</p> <p>4. We haven't claimed exceptions of the European Procurement Regulations. Our approach is to follow the European Procurement Regulations that has been implemented in our national procurement legislation. However, this can be challenging at times due to the nature of return theme, but we are committed to work within this framework.</p>


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■	EMN NCP France	Yes	<p>1. NO</p> <p>2. With the exception of IOM in one country, the candidates for providing reintegration services are local associations, private companies or local public services (employment services, for example). The procedure used by the French office for Immigration and Integration (OFII) until now has been to put service providers out to tender following the publication of specifications on the website of the French embassy in each of the countries concerned. A selection committee involving the OFII office abroad, which is responsible for the country in question, and OFII headquarters is organised to analyse and choose the offers. A selection grid is based on the selection criteria set out in the specifications. As these contracts are concluded abroad, the principles of freedom of access to public contracts, equal treatment of candidates and transparency of procedures are respected but the formalities of public procurement are adapted.</p> <p>However, for the future, the OFII plans to publish more widely (at European level and not just locally) so as to enable local level) in order to allow new service providers to apply (international companies in particular).</p> <p>Contracts are concluded for a period of one year, renewable three times by tacit renewal. OFII representations abroad are in charge of implementing and monitoring service providers locally.</p> <p>3. see Q2 : the general case is a call for tenders after advertising on the French embassy website.</p> <p>4.</p>
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			No competitive tendering in the case of a country where a public employment service has a monopoly, as certified by a letter from the minister responsible.
	<b>EMN NCP Germany</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. NO. <u>Please note:</u> In the Federal Republic of Germany, various actors are responsible for implementing programmes to support voluntary return and reintegration. Some programmes are funded and/or implemented by the federal government (Bund), while others are funded and/or implemented at state level (Länder). Therefore, the federal government cannot provide a complete picture of the return and reintegration programmes that are only implemented by the federal states. Moreover, due to time constraints, a nationwide enquiry on how federal states use service providers could not be carried out. The federal government uses service providers for the partial or full implementation of its programmes to support voluntary return and reintegration. For the implementation of some federal programmes, several service providers may be needed for the provision of different services that make up the programme. All service providers are selected in accordance with regard to the applicable legal European and national regulations.</p> <p>2. The types of service providers needed differ from programme to programme. Depending on the programme multiple service providers with different roles may be needed to assist with the voluntary return of a person (for example for booking flights, paying out cash support at airports or for the implementation of additional medical assistance measures).</p> <p>3.</p>


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			<p>Service providers are selected in accordance with national legal requirements. In addition to public tenders, the federal and state governments can also award contracts for projects via grants (“Zuwendungen”). In German budgetary law, grants are (voluntary) contributions by the federal government to entities outside the federal administration or contributions by the federal states to entities outside the respective state administration to fulfill specific purposes, for instance the implementation of specific projects in the context of voluntary return and reintegration. The basic prerequisite is that the government (federal or state) has a considerable interest in the fulfillment of these tasks, which are financed with the grants, which cannot or cannot sufficiently be satisfied in any other way (subsidiarity principle). The principles of efficiency and economic soundness and other budgetary principles also apply.</p> <p>4. To date, the Federal Government has not issued any public tenders in the area of programs to support the voluntary return and reintegration of third-country nationals, meaning that there is no experience with the application of European procurement rules. Instead, the instrument of grants (“Zuwendungen”) is used and, in exceptional cases where the requirements are met, the instrument of direct contract/direct award on the basis of a unique selling point.</p>
	<b>EMN NCP Greece</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. Yes, according to the contribution of Minister of Citizen Protection/Hellenic Police (competent for forced returns).</p> <p>However, please note that regarding voluntary returns, the Greek Ministry of Migration and Asylum (Asylum Service, Directorate of Returns and Withdrawals) cooperates with International Organisation of Migration/IOM Greece, which implements a relevant Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration programme.</p>

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			<p>Moreover, with regard to operations for the reintegration of third country nationals in their countries of origin, the Greek Ministry of Migration and Asylum has signed an agreement with Frontex on participation in the EURP services, with the specific purpose of further increasing voluntary returns. These services are part of a programme by Frontex (Froxtex EU Reintegration Programme) which covers all the activities of the Agency in the fields of Post-Arrival and Post-Return. Specialised reintegration assistance under EURP is available for third country nationals returning to their countries of origin either voluntarily or enforced, with the aim of ensuring that immediate needs of those persons are met upon their return and that sustainability of return and reintegration is achieved.</p> <p>2. -</p> <p>3. -</p> <p>4. -</p>
	<p><b>EMN NCP Hungary</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p>1. Yes Hungary currently carries out only forced returns and provides the possibility of voluntary returns in cooperation with FRONTEX.</p> <p>No national reintegration operations are in place currently.</p>


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			<p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. N/A</p> <p>4. N/A</p>
■	EMN NCP Ireland	Yes	<p>1. Yes and No.</p> <p>In the case of forced returns, the Department of Justice carries out return operations directly (i.e. without the use of a service provider).</p> <p>The Department of Justice has recently developed its own in house Voluntary Returns Unit which manages the overall Voluntary Return activities in the State. The Unit implements the programme in a two pronged approach, the first being for the cohort of beneficiaries/applicants without any identified vulnerabilities for whom the Department books the travel and effects the return. The second element is for those with whom a vulnerability has been identified, these persons are referred to the International Organisation for Migration (the IOM) to effect the return.</p> <p>Currently all reintegration activities are implemented by the IOM for those availing of voluntary return, with the intention to build the capacity of the Voluntary Returns Unit in this area over the next year.</p> <p>2.</p>

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			<p>The Irish Immigration Service Delivery Division (ISD) within the Department of Justice has recently released a Request for Information seeking views from the market to understand the nature, structure, capacity and capability of the market for the provision of Reintegration Services for the purpose of Assisted Voluntary Return of individuals who do not have permission to be in the State. This is a preliminary market-sounding exercise only. [1]  [1]: <a href="https://www.etenders.gov.ie/epps/pmc/viewPmc.do?resourceId=4721424">https://www.etenders.gov.ie/epps/pmc/viewPmc.do?resourceId=4721424</a>  IOM  The cooperation with IOM is based on a Grant Agreement that was concluded from an Open Call for Proposals. The Agreement with IOM is in effect for an 18month period dating from the 01st of August 2024 to the 31st of January 2026.</p> <p>3. N/A</p> <p>4. N/A</p>
	<b>EMN NCP Italy</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. Forced repatriation operations (depa-depu) are carried out exclusively using state resources for escort personnel and ground transportation. Air transfer services, including those within the national territory, are entrusted to private entities through public procurement procedures, in accordance with national regulations. These latter services may sometimes also be carried out using law enforcement carriers. Regarding reintegration and assisted voluntary return programs, Italy currently relies on the EURP program by Frontex (the entity responsible for service procurement procedures) and the assisted voluntary return program, which, following a public procurement procedure, is managed by the IOM. More specifically, the Italian assisted voluntary return system, relies on IOM and EURP/RIAT as service</p>


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			<p>providers. The current contract is valid until 31.12.2026 and was established through a grant agreement with the implementing agency IOM, following the issuance of a public notice.</p> <p>2. The air transport service with charter flights is aimed at the repatriation of foreigners expelled from the national territory and detained in the Centers for Permanent Detention (CPR), in suitable facilities available to the Public Security Authorities, or held in Correctional Facilities and subject to an expulsion order issued by the Judicial Authority. The subject of the contract, therefore, is technically the provision of an air transport service, using non-scheduled (charter) flights for groups of people and related services (secondary and complementary). The operators currently providing the service can be classified into two categories: brokers and airlines. The service is carried out using a single aircraft dedicated exclusively to this purpose.</p> <p>3. Currently, in light of the regulations introduced by the new Public Procurement Code (Legislative Decree No. 36/2023) and the consequent digitalization of the public procurement lifecycle, the procedure is entirely carried out electronically on the Acquistiinretepa platform - ASP, through invitations to companies (brokers and airlines) active in the relevant sector, which register on the system and access the tender by entering a PIN. The flight routes and schedules, the catering service provided onboard the aircraft, and the other requirements of the airline, as well as the penalties and payment methods for the service, are established in the request formulated by the Immigration Service employee to the internal office responsible for managing the tender. The procedures involve a competitive comparison between the participating companies with the "lowest price" award criterion. An ongoing European open procedure is in progress for the biennial procurement of these services, which are currently contracted on a weekly basis using the aforementioned methods.</p>
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			<p>In the case of assisted voluntary return, there is a call for proposal addressed to International Organizations, NGOs, and public entities, funded under the AMIF.</p> <p>4. The aircraft owned/available must be in compliance with all safety and reliability checks required by national, European, and international regulations. The crew must have proven experience, professionalism, and be in sufficient numbers to ensure the best service. They must meet all the requirements set by national, European, and international regulations. In particular, onboard, bar and catering services must be functional and actually provided to all embarked personnel and other passengers, in relation to flight times and duration, according to the International Air Transport Association (IATA) regulations for economy class. In any case, the air transport service for personnel is carried out in full compliance with all safety regulations required for air transport by national, European, and international regulations.</p>
	EMN NCP Latvia	Yes	<p>1. No.</p> <p>2. Assister voluntary return and reintegration is carried out by International Organisation for Migration Riga Office.</p> <p>3.</p>


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			<p>The IOM Riga office has been granted the right to provide this service based on an invitation from the Ministry of the Interior to submit a project proposal through a restricted project selection process. On July 30, 2024, a contract was signed with the IOM Riga office for the project “Strengthening the Voluntary Return and Reintegration System in Latvia, Phase 1.” Under this contract, assistance will be provided for the return to their country of origin of at least 250 foreign nationals who do not have the right to stay in Latvia, including rejected asylum seekers, students, guest workers, and others whose visa or residence permit has expired or was never issued.</p> <p>The assistance includes the entire return process, beginning with consultation and obtaining travel documents, and, if needed, accommodation and minimal subsistence support, medical aid, and translation services. The primary support includes purchasing airline or other transportation tickets to the nearest city, providing transit assistance, transporting baggage, escorting to the airport, and disbursing an exit allowance.</p> <p>4. Not applicable.</p>
	EMN NCP Lithuania	Yes	<p>1. When organizing and conducting voluntary return operations, the State Border Guard Service collaborates with the FRONTEX agency. Travel tickets are purchased through the FAR (Frontex Application for Return) platform, while data on the foreign national being voluntarily returned and requiring reintegration assistance is entered into the RIAT (Reintegration Assistance Tool) platform. All matters related to the provision of assistance are managed by FRONTEX.</p> <p>2. The State Border Guard Service has entered into a service contract for the <b>organization of official travel abroad</b> through public procurement. The contract is valid for 36 months and aims to facilitate the</p>


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			<p>implementation of procedures for the forced removal of foreigners from the Republic of Lithuania to their country of origin or other countries where they have the right to reside.</p> <p>Under the contract, the State Border Guard Service submits a service request specifying the required services, travel dates, travel routes, and the names of travelers, along with other necessary details such as specific departure or return times and any special needs of the travelers. Upon receiving the request, the service provider must present at least three proposals that meet the requirements, are the most convenient, and are offered at the lowest available market price. These proposals must be provided within three business hours from the time the request is submitted via email. The validity of the provided prices must be no less than 24 hours.</p> <p>In cases where fewer than three proposals can be provided, the service provider must submit a written explanation justifying the impossibility of fulfilling this obligation due to objective reasons. The State Border guard Service must then agree to accept fewer options. Additionally, the state border Guard Service retains the right to request more than three options, particularly for accommodation, if the initial proposals are deemed unsuitable. This contract framework ensures that travel arrangements for forced return operations are managed efficiently and cost-effectively while maintaining a high standard of service quality.</p> <p>3. Public procurement</p> <p>4. N/A</p>
 EMN NCP	<b>Yes</b>	1. NO.	

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Luxemb ourg		<p>2. Luxembourg has a contract for managing the assisted voluntary return and reintegration with the International Organisation for Migration for a period of 4 years which is financed by AMIF funds.</p> <p>3. Luxembourg uses public Procurement. The reintegration market in Luxembourg is small and the interest of the potential service providers limited.</p> <p>4. No exception from the European Procurement Regulations</p>
 EMN NCP Netherla nds	Yes	<p>1. Yes, the Netherlands conducts return and reintegration operations directly, without the use of a third-party service provider. These operations are managed by the Repatriation and Departure Service (<i>Dienst Terugkeer en Vertrek, DT&amp;V</i>), an implementation agency under the Ministry of Justice and Security, specifically the Directorate-General for Migration (DGM). The DT&amp;V is responsible for ensuring that foreign nationals without a right of residence return to their country of origin in a dignified and respectful manner. [1]</p> <p><u>Return procedures</u> Foreign nationals are issued a return decision when they no longer have legal grounds to stay in the Netherlands. This applies to the following individuals who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have been detained as part of the national (mobile) supervision of foreign nationals;</li> <li>• Have been denied entry during border control procedures;</li> <li>• Have had their residence or asylum permit revoked;</li> <li>• Have exhausted the appeal process and have been denied asylum.</li> </ul>

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This return decision gives the foreign national a period of up to four weeks to voluntarily depart the Netherlands. While foreign nationals are primarily responsible for arranging their own departure, the DT&V supports them throughout this process. [2]

Case-by-case approach

The DT&V adopts a tailored approach, assessing each case individually and considering the specific circumstances of each foreign national. Each individual is assigned a departure supervisor, who coordinated the return process in close collaboration with various (migration chain) partners, ensuring a timely and dignified departure. [3] As part of the procedure, the DT&V conducts departure interviews as soon as possible to discuss the return process. These interviews are based on the 'Working within a compulsory framework' (Wigk) methodology [4], designed to address and remove obstacles that could hinder the return process. The interviews follow a structured motivation cycle, with specific interventions at each state to encourage voluntary departure.[5]

If necessary, this process is supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as well as by NGOs or DT&V itself. The IOM provides assistance to migrants who choose to voluntarily return to their country of origin or, in some cases, to a third country where they are guaranteed permanent residence (resettlement). The IOM's return activities in the Netherlands are funded by the **Ministry of Justice and Security**, the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, and the **European Union**. DT&V refers foreign nationals to the IOM for support, including information on the return process, advice on travel documentation, and assistance with the logistics of departure.

In addition to the IOM, several smaller NGOs run projects that help migrants with both their departure from the Netherlands and their **reintegration** in the country of return. These reintegration programs are financed by the DT&V through **subsidies**. [6]

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		<p><u>Removability checks</u></p> <p>Throughout the return process, the DT&amp;V regularly performs removability checks in collaboration with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (<i>Immigratie en Naturalisatie Dienst</i>, IND). These checks verify whether the foreign national is still legally required to leave the Netherlands, considering any changes to their residence status. [7]</p> <p>-</p> <p><u>Support and exceptional circumstances</u></p> <p>Special attention is given to foreign nationals with vulnerable circumstances, such as potential victims of human trafficking or individuals requiring medical assistance. The DT&amp;V makes arrangements to ensure their safety and well-being, both during departure and upon return to their country of origin. Furthermore, it might occur that a foreign national is unable to leave due to issues with travel documents or other factors outside their control. In these cases, the DT&amp;V may submit a recommendation to the IND to grant a residence permit on the grounds of “through no fault” of the individual, under strict conditions. [8]</p> <p><u>Forced departure</u></p> <p>Forced departure is a measure of last resort, applied only when a foreign national refuses to depart voluntarily and declines assistance from DT&amp;V or other supporting organizations. If a foreign national fails to leave voluntarily, they may be placed in detention until suitable travel arrangements are made, including the availability of a flight and the completion of necessary travel documentation. Additionally, supervision measures may be imposed, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular reporting to the police</li> <li>• Confiscation of the foreign national's passport</li> <li>• Requirement to pay a deposit.[9]</li> </ul> <p><u>Travel arrangements</u></p>
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The DT&V coordinates travel arrangements, including flights, with a contracted travel agent. Foreign nationals typically depart via regular commercial flights, but in some cases, state flights may be organized. State flights are coordinated by the government or Frontex, often in cooperation with other EU Member States, and are used when large numbers of individuals from the same country of origin can be repatriated at once. In rare instances, transport may be arranged by land with assistance from the Transport and support Department of the Custodial Institutions Agency. [10]

[1] Government of the Netherlands, "Return policy", <https://www.government.nl/topics/return-of-foreign-citizens/return-policy>, last accessed on 7 November 2024.

[2] Repatriation and Departure Service, "Working with a compulsory framework (Wigk)", <https://english.dienstterugkeerenvertrek.nl/the-return-process/documents/publications/2020/08/10/working-within-a-compulsory-framework%E2%80%99-wigk>, last accessed 7 November 2024.

[3] Repatriation and Departure Service, "Working with a compulsory framework (Wigk)", <https://english.dienstterugkeerenvertrek.nl/the-return-process/documents/publications/2020/08/10/working-within-a-compulsory-framework%E2%80%99-wigk>, last accessed 7 November 2024.


[4] For more information on the Wigk methodology, see: <https://english.dienstterugkeerenvertrek.nl/the-return-process/documents/publications/2020/08/10/working-within-a-compulsory-framework%E2%80%99-wigk>

[5] Repatriation and Departure Service, "Working with a compulsory framework (Wigk)", <https://english.dienstterugkeerenvertrek.nl/the-return-process/documents/publications/2020/08/10/working-within-a-compulsory-framework%E2%80%99-wigk>, last accessed 7 November 2024.

[6] Repatriation and Departure Service, "The repatriation and departure service. The professional implementer of the return policy", Corporate+Brochure\_EN.pdf, last accessed 12 November 2024.


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			<p>[7] Repatriation and Departure Service, “The repatriation and departure service. The professional implementer of the return policy”, Corporate+Brochure_EN.pdf, last accessed 12 November 2024.</p> <p>[8] Repatriation and Departure Service, “The repatriation and departure service. The professional implementer of the return policy”, Corporate+Brochure_EN.pdf, last accessed 12 November 2024.</p> <p>[9] Repatriation and Departure Service, “Forced departure”, <a href="https://english.dienstterugkeerenvertrek.nl/the-return-process/forced-departure">https://english.dienstterugkeerenvertrek.nl/the-return-process/forced-departure</a>, last accessed 12 November 2024.</p> <p>[10] Repatriation and Departure Service, “The repatriation and departure service. The professional implementer of the return policy”, Corporate+Brochure_EN.pdf, last accessed 12 November 2024.</p> <p>2. N/A.</p> <p>3. N/A.</p> <p>4. N/A.</p>
	<b>EMN NCP Slovakia</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. No.</p> <p>2. For return operations, the Slovak Republic uses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Frontex on the basis of Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 November 2019 on the European Border and Coast Guard. Frontex is used by the</li> </ol>


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			<p>Slovak Republic for forced and voluntary returns and reintegration (provision of air tickets, EURP programme - reintegration services in the country of origin, medical assistance, etc.)</p> <p>2. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) – on the basis of the Agreement on Cooperation between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the International Organization for Migration of 20 August 1998 on Assistance in the Return of Unsuccessful Asylum Seekers and Illegal Migrants to the Country of Origin, is used by the Slovak Republic for voluntary returns and reintegration. Financing of the AVR program is provided from the resources of AMIF 75% and the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic 25%, while IOM participates in an open call within AMIF, which is available to all applicants specified in the specific call. In the event of unavailability of financing from AMIF sources, assisted voluntary returns are financed from the resources of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic on the basis of the Assisted Voluntary Return Agreement.</p> <p>3. See response to question 2.</p> <p>4. NA</p>
	<b>EMN NCP Slovenia</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. Yes. All returns are carried out directly by the Police without contracted service providers. We only make use of Frontex services in for the return and reintegration programmes - FAR and EURP. In addition, we have a contract for the purchase of airplane tickets for the needs of the Ministry of the Interior and the Police, as well as for the travel arrangements for return escort officers. The contract is concluded with a travel agency on the basis of a national public tender and financed under the terms of the AMIF.</p>

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			<p>We do not provide any reintegration programmes via outsourced service providers.</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. N/A</p> <p>4. N/A</p>
	<b>EMN NCP Spain</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. No.</p> <p>2. The Spanish strategy is based on developing voluntary return and reintegration projects managed by non-governmental organisations and international organisations specialising in the care of immigrants.</p> <p>3. -</p> <p>4. 1.- Annual call on a competitive basis for VR projects co-financed by the FAMI Fund (up to 90%) The entities benefiting from the call of grants can subcontract up to 50% of the grant amount to entities in the country of origin to carry out reintegration operation. Subcontracting must be authorized by the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations.</p>

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			2.- Agreement signed and renewed annually between the Kingdom of Spain and the International Organization for Migration (IOM)
	<b>EMN NCP Sweden</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. In the context of voluntary returns, the Swedish Migration Agency (SMA) carries out return operations directly (i.e. without the use of a service provider). The SMA largely utilizing the services of FAR through Frontex. Regarding reintegration assistance, in-kind support under Frontex EUPR-programme is provided by local reintegration partners, while cash grants are facilitated by IOM. An existing project agreement between SMA and IOM is renewed annually.</p> <p>2. SMA utilizes the services of Service Providers contracted by Frontex under the Framework Partnership Agreement. Since SMA offers a higher budget (top-up) than what is provided under the Frontex-EURP-Programme. The SMA enters into a bilateral agreement with the relevant Service Providers to facilitate in-kind support. The budget is determined based on the annual prognosis, allowing the bilateral agreement to be revised multiple times throughout the programme, which is scheduled to conclude in January 2026.</p> <p>3. The funds used for IOM services related to the payment of cash support are allocated through public procurement, as specified in the annual regulation letter from the government to SMA.</p> <p>4. N/A</p>

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