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Newsletter

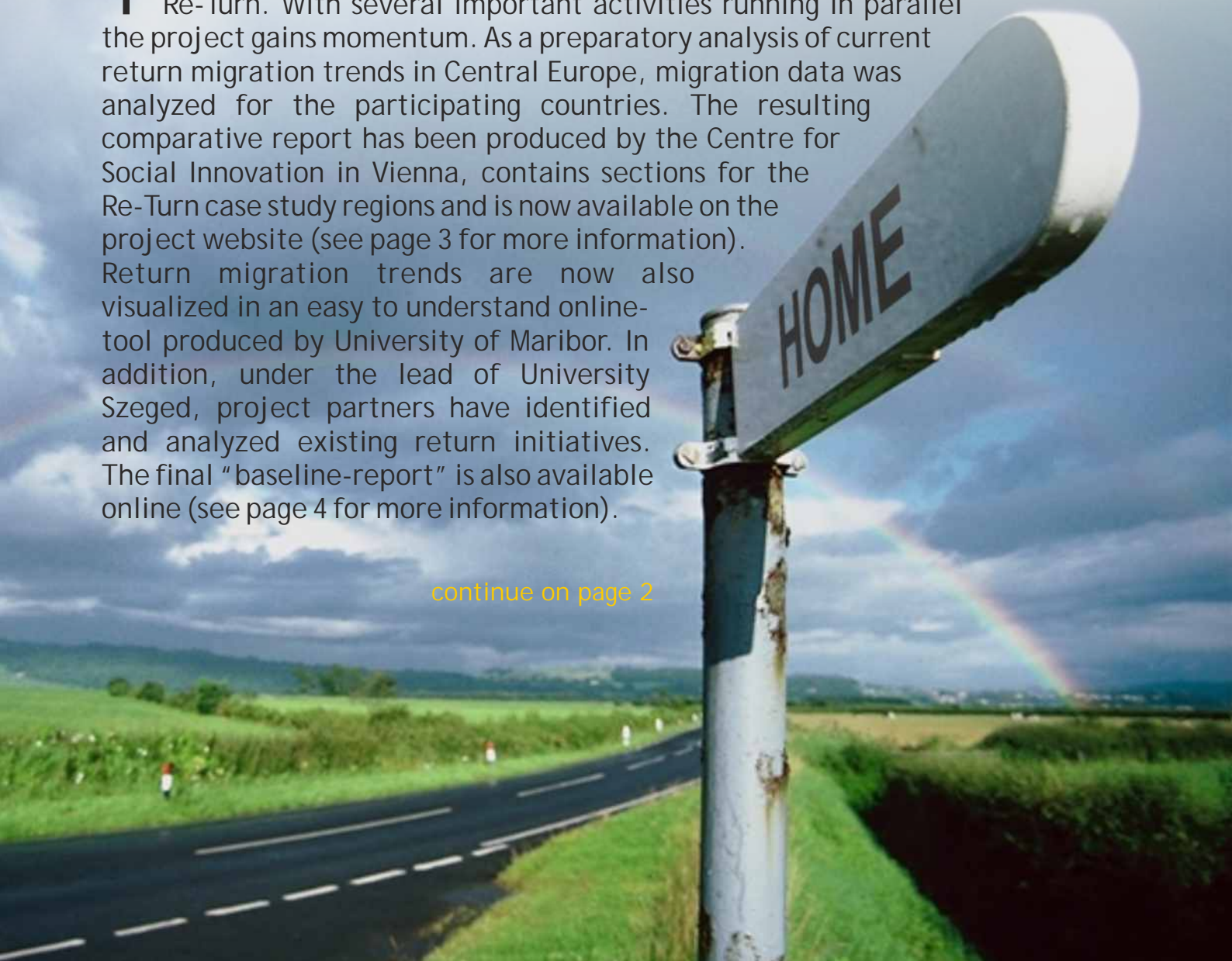
Newsletter for friends and partners of the project
Regions benefitting from returning migrants

Editorial

Re-Turn gains momentum

The first part of 2012 was a busy one for the project partners of Re-Turn. With several important activities running in parallel the project gains momentum. As a preparatory analysis of current return migration trends in Central Europe, migration data was analyzed for the participating countries. The resulting comparative report has been produced by the Centre for Social Innovation in Vienna, contains sections for the Re-Turn case study regions and is now available on the project website (see page 3 for more information). Return migration trends are now also visualized in an easy to understand online-tool produced by University of Maribor. In addition, under the lead of University Szeged, project partners have identified and analyzed existing return initiatives. The final "baseline-report" is also available online (see page 4 for more information).

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Editorial



Re-Turn gains momentum (part 2)

Robert Nadler,
Thilo Lang,
Leibniz Institute
for Regional
Geography/Lead
partner



Partners' current activities very much focus on the identification of migrants' motivation to come back home and of regional businesses to employ returnees. Therefore, we still seek participants who want to share their migration experience with us online (<http://return.ifl-leipzig.de>) and in regional workshops. Further, project partners are talking to entrepreneurs and business multipliers in the case study regions in order to evaluate their labor needs and their intentions to engage with returning migrants.

Until summer 2012 these analytical tasks will result in a conclusive report with recommendations to improve partners' activities to support return migration in our case study regions. Meanwhile, regional service concepts for these pilot activities are being prepared coordinated by VSBI; implementation is foreseen for the 2nd half of 2012. At the next, public project conference in Szekesfehervar/HU from 12 to 14 September 2012 we will also meet the film team documenting our project. Many thanks to all project staff, to all members of regional Re-

Turn working groups and all people being involved in our activities for supporting this exciting project! Together, we keep track to get people back!

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Main outputs

Comparative report on Re-Migration Trends in Central Europe

Although return migration is of high importance in Central Europe no comparative report on the region as a whole had been written so far. To provide better understanding of the existing situation of return migration in Central Europe and especially in the seven Project Partner Countries: AT, DE, CZ, IT, HU, PL, SI of the Re-Turn Project, similarities and differences between involved states and regions as well as the unexploited potentials of returnees to foster knowledge development should be analysed.

Return migration is not a marginal phenomenon. According to international data provided by Eurostat for 2009, the share of nationals among immigrants was 75% for Poland (2008), 29% for the Czech Republic, 23% for Germany, 13% for Austria, 10% for Slovenia and 8% for Hungary and Italy.

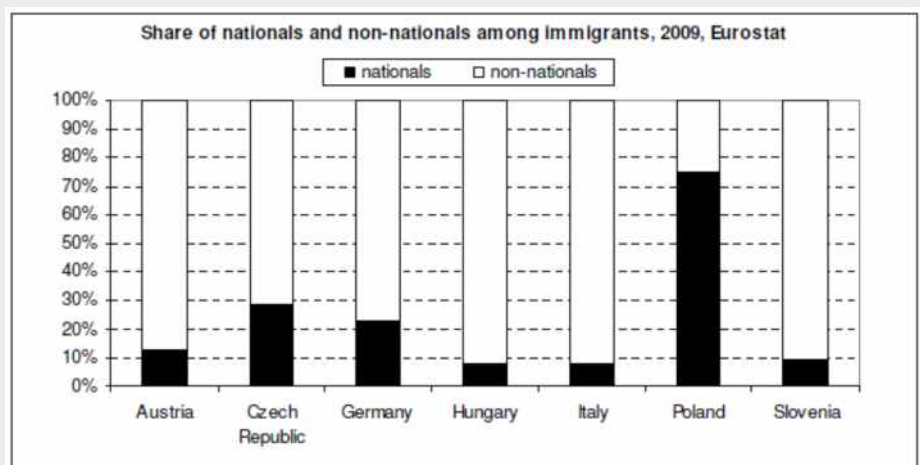
Return migrants in Central and Eastern Europe are a fast-growing group, not least because of the crisis.

Main findings showed that return migration was often planned from the beginning and caused by financial motives, as well as by family and social relations. According to international migration theories, skilled return migrants can become actors of change and stimulate knowledge-based development in the origin-country but this is dependent on institutional and regional factors as well as context conditions. Returnees have to prepare for their return by mobilizing resources (human

capital, financial capital and social capital). Therefore they require conditions which are favourable enough to allow resources to be mobilised. Further, they need time. Migrants have to stay in the destination country sufficiently long to allow accumulating knowledge and absorbing certain experiences and values. Here, especially the membership in various networks is important to link return migrants' capital with local resources.

The synthesis of cross-country and national results showed that Central European returnees are a positively selected group with respect to age and education. Research also showed that CEE returnees tend to maintain professional links with their home country during the migration phase, which facilitates the re-integration process upon return. Further, national results provided mixed findings concerning the labour market integration and the labour

*Michael Förschner,
Stefanie Smoliner,
Jana Nová
ZSI-Centre for Social
Innovation/PP02*



Source: Eurostat, 2009

market outcomes of returnees. Last, research indicated that returnees more often switch into self-employment

than non-migrants, though this is not the case in all countries.

Data from the 7 case study reports indicated that the regions are predominantly characterised by traditional economy and an oversupply on the labour market offering only

limited employment perspectives for returning migrants even though their skills, experience and often also their formal education and vocational training are higher than average. The aging of most of the regions should generally shorten the current excess labour supply. ●

Main policy implications:

- *Attract and support high-skilled return migration*
- *Remove obstacles to return*
- *Create framework conditions that help returnees to realize their potential*
- *Formulate a regional development strategy based on a wider and better skills basis*

Returning people to the homeland: Tools and methods supporting remigrants in a European context (Baseline report)

Zoltán Kovács,
Lajos Boros,
Gábor Hegedűs,
Gábor Lados
University of
Szeged/PP08

In February a report about relevant tools and methods supporting returning migrants within European countries was prepared by the University of Szeged (PP08). In four sections the report analysed: features of return migration as a global phenomenon, the state-of-the-art of migration flows in Europe, initiatives from each other in national and regional level. At the end of the report some suggestions for policy makers were formulated.

In the report a total of thirteen national policies and twenty-two best practices were summarised and analysed. Thirteen best practice initiatives were identified from regions involved in the Re-Turn project and nine from non-member regions. On the one hand, initiatives generally aim at:

- 1) re-attracting migrants who have left their country of origin;
- 2) giving support to re-integrate those who return; and
- 3) re-employing them after their return.

On the other hand, sending regions also need to make efforts to retain their population. We can conclude that initiatives targeting migrants who still live abroad use mostly place marketing and job creation to re-attract these people. The other group of initiatives contains programmes and projects which focus on returned migrants. Their aims are to establish linkage between employers and job seekers as job centres, to give financial aid for returnees, and to support and promote entrepreneurship in order to encourage remigrants for starting their own enterprise. The third group involves best practices which mainly launch trainings and education actions, and further, provide scholarships and grants for youth to prevent their emigration. ●



Regional Task Forces Were Successfully Established in Poland and Hungary

Swietokrzyski Voivodship

In October 2011, in the Regional Labour Office in Kielce, the regional workshops were conducted for migrants and entrepreneurs from the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship. In the Workshops took part, 15 migrants, and representatives of 17 firms. During first meeting, history and the brief for design of Re-Turn Project were

representatives watched various presentations about migration trends in the Świętokrzyski Region and they held a meeting how to increase the attractiveness of this region for returnees and those who still hesitate from coming back.

*Mariusz Kowalski,
Marshal Office of
the Świętokrzyskie
Voivodship/PP11*

During the discussion, was pointed out the need to create a strategy that will be emphasizing on entrepreneurs, politicians and decision makers about the benefits coming from the employment of migrants.

This strategy should translate in increasing of employment, as part of the most visible changes observed by the migrants. Creating new jobs, adequate to education, skills and knowledge of migrants was an argument most frequently raised by workshop participants.

presented to migrants as also the opportunities of financial support for re-migrants in setting up a business. Members, by participating in survey shared their experiences about working abroad. Based on their answers the on-line survey was created for further project needs. Outcomes of the survey will be present on regional website of the Project in order to use it for further analysis and comparison by all Re-Turn's partners.

Meeting for entrepreneurs was devoted to have identified possibilities of support from regional companies and in which direction this support should head. Firm's

The workshops were attended by Mr. Cezary Mielczarz Deputy Director of the Regional Labour Office in Kielce, Mr. Przemysław Kowalczyk representing the EURES network and Mr. Maciej Szczepański, director of the Internet portal, called "Green Line" intended for returnees.



Central Transdanubian Region

Agnes Fiedler,
Mid-Pannon
Regional
Development
Company/PP07

From November 2011, a regional task force of local stakeholders is helping the implementation of „Re-Turn” project in Hungary, Central Transdanubia region. The advisory group is composed by the experts of the following organizations: Mid-Pannon Regional Development Company (project partner), Central Transdanubian Nonprofit Company, Central Transdanubian Regional Development Agency (leader of the task force), Central Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency, Türr István Training and Research Institute and the Employment Center of the Fejér County Government Office.

During the annual meetings, the local stakeholders identify problems; make proposals for solutions; exchange experiences. The experts also revise the professional outputs of the project and promote the dissemination of the results.

“The project is a very actual and

relevant initiative. The analysis of the current situation, including the profile of the region and the survey is very useful since there has been no data collection of this group. It is also relevant to analyse the needs of re-migrants so that the employment services can prepare to handle the eventual problems” - said Mr Gábor Kígyóssy, project manager of the Central Transdanubian Regional Development Agency and president of the regional task force.



Partners Information

Czech Republic starts to support return of experts

Jan Schroth,
IOM/PP07

The first thirteen projects supporting return of researchers and high skilled professionals were selected in February 2012 within the framework of „Návrat” (Return) programme. The programme is the first official attempt of the Czech Republic to motivate professionals from academia and research to start to work back home.

Selected experts should have at least three years of professional career experience at foreign institutions. The Czech Ministry of Education which is responsible for implementation of the governmental programme selected first thirteen out of twenty four submitted projects of different institutions. They are mostly universities and research institutes in fields of biochemistry, molecular genetics, microbiology as well as geology or economy.

The experts are coming from United Kingdom, USA, Canada, Switzerland, Mexico and Norway. The second round of the call for proposals will be opened this year too. The government plans to allocate up to total 20 billions of EUR to this programme within next several years. ●



Project partner VSBI e.V. (PP05, Germany)

i Regarding the business survey we are in preparatory stage. We are glad to welcome a student apprentice - Ms. Katrin Schade - who will support us with the business survey in the context of her Master's Thesis.

At the moment VSBI is preparing next regional meeting, that will take place on May, the 11th, 2012. It will take place in Weißwasser, that is located in the case study region of Landkreis Görlitz. In agenda VSBI has the following subjects: the toolkit, the evaluation of the best-practice-examples for the service-concepts concerning the issue 're-attract', the online survey as well as the business survey; furthermore possible following projects and the time schedules for 2012.



Upcoming events inside and outside Re-Turn

Re-Turn: International Public Seminar: 12-14 September 2012

Place: Szekesfehervar, Hungary

Topic: The specific needs of businesses and remigrants: state of the art and best practices to support return migration

1. presentation and discussion of the empirical analysis of business needs and migrants' competences and expectations
2. discussion of regional service concepts to support return migration
3. transnational workshop and training session with intermediary organisations
4. study trip

All regional partners are invited to join the seminar. For further information and registration contact Mr. Ákos Szépvölgyi, Mid-Pannon Regional Development Company/PP07 (szepvol@kdriu.hu).



Central Europe Programme

CENTRAL EUROPE PROGRAMME is an European Union programme that encourages cooperation among the countries of Central Europe to improve innovation, accessibility and the environment and to enhance the competitiveness and attractiveness of their cities and regions.

The programme area covers about 1,050,000 square kilometres where live 148 million citizens. It includes regions from Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia.

The Re-Turn project is included in the first thematic area - Innovation and priority 1.3: Fostering Knowledge Development.

Duration

The Re-Turn project commenced in May 2011 and runs until April 2014 (36 months).

Lead Partner, Germany Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig

Germany Association for Social and Labour Market Integration, Merseburg

Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Saxony-Anhalt, Magdeburg

Case study Görlitz Region, Harz Region

Czech Republic International Organization for Migration, Prague

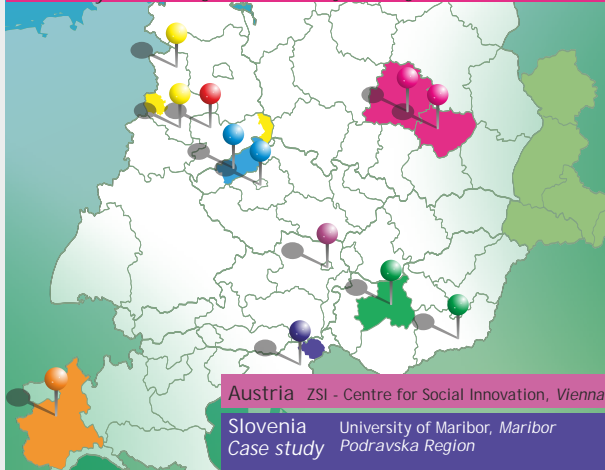
Requalification and Information Centre, Most

Case study Ústí Region

Poland Lodz Region, Lodz

Świętokrzyskie Region, Kielce

Case study Lodz Region, Świętokrzyskie Region



Austria ZSI - Centre for Social Innovation, Vienna

Slovenia University of Maribor, Maribor

Case study Podravska Region

Hungary Mid-Pannon Regional Development Company, Székesfehérvár

Case study USZ - University of Szeged, Szeged

Central Transdanubia Region

Italy National Union of Mountain Municipalities, Communities

Case study and Authorities - Piedmont Delegation, Torino

Piemonte Region

How to subscribe or unsubscribe the Newsletter

At project website www.re-migrants.eu is in the homepage section "Project Newsletter" where you can include your email address to "SUBSCRIBE" the Newsletter or by click on link "UNSUBSCRIBE NOW" you can unsubscribe the Newsletter.

If you want to change an address, first unsubscribe under your present address and then re-subscribe under your new email address. OR, you can just subscribe under your new addy. After the newsletter "bounces" a few times at the old address, that address automatically gets deleted from the subscriber base.

Observations and your support to the project are warmly welcome!

All recipients of this newsletter are kindly asked to support our collection of European initiatives in the field of returning migration by sharing with us their knowledge and expertise on relevant good practice examples and centres of knowledge!

Please get in contact with us personally at ladosg@geo.u-szeged.hu (Gabor Lados, University of Szeged/PP08)

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