

The Budapest Process Roadmap on Return and Reintegration

Introduction

Background

The topic of return and reintegration has been prioritised by Budapest Process (BP) partners since 2017. BP partners' engagement and expertise in the area of return and reintegration increased exponentially since then.

Most notably, the Budapest Process has highlighted the importance of return and reintegration, in **its political declaration and action plan adopted in 2019**. Priority Goals 1 and 2, focusing on irregular and regular migration, both address the topic of dignified return and sustainable reintegration in several action points¹. The **Implementation Plan**, adopted by Senior Officials in 2020, listed several points related to return and reintegration, including organising thematic meetings on the topic, sharing knowledge outputs on lessons learned in this area, and continuing operational cooperation and capacity building via on-ground projects. Since 2020, despite the hindrances placed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a majority of activities listed for return and reintegration have been implemented as per the Implementation Plan (find in annex¹). In the process of implementation said activities, a key outcome has been the increase in the collective wisdom of the reintegration practitioners as well as the generation of ideas for action via new projects conceived and implemented nationally and internationally.

The BP roadmap aim and structure

A Thematic Meeting on Return and Reintegration took place in Istanbul, Türkiye, on 27-28 June 2022, where BP states aimed to consolidate the momentum that has been produced in previous meetings on the topic and to capitalise on the strong engagement and ownership generated. Thus, BP partner countries agreed to jointly develop a roadmap for the BP to meaningfully support the Silk Routes countries – Bangladesh (observer country), Iraq and Pakistan – to achieve inclusive, rights-based, and sustainable returns and reintegration. The roadmap will guide future actions within and through the Budapest Process and the projects under its umbrella. In particular, the actions are aimed strengthening the capacity of national and consular authorities, international and other relevant organisations to manage returns in a systematic, humane and inclusive manner and then support the sustainability of returnees' economic, social and psychosocial reintegration and strengthen their resilience through

¹ - PG 1, AP 5: Enhance regional and bilateral cooperation and capacities on return and readmission to carry out swift identification and issuance of travel documents, including through Information and Communication Technology solutions (ICT), also through the negotiation, conclusion and implementation of readmission agreements or arrangements and/or standard operating procedures (SOPs) on return and readmission, in full compliance with international human rights, in accordance with the obligation of each state under customary international law to readmit its own nationals;

- PG 1, AP 6: Support the sustainability of returnees' economic, social and psychosocial reintegration and strengthen their resilience through promoting tailor-made individual and community-level assistance and enhance measures to better manage the return and reintegration process;

- PG1, AP 7: Prioritise voluntary return and strengthen the capacity of national and consular authorities, international and other relevant organisations to manage returns while not excluding the use of forced return in accordance with international law and human rights, in justified cases when all other options are exhausted;

-PG 2, AP 6: Enhance measures for skills development, including regarding reintegration, with the contributions of both sending and receiving countries.

promoting tailor-made individual and community-level assistance. Moreover, the actions are also aimed at reinforcing ongoing regional and bilateral cooperation on return and readmission (such as the EU-Pakistan Readmission Agreement), achieved by building capacities of airport, law enforcement and other reception-relevant governmental institutions.

Moreover, the BP dialogue responds in part to global commitments in the area of migration governance like the Global Compact on Migration, the Global Compact for Refugees, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the [EU's New Pact on Migration and Asylum](#). In particular, the current roadmap aims to address several elements of the [EU Strategy on Voluntary Returns and Reintegration](#) (2021), which has been followed up recently by a [policy document](#) (24 January 2023) that further sheds light on the European Commission's process of developing an operational strategy, with specific [focal areas](#) that help align with the objectives of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum.

The BP roadmap has a sub-structure with three areas in line with discussions in the thematic meeting: (1) effective returns management; (2) post-arrival assistance and referral mechanisms; and (3) sustainable reintegration. The actions listed under each sub-area in the roadmap are specific, achievable, and relevant. They are structured per country in order to take into account the context and current activities, as well as potential future actions.

The BP roadmap is intended as a guiding document for all BP partners. By providing measurable actions to be taken forward and prioritised within the Budapest Process and the projects under its umbrella, it facilitates targeted activities at the national levels and beyond, opening avenues for the involvement and future support by the international community.

The BP Reference Group, through its defined role to follow-up on initiatives within the dialogue, will closely follow the developments and activities taken in line with the roadmap.

Return and reintegration projects being implemented by developmental partners in the Silk Routes Region

In close coordination with the Budapest Process activities, several interventions within the frameworks of projects are being implemented in Bangladesh, Iraq, and Pakistan. **These help to inform the BP roadmap and its actions.**

Indeed, aside from their individual project-specific objectives, these projects also support states to mainstream reintegration- and return migration-related activities into overall national development planning so that a Whole of Government approach may be achieved. Given the diverse mandate of migration related ministries and institutions, it is crucial that the process of planning activities undertaken in return contexts, from pre-departure to post-arrival assistance, be aligned and carefully coordinated among all the relevant actors involved. Increased alignment enables better contribution to the sustainable reintegration of returning migrants within their communities of return - and host societies at large. Thus the BP roadmap envisages support for capacity partnerships with the governments of the countries of return, establishing a functioning government led service referral systems, capacity building of reintegration service providers, increasing and harmonising the quality and content of individual assistance to returnees, and facilitating robust programme monitoring and evaluation. It should be noted that the BP roadmap takes into account the results, lessons learned, and activities of projects implemented to date by the main development partners, such as international organisations, in the three countries. All efforts are made to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication.

Projects currently implemented in the Silk Routes which in part respond to the BP roadmap on return and reintegration

Project Acronyms	Donors	Project Titles	Countries
PPP 2 (Follow up to PPP project, 2021 -2022)	EU RRF	Public-Private Sector Partnership for Reintegration in Bangladesh (under RRF) (2022 – 2023)	Bangladesh
MRC Bangladesh	EU RRF	Migrant Resource Centre for Migration Awareness Raising, Counselling and Community Outreach (2022-2023)	Bangladesh
Prottasha I & II	EU	Bangladesh Sustainable Reintegration and Improved Migration Governance (2017-2022) [note: Prottasha II is pending approval]	Bangladesh
CAIR	Denmark	Capacity building for long-term reintegration of returnees to Afghanistan (until 08.2021) and Iraq (01.02.2021 – initial end date 31.01.2023, extended to 31.05.2023)	Iraq
IMAG (Follow up to IMED project, 2020 - 2022)	Switzerland	Whole of Government Approach to Migration Management in Iraq (2022 – 2024)	Iraq
MRC Iraq	EU (2017-2022) Sweden (2022) Denmark (as of August 2022 - 31.05.2023) EU (2023 – 2025)	Migrant Resource Centre for Migration Awareness Raising, Counselling and Community Outreach in Iraq (sequentially funded under various projects)	Iraq
MIRAMI	EU DG HOME (AMIF)	Migration Information and Raising Awareness on the Risks of Irregular Migration in Iraq (MIRAMI) (2023-2025)	Iraq
Hijra Amina	EU	Aims to enhance the migration management capacities of the Government of Iraq	Iraq

Qudra 2	Germany, EU, and Spain	Resilience for refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities in response to the protracted Syrian and Iraqi crises (2019-2023)	Iraq
ETTC	EU (ERRIN & Frontex), Germany (GIZ), France (OFII), Denmark (DRC), Netherlands (VWN), Belgium (Fedasil), Caritas Belgium)	European Technology and Training Centre (ETTC) – providing full range of reintegration support to returnees	Iraq
GMAC	Germany	Iraqi-German Centre for Jobs, Migration and Reintegration (GMAC) in Baghdad and Erbil	Iraq
JRS - Iraq	Frontex	Joint Reintegration Services (JRS) Programme	Iraq
RRF - RSI	EU	Return and Reintegration Facility (RRF) support for – Micro-business development and post-arrival counselling for migrants returning to Iraq	Iraq
PARIM-II	EU DG HOME (AMIF)	Awareness raising and information campaigns on the risks of irregular migration in Pakistan (2022-2024)	Pakistan
PROTECT	EU DG INTPA	Improving Migration Management & Migrant Protection in selected Silk Routes countries (PROTECT) (2023 – 2026), including support for MRC Pakistan and MRC Afghanistan (virtual)	Pakistan

MRC Pakistan	EU DG HOME (AMIF) EU DG INTPA (PROTECT)	See Project PARIM- II above See Project PROTECT above	Pakistan
PGFRC	GIZ	Pakistani-German Facilitation & Reintegration Centre	Pakistan
Strengthening Capacities for Countering TiP and SoM in Pakistan	Denmark	Strengthening Government of Pakistan’s Capacities for Countering Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Smuggling of Migrants (SOM) (2021 – 2024)	Pakistan
Enhancing Border Management Capacity of Pakistan	Japan	Enhancing Border Management Capacity of Government of Pakistan (2022 – 2024)	Pakistan
IBM-SR	EU	Integrated Border Management in the Silk Routes Countries (2019-2024)	Multi-country (Bangladesh, Iraq and Pakistan)
RBM-SR	Denmark	Rights Based Border Management in the Silk Routes Countries (2022-2024)	Multi-country (Iraq and Pakistan)
GLO.ACT Asia and the Middle East	EU	Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants - Asia and the Middle East (2018-2022) / project will be continued beyond 2022 under the PROTECT project, see above	Multi-country (Iraq and Pakistan)
EURCAP	EU	EU Readmission Capacity Building Facility (2016 –)	Multi-country (Bangladesh and Pakistan)

Note: EU Member States and other countries are providing cash and in-kind assistance to voluntary returnees under various Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programmes.

The salient action points (per country in alphabetical order) of the Budapest Process Roadmap on Return and Reintegration are outlined as follows:

Bangladesh

Effective returns management

- **Improve identification procedures by enhancing cooperation** among multiple institutional points-of-contacts in line with the existing cooperation framework and international obligations on readmission, *inter alia*, supporting the engagement of diplomatic missions to better assist in addressing issues of identification of returnees. This will be aligned with the SOP between the Government of Bangladesh and the European Union as well as other agreements that the Government of Bangladesh has with other countries of destination for Bangladesh migrants;
- **Establish, maintain, and further develop a public-private partnership (PPP) online platform** to be a repository of various return and reintegration programmes from different stakeholders, that enables returnees to plan their reintegration pathways even prior to actual return. It can also be a case management tool for potential use by PPP members, migrants' welfare desks, labour wing officials (of Bangladesh's foreign diplomatic missions), reintegration counsellors in countries of return/destination, etc. The PPP online platform will be linked to the Reintegration Assistance Tool (RIAT) which will facilitate response and referral mechanisms for returnees starting from pre-return (through guidance from return counsellors) until post-return and reintegration (through PPP networks and partners in Bangladesh).

Post-arrival assistance and referral mechanisms

- **Use currently established frontline platforms such as MRCs to:**
 - **Serve as a one-stop information hub** on migration-related matters, including on reintegration, through various national and local activities; **raise awareness and increase community outreach** on available reintegration programmes and services in partnership and coordination with local government institutions, faith-based groups, civil society and migrants' organisations, and academia and training institutions;
 - **Act as a referral mechanisms** or structure for other needs and services needed by migrants and their families, including on reintegration, **through specific and targeted counselling and guidance**;
 - **Help build community engagement and support systems and groups at the local level** by engaging with various stakeholders at the local level on reintegration to support returnees and help address social stigma associated with return;
 - **Ensure regular updating, monitoring and evaluation** of outreach and knowledge, including **preparing research** that assesses previous campaigns and communication activities and their effectiveness vis-à-vis the needs and interests of returnees, including understanding of characteristics of returnees, their motivations, information needs and gaps, the key messages, messengers (key influencers) and channels most likely to reach them.
- **Maintain and further develop the PPP network and coordination platform** by encouraging more programmes and services from the private sector to support returnees in their reintegration pathway;

- **Support the expansion of the reintegration response and referral mechanism** with emphasis on the response and referral with private sector, and with the participation of or in coordination with Bangladesh government information desk at the airport, MRCs and Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee's (BRAC) Reintegration Service Centres or the Frontex Joint Reintegration Services programme as well as ensuring that local level institutions and governance structures are included, e.g., Union Digital Centres in Bangladesh and community-based groups;
- **Strengthen the capacities of migrants' desks at the airports and immigration police** in terms of skills, service delivery and infrastructure to serve as first source of information and service upon arrival of returnees, especially those with vulnerabilities or emergency needs. Enhance contingency planning and crisis management for migrants' desks and airport authorities that will include an early warning system, inter-agency cooperation, and need-based reception approach, among others.

Sustainable reintegration

- **Support the implementation of the reintegration policy** for Bangladesh, in areas such as one-stop centres for migration services (linked with frontline platforms as mentioned above), multi-dimensional skills development programme, social security measures, and effective management and use of remittances;
- **Strengthen and expand partnerships with public and private sector with the aim of providing services for the sustainable economic reintegration** of returnees at the national and local level that will include employment, skills development, access to finance, entrepreneurship, and business incubation, among others;
- **Enhance the Reintegration Mentorship programme** or strategic financial advisory service for returnees (e.g. reintegration mentors);
- **Utilise the existing mapping of diaspora groups** in selected destination countries to explore means of engaging them to contribute to reintegration programming in-country and pilot joint reintegration initiatives through diaspora philanthropy, diaspora investment, collective remittance schemes, crowd-funding or other means;
- **Launch partnership programmes** between private sector in Bangladesh and Countries of Destination (CODs) for re-employment, recognition of prior learning, and social security and savings, linked with other initiatives such as talent partnerships.

Iraq

Effective returns management

- Foster dialogue on all forms of returns in order to **improve identification procedures by enhancing cooperation** among multiple institutional points-of-contacts in line with international obligations on readmission as well as supporting the engagement of diplomatic missions to better assist in the identification of returnees;
- **Organise needs assessment workshops to better identify the areas of support in operationalising the electronic case management system**, developed by the Ministry of Migration and Displaced with the aim to take forward the national referral mechanism, along with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), including addressing the needs that would facilitate further digitalisation;

- **Conduct expert training workshops on how to apply a horizontal and vertical Whole of Government Approach** to migration management, including operational modalities – with the ultimate aim of facilitating effective management and processing of returnees’ cases.

Post-arrival assistance and referral mechanisms

- **Support the upkeep of existing databases** on reintegration in Iraq to capture the differences among cohorts of returnees and respond to the specific needs of a range of categories with a specific set of parameters that allow quick identification of vulnerable groups;
- **Provide continued support to the existing national referral mechanism for returnees** by conducting mapping of, and linking with, various stakeholders providing services for returnees as well as local job markets, and raise awareness on other services;
- **Advance a Whole-of-Society Approach to reintegration** by involving and supporting provinces, municipalities, and local communities, while encouraging the continuation of support on the part of international stakeholders;
- **Develop and accredit training modules on reception, referral, data collection and case management, monitoring and evaluation, programme design and planning, and other topics.** Use the modules to **enhance and develop capacities of high-, technical-, and working-level officials from relevant ministries** such as Ministry of Migration and Displaced (MOMD) and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA) and well as technical experts in the government through EU accredited trainings on reintegration. **Form a pool of authorised trainers (possibly among the training cohort)** to deliver the trainings on the topic of return and reintegration in a second phase by utilising the Migration Capacities Training Institute in Malta for this objective;
- **Support the Technical Working Group on the implementation of the National Migration Strategy** in the implementation and operationalisation of the **national referral mechanism** for reintegration in different Governorates in Iraq, including mapping and assessment;
- **Use currently established frontline platforms such as MRCs to:**
 - **Facilitate community engagement** for supporting reintegration of returnees, especially in areas of high return, by:
 - **Utilising community leaders, influencers, religious leaders** (e.g., mosque imams);
 - **Establishing special campaigns for vulnerable returnees** (women and specifically female heads of households, children, persons with health issues and disabilities, etc.);
 - **Strengthening cooperation among, and capacity of, provincial (i.e. governorate) government offices** to serve local communities on reintegration referral and guidance;
 - **Conduct research** that assesses the effectiveness of previous campaigns and communication activities in reaching out to returnees, including understanding identified characteristics of returnees, their motivations, information needs and knowledge gaps, the key messages, messengers and key influencers, and channels through which they are most likely to be reached.

Sustainable reintegration

- **Uphold and support the functionality of a flexible system of reintegration services** (with contributions of external partners) that facilitate the immersion of returnees into community life by providing tailored assistance in a manner that enables their personal, professional, and social mobility;

- **Support the Technical Working Group in implementing the National Strategy on Migration Management in Iraq. Facilitate and increase cooperation within and among the Iraqi Ministries** in order to improve coordination, communication, and dialogue on reintegration efforts in the country. Strengthen coordinated reintegration programming to respond in a tailored manner to Iraqi returnees' varied needs through the Whole-of-Government Approach;
- **Further operationalise the Multi-Stakeholder Platform**, which serves to catalyse the joining of forces between the Government, private sector, service providers, CSOs, and NGOs in facilitating economic reintegration of returnees;
- **Expand the role of the private sector in the area of reintegration** through:
 - **Development and delivery of structured capacity building programmes** for Iraq's private sector on reintegration;
 - **Set up of business incubation for returnees** (via a tripartite approach, i.e. contribution, from government, private sector, and IO/development partner/service provider);
 - **Recognition of prior learning for returnees**, in partnership with the public sector, which would ensure setting up the policies and guidelines, for the private sector to respond through their means, including using their technology and infrastructure;
 - **Capacity building for returnees on economic reintegration**, with both pre- and post-training services from private sector through business mentorship, internships, etc.;
- **Organise Technical Seminars** gathering international stakeholders, as well as CSOs and NGOs that are active in the areas of relevance to migration and reintegration in Iraq to ensure direct collaboration, where possible;
- **Utilise the existing mapping of diaspora groups** in selected destination countries to explore means of engaging them to contribute to reintegration programming and pilot joint reintegration initiatives through diaspora philanthropy, diaspora investment, collective remittance schemes, crowd-funding, or other means.

Pakistan

Effective returns management

- **Improve identification procedures by enhancing cooperation** among multiple institutional points-of-contacts in line with the existing cooperation framework and international obligations on readmission, *inter alia*, supporting the engagement of diplomatic missions to better assist in addressing issues of identification of returnees;
- **Facilitate the enhancement of the existing 'Returnee Case Management System' (RCMS)** to become all inclusive, such that the RCMS documents returnees from all countries; The Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment (BEOE) has initiated this process – however, this tool needs to be developed further to encompass returns from all countries, including those outside of the EU;
- **Strengthen the airport reception capacities** through technical assistance provided to support the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) handling of returnees;

Post-arrival assistance and referral mechanisms

- **Develop a National Reintegration Policy in Pakistan**, covering referral mechanisms and services and meaningful private sector engagement as well as improved cooperation with countries of

- destination; Focus on possible linking (also by developing an IT interface) of the existing digital tools (RCMS and RIAT) with the national referral mechanism;
- **Conduct mapping of services available to returnees**, to be shared with all stakeholders supporting the reintegration of returnees, in order to aid in the development of the national referral mechanism;
 - **Reinforce the work of other reintegration support initiatives** such as the Facilitation and Reintegration Centre (PGFRC) established within the Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF);
 - **Develop and accredit training modules on reception, referral, data collection and case management, monitoring and evaluation, programme design and planning, and other topics.** Use the modules to **enhance and develop capacities of high-, technical-, and working-level officials from relevant ministries** such as Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (MoPHRD), Ministry of Interior (Mol) and its subordinate FIA, as well as Ministry of Foreign Affairs. **Form a pool of authorised trainers (possibly among the training cohort)** to deliver the trainings on the topic of return and reintegration in a second phase by utilising the Migration Capacities Training Institute in Malta for this objective
 - **Use currently established frontline platforms such as MRCs to:**
 - **Serve as a one-stop information hub for clear, accessible and understandable information to potential migrants** on possibilities for legal and orderly migration, as well as rules and regulations as well as **relevant pre-departure information to outgoing migrants** on work and living conditions abroad and their rights and obligations, including providing career counselling and information on scholarship opportunities;
 - **Counselling and psycho social support to returning migrants**, as well as referring them to reintegration services and socio-economic opportunities;
 - **Providing updated migration information (in particular regarding returnees)** to non-government stakeholders and **conducting awareness raising campaigns** and training at the community level in irregular migration prone districts in Pakistan (mostly in Punjab) and in particular engage local NGOs and media/journalists on awareness raising via innovative and enhanced reporting/campaigns;
 - **Engage with various stakeholders** at the local level regarding reintegration of returnees;
 - **Conduct surveys on information needs** of the private sector on profiles, needs and interests of returnees to support the overall data management of government in regards to returnees and to provide responsive and comprehensive services to returnees;
 - **Ensure regular monitoring and evaluation** of its activities, including **preparing research** that assesses previous campaigns and communication activities and their effectiveness in regards to outreach to returnees, including understanding identified characteristics of returnees, their motivations, information needs and gaps, the key messages, messengers (key influencers) and channels most likely to reach them;
 - **Design and deliver trainings on financial literacy for returning migrants and their families.**

Sustainable reintegration

- **Involve the private sector into the reintegration process with the establishment of a multi-stakeholder platform** to be created for regular exchanges between relevant authorities, mainly

those in charge of reintegration, employment and technical vocational and education institutions, reintegration service providers, and a relevant pool from the private sector;

- **Implement the ERRIN Operational Framework in the context of Pakistan, that is, to establish:**
 - **Operational standards** for establishing effective referrals between reintegration and development initiatives and strengthening practical and operational links between the reintegration and development sectors;
 - **Ecosystem of actors** that allows for stronger connections between reintegration and development actors and to bolster coherence and synergy between reintegration and development actors;
 - **Standardised processes** for learning from, operationalising, and delineating examples of good practices, lessons learned, and recommendations that can serve as a baseline for key indicators to measure effective delivery of reintegration services;
- **Conduct mapping of diaspora groups** in selected destination countries that can help support reintegration initiatives through ‘aid in-kind’ or other means; Also **engage diaspora to help with awareness raising** by dispelling rumours and misconceptions

Outlook

The BP Roadmap on Return and Reintegration documents the wide array of activities that have been conceived and implemented as well those planned to be implemented in follow up. Naturally, this makes the roadmap a living document which changes based on-ground realities, evolving needs and challenges and emerging opportunities. Therefore, the BP would continue to rely on the feedback received from its network of state and non-state stakeholders in thematic meetings and other forums where return and reintegration is discussed. The feedback received in such forums provides valuable input to ongoing and planned initiatives, as approaches can be improved or adapted to suit new trends and best practices.

Appendix

The below action points were developed in Istanbul during the Thematic Meeting on Return and Reintegration in June 2022. The focus was on improved returns management, post-arrival support and referral mechanisms and long term reintegration. The purpose of the thematic meeting was to allow national stakeholders and experts to advise regarding existing and future cooperation and initiatives developed on return and reintegration under the umbrella of the Budapest Process.

Support humane and effective returns management measures and strategies

1. *Facilitate the digitalisation of tools used for returns management, including via system-to-system Integration in order to increase timely information sharing for identification (e.g., digitalised and integrated ‘Returnee Case Management Systems’);*
2. *Engage the ministries of foreign affairs of countries of origin to explore how diplomatic missions can better assist in addressing issues of identification of returnees;*
3. *Organise study visits to improve coordination and allow for opportunities to assess and improve returns systems;*

4. Conduct research on the impact of Covid-19 on returns and what implication this has for remigration as well as prospects for reintegration into fragile and not-yet-recovered economies;

5. Explore and advise on good practices for individual specific response mechanisms, e.g., returnees with medical conditions who require tailored support, or victims and survivors of trafficking who require psycho-social counselling

Support the strengthening of first line support and referral mechanisms provided to returning migrants

1. Design and conduct information campaigns as a means to establish first-line support and direct attention towards referral mechanisms. In this regard, it would be important to:

a) Utilise all platforms of mass media – online, social, print, etc.;

b) Make more effective use of Migrant Resource Centres (MRC); Embed information about reintegration programmes in pre-departure briefings conducted in MRCs;

c) Utilise private media organisations and public information institutions;

d) Ensure that local level institutions and governance structures are included, e.g., make use of Union Digital Centres in Bangladesh;

e) Utilise community leaders, influencers, religious leaders (e.g., mosque imams);

f) Establish special campaigns for vulnerable returnees (women, children, persons with health issues and disabilities, etc.).

2. Support with database formation and upgradation in order to accurately understand needs of returnees. In this regard, it would be important to:

a) Link registered returnees to the type of services that could be provided to them;

b) Develop a returnee ID system – enabling a one-stop-shop solution;

c) Improve interface between countries of origin (CoO) and destination (CoD) – data collected; at CoD should be systematically shared with CoO to enable proper follow up with returnees;

d) Support in the creation of SOPs to allow for intra- and inter-ministerial data sharing;

e) Use embassies as sources of data and referral.

3. Assess and advise on how to mobilise immediate assistance; it is advised to ensure that the needs of vulnerable groups are fulfilled first and foremost. In this regard, it is important to ensure the inclusion of returnees in special development programmes/committees of local governments.

Support the long-term socio-economic reintegration of returning migrants

1. Advise on the design of an incentive structure whereby the private sector can be more meaningfully involved in the reintegration programmes of governments;

2. Provide expertise and guidance to government and non-government stakeholders (including CSOs and NGOs) on improving support provided to returnees in regards to up-skilling, re-skilling, skill-matching, and recognition of prior learning, as well as business development coaching/incubation;

a) Utilise the practice of supporting returnees in creating digital CV (in QR code form), which can show what skills the returnee has so that skills training can be provided according to her/his needs and market demand.

3. Facilitate the creation of policy frameworks that allow countries of origin to tap into the financial and social capital that diaspora can bring forth to stimulate development at the community level;

4. Conduct labour market mapping to see which sectors provide good opportunities for returning professionals – look into IT, hospitality, and healthcare sectors;

5. Assist governmental partners to mainstream reintegration and migration related projects in overall development planning so that a Whole of Government approach can be achieved.



ⁱ Budapest Process – Implementation Plan of the Call for Action

- Dialogue
- Operational Cooperation
- Research and Knowledge Base

Priority Goal	#	Action	Est. Timeline	Comments
Priority Goal 1 <i>Prevent and counteract irregular migration, facilitate return, readmission, and reintegration of irregular migrants, and combat criminal networks involved in smuggling of migrants</i>	1.1	Thematic meeting on sustainable return and reintegration: best practices and lessons learned	2020	Meeting held in Budapest in March 2020
	1.2	Lessons learned on return and reintegration: what works, what doesn't	2020	Background paper produced for the meeting
		Reference Group – select group of Budapest Process countries meeting to forge a closer link between dialogue and operational cooperation; discuss contemporary migration challenges; formulate strategic advice to the Budapest Process Chairmanship [discussed return and reintegration extensively]	2021-2022	Three meetings held in 2021, two meetings held in 2022
	1.3	Joint meeting of the South East Europe & Silk Routes Regional Working Groups to discuss cooperation on Smuggling and Trafficking; Return and Reintegration; Asylum and International Protection of Vulnerable Groups	2021	Meeting held in October 2021, in Ohrid, North Macedonia Link with PGs 1, 5, 6
	1.4	Thematic Meeting on Return and Reintegration	2022	Meeting held in June 2022 in Istanbul
	1.5	Improving Migration Management in the Silk Routes (IMM) // 12 M € EU funded project	2017 – 2021 (extended to April 2022)	follow up to the 2019 Ministerial Conference Link with all PGs
	1.6	Integrated Border Management in the Silk Routes (IBM) // 12 M € EU funded project	2019 – 2022 (extended to Dec 2024)	follow up to the 2019 Ministerial Conference Link with PG 1, 5, 6
	1.7	Baseline needs assessments of Countries of Origin on livelihood opportunities for returnees	2020 - 2022	Produced in the course of 2020-2022 Link with PG 4