

# BRIEFING NOTE

## REINTEGRATION IN GEORGIA



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR



EUROPEAN UNION  
ASYLUM, MIGRATION AND  
INTEGRATION FUND (AMIF)

### THE PURPOSE

The purpose of this briefing note is to present the current situation of the country of return and clarify the reintegration procedure for the better support of the Georgian nationals who are returning voluntarily to the country of return.

### DESCRIPTION

The programme “Assisted Voluntary Return including Reintegration measures” (AVRR) aims to enable the orderly, humane and cost-effective return and reintegration of migrants who are unable or unwilling to remain in host countries and who wish to return voluntarily to their countries of origin.

AVRR programme is a core activity of IOM and has provided vital assistance to tens of thousands of migrants returning home every year, for the last four decades. The decision of returning back home is 100% voluntary and based on migrant’s request. A voluntary decision encompasses two elements, freedom of choice and an informed decision which requires the availability of enough accurate and objective information upon which to base the decision. The programme is funded 75% by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union (AMIF) and 25% by the Hellenic Ministry of Interior.

### What is reintegration?

*According to IOM's definition, reintegration can be defined as the re-inclusion or re-incorporation of a person into a group or process, for example, of a migrant into the society of his or her country of origin or habitual residence. Reintegration is thus a process that enables the returnee to participate again in the social, cultural, economic and political life of his or her country of origin.*

International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency  
Διεθνής Οργάνωση Μετανάστευσης (ΔΟΜ)

ნებაყოფლობითი დაბრუნების  
და რეინტეგრაციის პროგრამა

#iReturn

Το πρόγραμμα συγχρηματοδοτείται 75% από  
Ευρωπαϊκούς Πόρους (Πρόγραμμα Ασύλου, Μετανάστευσης  
και Ένταξης) και 25% από Εθνικούς Πόρους

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION  
THE UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

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**Who can participate in AVRR?**

AVRR programmes are addressed to third - country nationals who do not have the appropriate documentation to stay in Greece, or they do not desire to stay in Greece, to asylum seekers who have resigned from their request for international protection and to asylum seekers whom their application has been rejected. Special care is provided to vulnerable migrants, such as victims of trafficking, unaccompanied minors, single-parent families and individuals with medical needs etc.

Beneficiaries of AVRR are informed by specialized personnel with the assistance of cultural mediators, in order to follow personalized reintegration plans, based on their needs. AVRR programme is implemented in cooperation with IOM offices in Georgia and benefits the returnees, the local societies and the reception countries

 **Georgian Citizenship**

Who is entitled to Georgian citizenship?

- a) A person, at whose birth one of his/her parents is a Georgian citizen;
- b) A person born on the territory of Georgia through extracorporeal fertilization (surrogacy), if the country of citizenship of neither of his/her parents recognises this person as its citizen;
- c) A child born on the territory of Georgia to persons having a status of stateless person in Georgia;
- d) A person born on the territory of Georgia, one of whose parents is a person having a status of stateless person in Georgia and the other parent is unknown.

**Geographical Coverage**



## CONCRETE SUPPORT FOR RETURNEES

1. Medical assistance programmes
2. Training and administrative support
3. Financial support to start income generating activities

Can be financed by the Ministry of Internally Displaced persons from Occupied Territories, and Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia.



### MEDICAL CARE

Universal Health Care:

- Open to Citizens of Georgia as well as asylum seekers (while their application is being processed) and persons with humanitarian or refugee status;
- Stationary treatment is fully covered as well as some ambulatory care;
- Treatment of HIV and TB is free of charge, as well as insulin for diabetes patients;
- Dialysis programme is also available in several clinics;
- Medical costs for child care (up to 5 years) are partly covered by the state depending on the illness;
- Contact Ministry of Health and enroll in the nearest clinic.

All the clinics in Georgia are privatized. As Universal Health Care programme does not cover all the aspects, Georgian citizens can address any clinic any time based on their needs, but this service is paid. It is better to call and sign up for appointment, but for urgent cases there are daily queues as well.

Information on healthcare providers can be seen at:

<http://cloud.moh.gov.ge/Default.aspx?languagePair=en-US>



### EMPLOYMENT

Unemployment rate in Georgia is very high and there is no unemployment benefit. Anyone who has turned 16 may work. As for the needed documents, they depend on the employers. Employment in State sector requires Georgian citizenship.

Webpages for available vacancies:

<http://www.jobs.ge>

<http://www.hr.com.ge>



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## **HOUSING**

The average rent for a two room apartment in Tbilisi is about 350 USD per month depending on the district and state of the apartment. Utilities cost around 150-250 GEL per month.

There is no social grant for housing available.



## **EDUCATION**

• Precondition for entering higher educational institutions is the successful passing of Unified National Exams. Every person presenting the document of completed secondary can participate in the exams. Citizens of Georgia, who have obtained the document of completed secondary education abroad or/and the right to access higher education abroad, can also participate in Unified National Exams.

Registration is done online <http://registration.emis.ge>

- Students are enrolled in the state and private higher educational institutions with regard to the results of the national exams.
- 28 universities, 32 educational institutes and 14 colleges have an international accreditation.



## **ACQUISITION OF ESSENTIAL REQUIRED BY RETURNEES**

After return all sorts of documents, such as issuance of ID documents, passports, marriage certificates, as well as documents related to getting a visa or registering immovable property can be obtained at central and regional office of the National Agency of Public Registry, Ministry of Justice.

## **REINTEGRATION POSSIBILITIES**

IOM Georgia is consistent towards tailoring advice to returnees according to their individual needs & meeting their best potential. The initial focus remains on providing telephonic / face-to-face Counselling. This Counselling allows the returnees to expose their plans and discuss further on how those can be converted into reliable and stable economic activities capable of generating decent income.

The assistance IOM can provide depends upon what is available in the area of return and the reintegration assistance can cover:

Setting up of small businesses solely or in partnership. The most profitable seem to be:

- Dairy Farming
- Clothing/garments business
- Grocery shops

## Ms Salome from Georgia

### After School Day Care Centre

Ms Salome, aged 27, was living in Greece with her mother for more than 5 years when she decided to return in Georgia due to financial issues.

Her plan was to open an after school day care centre for children unlike the usual ones, where children will be involved in various creative and artist activities; not just a place only for reading school books. This plan, which was just an idea for many years, was impossible to be implemented due to financial restraints. However, through the reintegration assistance in kind of IOM Greece, Ms Salome finally managed to implement her plan with success in her home town, Kutaisi. The after school day care centre opened in November 2017. Fairytales, drawing, reading and TV documentaries or cartoons (depending on the age group) are just some of the activities with which she keeps the children busy. Ms Salome is being assisted by her sister, Sophie, who is also very experienced in this area. The care centre profits approximately 430 GEL per month, while the school fees are usually 50 GEL per month for every child who is registered in the centre. Ms Salome mentions that the monthly income is very satisfying and is sufficient enough in order to make savings as well.

Ms Salome and her sister Sophie expressed their gratitude towards IOM Greece since this business plan could never be a reality without the in kind reintegration assistance of IOM. Their near-future plan is to extend the centre, as work is gradually increasing.