



REFERRAL CENTRE FOR RETURNEES IN ARMENIA (PHASE II)

Category

Government to Government Cooperation

Timeline

July 2020 - June 2022

Countries of implementation

Armenia

Project lead

ERRIN Programme Management Unit

The project is a continuation of ERRIN's close cooperation with third country governments focusing on reintegration counselling and referral systems for returnees, with the aim of ensuring support for returning migrants. The specific activities are provided to ERRIN returnees by ICMPD Armenia, working in direct cooperation with the Armenian Migration Service and local partners.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Under Phase I of the ERRIN programme (2018 – 2020), ERRIN set-up a **Government to Government project in Armenia**, building on the lessons learnt from other pilot initiatives. The first phase focused on delivering in kind reintegration services to returning Armenian citizens and building capacities of the **Armenian Migration Service**. The project continued operations of the **Referral Centre in Yerevan** with the aim of assisting and guiding Armenian returnees throughout their reintegration journey. The Centre's location at the premises of the Armenian Migration Service ensured a close operational cooperation with the agency, and new opportunities for capacity development. ICMPD Armenia hired and trained three local reintegration counsellors to permanently staff the Centre and ensure the highest quality of services.

Upon the completion of Phase I on 30 June 2020, ERRIN Member States expressed the wish to **continue and expand the existing activities in Armenia**. It is currently the **only reintegration project** implemented in such close cooperation with the Armenian Migration Service, and the **unique actor in Armenia** providing reintegration assistance to forcibly returned persons.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Counselling services provided by the Referral Centre and Armenian Migration Service

ERRIN will continue to provide counselling and referral services at the Centre, open to both voluntary and forced returnees.

Counselling and referral of returnees to a stakeholder network

Returnees can get referred to a wide network of public and locally contracted service providers. The services range from unemployment counselling, through medical assistance, housing, vocational training and micro-business set up.

Coordination meetings

ERRIN facilitates meetings for all stakeholders involved in the reintegration of returnees in Armenia, fostering practical cooperation in the field.

ABOUT ERRIN

The European Return and Reintegration Network (ERRIN) is a joint initiative of 15 EU Member States and Schengen countries, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and the European Commission. The International Centre for Migration Policy Development supports the programme as an implementing partner. ERRIN enhances European cooperation to improve both the return process, and the quality of support offered to migrants.

ABOUT ERRIN GOV2GOV INITIATIVE

Through a range of Government to Government initiatives, ERRIN works to empower partner governments and give them more ownership in coordinating local reintegration processes of returning migrants.