



IOM International Organization for Migration
IOM Internationale Organisation für Migration

Januar 2013/Englisch

REAG/GARP Program 2013

Reintegration and **E**migration Program for **A**sylum-Seekers in **G**ermany (**REAG**)
Government **A**ssisted **R**epatriation **P**rogram (**GARP**)

Project “Nationwide financial assistance to voluntary returnees”

A. General Information

The return assistance and start-up program is a humanitarian assistance program. It supports voluntary return and third country migration, offers start-ups and is a steering instrument for migration movements. The program is administered by IOM on behalf of the Ministry of the Interior and the relevant Federal States. It is implemented in cooperation with local and regional authorities, voluntary welfare organizations, specialized NGOs and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The program supports the orderly preparation and implementation of voluntary return and third country migration. Prerequisite is that neither the departing person him/herself nor any other person or agency responsible for his/her support can provide the necessary financial support. Any costs incurred during preparation for the departure (e.g. fees for passports or visas, trips to consular interviews or to the airport upon departure and the like) must be borne by the responsible social welfare office or any other responsible authority or NGO. In the event of a third country migration, the corresponding visas have to be present.

B. Assistance

The following types of assistance are granted:

- a) **payment of transportation costs** (by plane, train or bus)
- b) **petrol allowance:** € 250,- per car
- c) **travel assistance:** € 200,- per adult/youth and € 100,- per child under 12 years of age

No travel assistance is granted to nationals of European third countries, i.e. non-EU countries, who are permitted to enter the German federal territory without a visa and who have actually entered Germany after the date of the respective visa exemption. This regulation is especially applicable to nationals of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia (visa exemption since 19.12.2009) as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania (visa exemption since 15.12.2010) – vWEB States (visa-free countries of the Western Balkans).

start-up cash: € 300 per adult/youth and € 150 per child under the age of 12 for nationals of: Algeria, Bangladesh, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Ghana, Guinea, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Syria, and Vietnam

start-up cash: € 400 per adult/youth and € 200 per child under the age of 12 for nationals of: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iran, Kosovo (except Serbian and Roma minorities), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Russian Federation, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.

no start-up cash is granted to nationals of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, if they have entered Germany after the date of the respective visa exemption (former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia: 19.12.2009; Bosnia and Herzegovina: 15.12.2010) – vWEB States (visa-free countries of the Western Balkans).

start-up cash: € 750 per adult/youth and € 375 per child under the age of 12 for nationals of: Afghanistan, Iraq and Kosovo (for Serbian and Roma minorities only)

IOM – Vertretung für Deutschland:

Wallstraße 69 • D-10179 Berlin • Deutschland • Fax: +49.30.278 778 99

IOM - Zweigstelle in Nürnberg:

Postfach 40 01 59 • D-90206 Nürnberg • Frankenstraße 210 • D-90461 Nürnberg • Deutschland • Fax: +49.911.4300 260

Telefonzentrale IOM Deutschland: +49.911.43000

E-Mail: IOM-Germany@iom.int • Internet: <http://www.iom.int/germany>

C. Applications

Applications can only be submitted through one of the local or regional authorities (e.g. social welfare office, aliens' affairs offices), voluntary welfare agencies, specialized NGOs or by the UNHCR.

D. Eligibility and Prerequisites

The following target groups are eligible to receive assistance

- persons that are eligible under § 1 of the "Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz" act (the German asylum seekers' benefit act);
- recognized refugees;
- other foreigners who have been granted a right to sojourn for humanitarian or political reasons, or on grounds of public international law;
- victims of trafficking or forced prostitution;

In general, nationals of member states of the European Union (EU) are not granted return assistance and start-up cash. This regulation does not apply to victims of trafficking or forced prostitution.

No return assistance and no start-up cash is granted to nationals of European third countries, i.e. non-EU countries, who are permitted to enter the German federal territory without a visa and who have actually entered Germany after the date of the respective visa exemption. However, transportation costs are granted. Victims of trafficking and forced prostitution are exempted from this regulation.

Upon departure, all returnees/third country migrants must be at least in possession of a border crossing certificate as well as valid travel documents. For those returning to Kosovo, an EU-Laissez-Passer can be issued.

By signing the application, the applying persons confirm that they intend to return voluntarily to their home country or migrate to a third country. They have to waive their right to appeal or remedy and also abandon their sojourn status if required. There should be no indications for a permanent return to the Federal Republic of Germany. There is no legal claim for assistance.

E. Visas for migration to third countries

In order to obtain information on the available possibilities, foreigners who seek admission and permanent residence in a third country, should first consult an information or counselling centre for emigrants and people working abroad (e.g. Raphaels-Werk, Diakonisches Werk, DRK). Directories of these counselling centres may be obtained from the Federal Administration Office (Bundesverwaltungsamt), 50728 Cologne www.bundesverwaltungsamt.de IOM is only able to process applications for subsidized travel to third countries in case the foreigner is in possession of a visa for permanent residence in the respective country.

F. Further Information

Further information on the program may be obtained from all social welfare or aliens' affairs offices in any German city or district, from voluntary welfare organizations, specialized NGOs or directly from IOM Nuremberg (German or English).

G. Special Migrants Assistance Program (SMAP)

For those not eligible under the program, IOM can arrange flights and offer special fares within SMAP (special migrants assistance program). This especially applies to emigrants to the U.S., Canada or Australia. Flight costs have to be covered either by the migrants themselves prior to the departure or they have to be provided by e.g. a welfare office or NGO.