RABAT-proces

Assisted Voluntary Return Outreach towards migrants in irregular stay.



Towards a more integrated migration policy, made possible by the AMIF



Peter Neelen Head of Unit, AVR Brussels, May 31, 2016



"Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers"

Legal mandate:

- Reception of asylum seekers (appr. 35.000 reception places).
- Reception of Unaccompanied Minors.
- Resettlement.
- Organization of Assisted Voluntary Return.

No responsibilities in migration management.



Assisted Voluntary Return

Key facts

- AVR = social assistance (OBJ: assist migrants wanting to return make a return feasible).
- Core values: voluntariness, confidentiality.
- Broad target group (asylum seekers, migrants in irregular stay).
- Organization of return: IOM.
- Re-integration assistance: based on administrative situation and individual social assessment. Between appr. 500 and 2.500 EUR
- Service providers: IOM and Caritas / ERSO.



Assisted Voluntary Return - figures



fedasil

Assisted Voluntary Return - outreach



Voluntary return can help you get there.

Fedasil organises and finances your return journey. And we examine with you if we can give you any additional support.





Assisted Voluntary Return - outreach

Communication and outreach: Operational responsibility of Fedasil.

Objectives

- Target group must be informed (directly and indirectly) about the existence / possibilities of AVR and about how to make use of the program.
- 2. AVR-program must be easily accessible for the target group.



AVR - Accessibility

Geographical and institutional differentiation.

- 5 Return Desks (direct management Fedasil).
- > 20 Return Partners (ngo's, migrant communities).

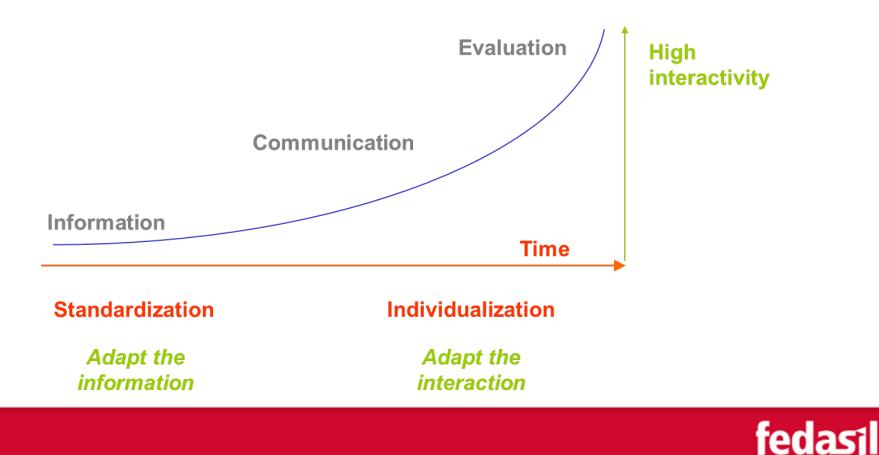




AVR - Information

1. Asylum seekers staying in reception centers.

"Return Path"



AVR - Outreach

2. Migrants in irregular stay – outside reception.

- No systematic interaction with external actors (government, non-governmental).
- Difficult to get clear view on communities.

First conclusion:

- Impact of top-down / centrally managed approach is limited.
- Alternative approach: key-persons, credible within towards communities.



AVR – Consular representatives

- Unique character of voluntary return.
- Possibility of referral.



THIS BROCHURE IS INTENDED FOR FOREIGN EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES IN BELGIUM



AVR – Local municipalities

Migrant communities \rightarrow urban areas. Local municipalities (formal – informal) \rightarrow relation with migrant communities:

- Integration activities.
- Social services.
- Projects subsidies cultural centers.

Key person within city administration / civil society. ToR:

- Inform formal and informal representatives.
- Regular information campaigns.
- Create a dynamic (cross-over with other activities).



AVR – Local municipalities

State of play

° 2012: Gent.

2016: Gent, Antwerpen, Oostende, Charleroi.

2017: project in 24 urban areas.



AVR – Conclusion

Important that every migrant is informed about AVR.

- Asylum seekers in reception centers: structure.
- Migrants in irregular stay: no formal contacts.

Develop alternative strategies in necessary.

Potential for co-operation between EU MS and countries of origin/transit ?

