

This project is implemented through the CENTRAL EUROPE  
Programme co-financed by the ERDF.

# Newsletter

Newsletter for friends and partners of the project Re-Turn:  
Regions benefitting from returning migrants

## Editorial

# Reaping the fruits of transnational cooperation

**S**ince May 2011 project partners in the Re-Turn project cooperated to understand the processes of emigration and return migration in Central Europe and to support returning Central European migrants. Now, in July 2014, the project officially comes to an end: A perfect time to reap the fruits!



What did we achieve? In 8 Case Study Regions 15 Pilot Activities were successfully implemented and helped more than 350 return migrants to return to Central Europe. We raised the awareness for the topic of return migration among 760 participants in project events and nearly 8.000 multipliers followed the project activities through the website (pp. 2-5). We increased the public attention concerning the topic of return migration far beyond the project consortium and involved regions. The project was covered in 104 press articles and by 17 radio and TV stations across Europe and in the USA. And finally, we addressed policy makers at the EU level, who will dedicate to this topic in their future activities (pp. 10).

continue on page 2

## Editorial



### Reaping the fruits of transnational cooperation

Robert Nadler,  
Leibniz Institute  
for Regional  
Geography,  
LP

*(continue from page 1)*

What comes next? The knowledge and experience that we elaborated in this project is now being used to set up action plans and to revise administrative procedures and policies for the support of return migration on a regional level (pp. 6-7). This includes that Re-Turn pilots will be transferred into sustainable services. In addition the transnational cooperation between project partners will continue: Regional stakeholders signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 5th June 2014 during the Final Conference in Prague (pp. 8). Future transnational activities will be based on our

Transnational Strategy for re-attracting and re-integrating returning migrants in Central Europe (pp. 6).

This is the moment to thank all involved partners, stakeholders and supporters: You all made Re-Turn such a successful project! We will continue supporting return migrants and we will be available through our project website [www.re-migrants.eu](http://www.re-migrants.eu) also after the project officially ended.

Please enjoy this newsletter.

## Activities

### Final Evaluation of Tools to Support Returning Migrants

Stefanie Smoliner,  
Centre for Social  
Innovation,  
PPO2

**A**fter several months of testing new methods and tools to re-attract former emigrants, to re-integrate returning migrants and to assist returnees to become entrepreneurs, the final evaluation results for the different pilot actions are now available.

Based on our research (see Comparative Report on Return Migration and Migrant Survey Report) we found that the reintegration in the home country can be a highly challenging process; returnees may face problems and difficulties upon re-entry - starting from feelings of

loneliness and alienation, being unemployed or working in jobs below the skill level to having troubles to re-establish former relations and networks. The evaluation analysis clearly shows that the Re-Turn services have the potential to meet the various needs of CE returnees.

The tested Re-Turn services are:

- **hotlines:** contact and service points where returnees turn to when they prepare their return or when they just have returned and have general questions regarding the local labour market, social and health security as

well as questions regarding funding options,

- **websites:** platforms providing information on multiple topics such as social infrastructure, job offers, social security, news and relevant contact addresses,

- **one-stop-shops:** offer up-to-date information and assistance to potential returnees and returnees about the home region and its characteristics, such as the job market and employment possibilities, the housing market, business advice or information and further aspects of the social and economic life,

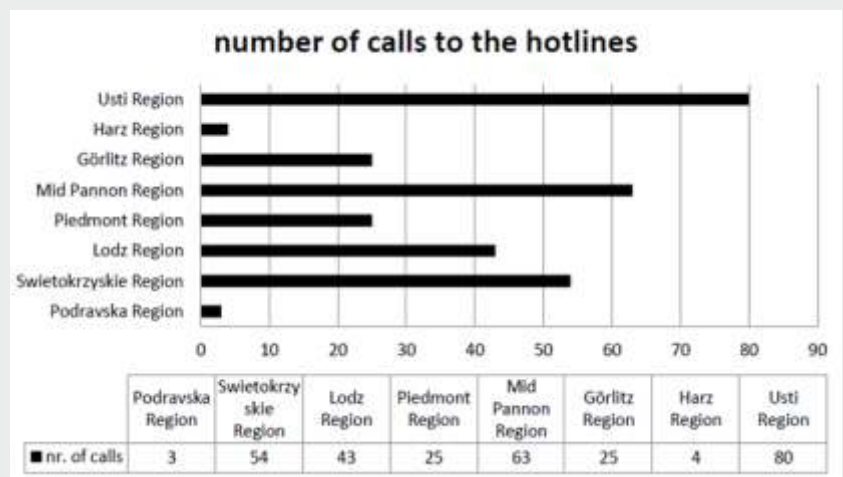
- **training courses:** training courses are offered to returnees to help them to become self-employed in the region and to get to know the different services provided to returnees,

- **ambassador concept:** emigrants and remigrants act as ambassadors of their home region and promote the opportunities and advantages of the home region to increase the awareness of return migration and to implement a welcoming culture.

The Re-Turn services were implemented in the following case-study regions: Usti Region, CZ; Görlitz Region, DE; Harz Region, DE; Mid Pannon Region, HU; Podravska Region, SI; Piedmont Region, IT; Lodz Region, PL; Swietokrzyskie Region, PL.

**The Re-Turn hotlines** (implemented in all case study regions) provided consultancy (for free) to 297 returnees mainly about job offers and employment opportunities in the region, options for self-employment and available benefits and grants. Most people called the hotline in the Usti Region (n=80). The hotlines were contacted mainly by young returnees,

who can still be active on the labour market and contribute economically to regional development. Further, the hotlines attracted male returnees the same way like female returnees. Due to the high quality of work of hotline staff, hotline services were very well received in all pilot regions. Unfortunately, the hotlines in case study regions only had regional scope (except the hotline in Harz) - this should be changed in order to reach potential returnees (emigrants still living abroad) and provide them with the opportunity to prepare their return, which proved to be of high importance for a successful reintegration in earlier research.

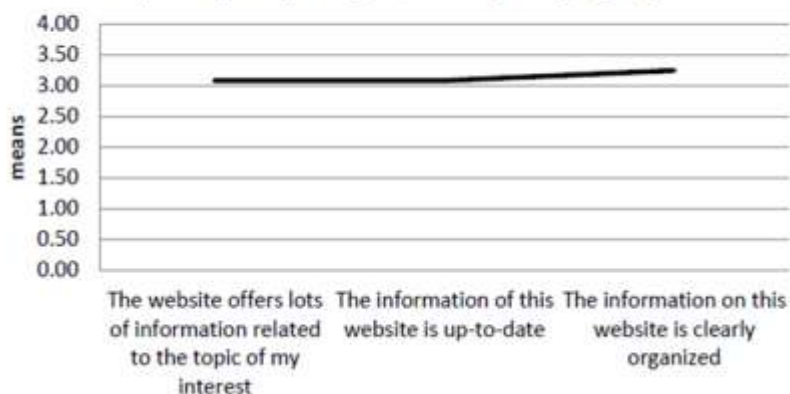


**The Re-Turn websites** (implemented in the Harz Region, DE; the Świętokrzyskie Region, PL; and the Podravska Region, SI) received 4719 visits during the period Nov. 2012-April 2014. Most visitors were attracted by the website of the Harz Region (n=2841). More than half of the counted visits to the websites are returning visits (53 %), which is a good indicator of visitor interest. Further, website visitors highlight the clear organisation of the website and the quality and actuality of information provided. 90 % of all website visitors state that they will recommend the website to their friends. Despite these positive aspects, website visitors wish more detailed information regarding



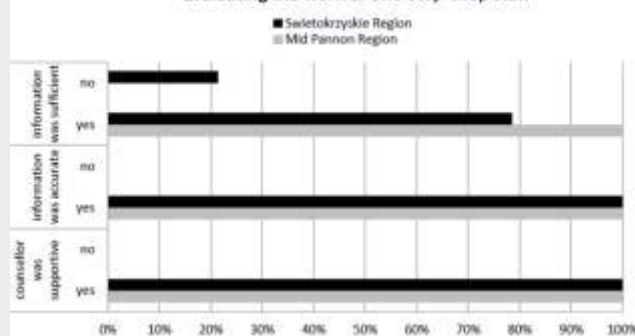
the regional labor market and information concerning open vacancies. 30 % of website visitors state that they could not find an answer to their question. Another critical issue is the promotion of the websites.

**Harz Region: Rating the website**  
(0=completely disagree, 4=completely agree)



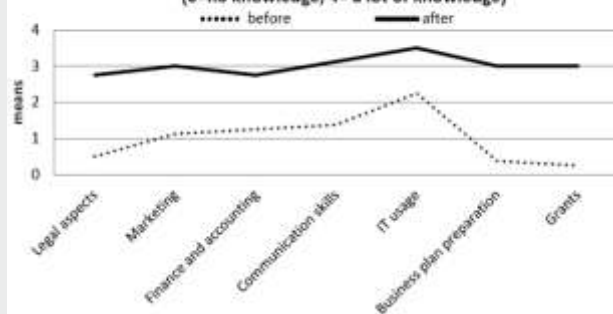
**The Re-Turn one-stop-shops** (implemented in the Mid Pannon Region, HU; the Swietokrzyskie Region, PL and the Harz Region, DE) provided individual consultancy to 46 returnees. Most returnees were attracted by the one-stop-shop in the Harz Region (n=32). In general, the one-stop-shop visitors were quite satisfied with the quality of consultancy. All one-stop-shop visitors highlighted that staff was supportive and the information given was accurate. Despite promotional activities, very few returnees were interested in receiving consultancy. This was due to the following factors: The one-stop-shop offers the same spectrum of service like the hotline. The only difference is that the consultancy is face-to-face. Further, the one-stop-shops are not places where returnees can come to and complete all the administrative work regarding the return and reintegration process in one place. This is because not all relevant regional actors (labour office, regional office, tax office etc.) are integrated in the one-stop-shop.

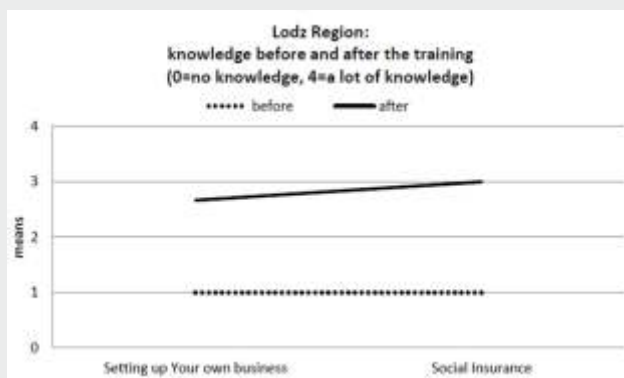
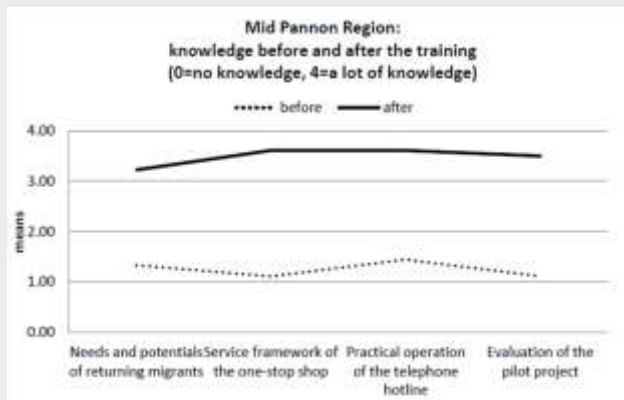
**Evaluating the work of one-stop-shop staff**



Altogether five **Training Courses** were conducted and 37 returnees were trained (19 in entrepreneurial basics and 18 in general issues regarding the return process). 18 returnees were trained in the Mid Pannon Region (HU), 13 returnees were trained in the Usti Region (CZ) and 6 returnees were trained in the Lodz Region (PL). A comparison between the knowledge level of participants before and after the training showed that training participants gained a lot of new information regarding how to set up one's own business and general issues related to the return process. Most training participants stated that they benefitted a lot from the training courses. Despite this positive evaluation, training participants felt quite unsure about their own preparedness to apply the knowledge learned in practice. According to the interviews, returnees did not expect so much administrative work as well as so many risks in terms of investment. Further, they do not have enough financial capital to start their own project.

**Usti Region: knowledge before and after the training**  
(0=no knowledge, 4= a lot of knowledge)





**The Ambassador Concept** was implemented by the Görlitz Region (DE) and the Piedmont Region (IT). Altogether, only four ambassadors were identified via friends of the project staff; all of them in the Piedmont Region. In general, the ambassador concept was not well received by the public, because of its “missionary-approach”. Based on the available information it has to be concluded that the “ambassador service” does not have any measureable impact in terms of re-attracting returnees or helping them with their reintegration.

### Sustainability Options for the Re-Turn Services

Based on the results of the pilot testing period, project partners determined which services they would like to sustain, built regional collaboration networks, identified resources necessary to sustain pilot actions and reflected upon important action steps needed to ensure the long-term success after the Re-Turn project's end.

Despite the heterogeneity of sustainability strategies provided by project partners, they share some common elements:

- All project partners managed to build a broad collaboration network of regional stakeholders, interested in the “return-topic” and capable of offering support in terms of content and funding.
- Project partners identified regional organizations, very well embedded in local structures, which are willing to continue the Re-Turn services in the region after the project's end.
- Project partners aim to maintain the discussion- and information process about return migration - initiated through the pilot testing period- by regular communication and exchange with local actors as well as wide local/regional and national promotional campaigns.

Project partners decided to open their services to other population groups in the region (mobile: internal migrants, international migrants as well as non-mobile: unemployed people, people on parental leave, etc.) to increase the number of potential beneficiaries to realize Re-Turn services and to ensure that other population groups feel not discriminated against.

Case Study Region	Services Implemented	Services to be sustained
Usti Region, CZ	- Telephone Hotline - Training Courses	- Training Courses
Landkreis Görlitz, DE	- Telephone Hotline - Ambassador Concept	- Telephone Hotline Instead of the APP for an ambassador concept, the welcome-platform will be sustained
Harz District, DE	- Telephone Hotline - One-Stop-Shop - Website	- Website & social media (facebook) - Telephone Hotline
Mid Pannon Region, HU	- Telephone Hotline - One-Stop-Shop - Training Courses	- Telephone Hotline (not free of charge) - One-stop-shop
Piedmont Region, IT	- Telephone Hotline - Ambassador Concept	- Telephone Hotline
Lodz Region, PL	- Telephone Hotline - Training Courses	- Telephone Hotline - Training Courses
Swietokrzyskie Region, PL	- Telephone Hotline - One-Stop-Shop - Website	- One-Stop-Shop - Website
Podravska region, SI	- Telephone Hotline - Website	- Telephone Hotline - Website

## Transnational strategy for re-attracting and re-integrating migrants

Gábor Lados,  
University of  
Szeged,  
PP08

**T**he Transnational Strategy sets out key considerations for policy makers exploring the potentials of re-attracting and re-integrating people who have left their country of origin. The main aim is to utilise their foreign work skills and foreign experience in their home country in order both to foster economic development and increase competitiveness. It collects comprehensive measures for ongoing support with the findings of policy analysis, and results of initiatives implemented by the project. The main target groups of the strategy are key policy makers in the field of economic development, senior officers of regional public authorities, labour market organisations, intermediaries and business organisations, as well as migrant groups. Though there are far reaching economic consequences of outmigration in Eastern and Central European (ECE) countries, there have not been implemented any comprehensive strategies yet. The Re-Turn project aimed to give a proper answer for that. Transnational Strategy highlights that these instruments could be divided into five interrelated groups.

First of all, the General Recommendations claim that there is no size fits all approach, hence tailored implementations are needed. The targets of these policies need to be

clearly defined with the application of both direct and indirect support applied simultaneously. Additionally, four specific aspects are also evaluated, such as the Economic Recommendations which underline the economic conditions of the home country, as the most important pull factors in returning, and put emphasis on the harmonisation of labour market needs with migration policies, educational and labour qualifications.

The Social Policy Recommendations suggest that the role of emigrant spouses and children, and the circular migration should be considered. Furthermore, the priority of communication activities is also mentioned in this strategy in the Changing Co-ordination and Administration Recommendations. The underlying administrative systems and processes need to be simplified to make returning easier. Finally, the Innovative Communication Tools state that information exchange platforms are crucial in the return process; new ones should be developed, the existing ones should be strengthened and information channels improved. The implementation of such instruments would facilitate return migration, re-integration of returnees, re-employment of unemployed and retention of local labour in the affected European regions.

## Regional Action Plans

Ákos Szépvölgyi,  
Mid-Pannon RDA,  
PP 07

**I**n the final phase of the project, all case study regions have developed a Regional Action Plan that containing measures to be followed in order to

improve capitalization on remigrants. The aims of the Regional Action Plans are as follows:

- to promote return migration as a

source for regional knowledge development

- to show the long-term benefit of regional knowledge development
- to foster the cooperation of regional actors in order to develop and maintain the pilot actions and services of the Re-Turn project.

During the finalization of the results, the case study regions have developed two additional documents to assure the sustainability of the results on the one hand, and the practical implementation of all related issues on the other.

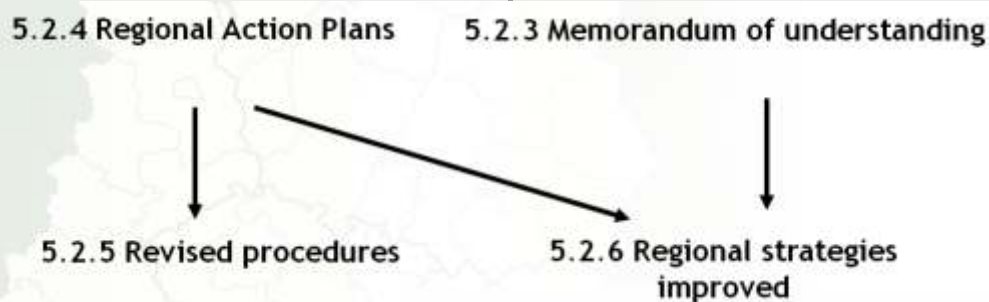
The first supporting document was the “Revision of Regional Procedures to support returning migrants” It introduces of solutions from action plan to day-to-day work routines in participating organizations. While the “Revision of Regional Strategies to support returning migrants” is aimed at implementing objectives and measures to support returning migrants in regional strategy and policy documents based on transnational strategy and memorandum of understanding.

The three regional level documents assure the sustainability of all the project results following the shown approach:

and ready to support the re-migrants are regional authorities, municipalities, training institutions, labour offices, chambers of commerce and industry;

- Although these institutions increasing their supporting activities, some issues on further development are needed, like raising awareness on start-up development; facilitating the job seeking: returnees find proper job opportunities sooner; easier access to re-integration services; re-integration time shortening; supporting local businesses be more competitive with qualified, language-speaking workforce and assuring better mapping of available human capital offered through return migration, thus facilitating the HR supply of local companies;
- For assuring the further development of the re-migration services strengthening the regional dimension of re-migration policy is needed in parallel with widening the interregional cooperation. from this perspective Re-Turn project have grounded many regional initiatives that might be sustained.

As a summary of the pilot action results, the developed documents give further details on the current trends, the pilot action results, as well as the sustainability of the services and possible benefits for the regions.



The characteristics of the individual case study regions are slightly different but the main statements can be summarized as follows:

- The relevant institutions that can

All the developed documents can be reached by contacting the case study region representatives through the project webpage.



## Final Re-Turn Conference in Prague and Study visit

Jan Schroth,  
IOM,  
(PP03)

Zuzana  
Bařtipánová,  
RIC,  
(Pp04)



The final conference of the project was held in Prague from 4th to 6th June 2014. The first day was dedicated to finalizing and evaluation of project activities by all project partners. Financial manager of the CENTRAL EUROPE Chiara Casarela discussed with project consortium final reporting of all the five Work Packages as well as possibilities of future CE projects. More than fifty guests attended the main second day of the conference organized by IOM Prague (PP3). The conference was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic at the Mirror Hall of the historical Czernin palace. The project partners were welcomed by Ms. Markéta

from the Ministry. The project was appreciated by Mr. Miroslav Chytil, representative of EURES (European Employment Services) - partner organization of the conference.

One of the highlights of the conference as well as the whole project was ceremonial signature of Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in exchange of information and sharing the best practices in return migration policies and projects. The



memorandum was signed by following parties:

1. Mr. Tomáš Grulich (Czechia) - Senator, Chairman of the Standing Senate Commission on Compatriots Living Abroad member of Senate of Parliament of the Czech Republic;
2. Ms. Franziska Schubert (Germany) - councillor/member of the Görlitz County Council;
3. Mr. Bernd Skudelny (Germany) - Head of Department of Economic Affairs, Harz County of the German Federal State of Saxony-Anhalt;
4. Mr. Tamás Kovács (Hungary) - Director of Mid-Pannon Development Company;
5. Mr. Ákos Szépvölgyi (Hungary) - Managing director of Central Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency;
6. Ms. Paola Casagrande (Italy) - Director of Training and Employment of



Fajmonová from the office of Special Commissioner for Czechs Living Abroad



Piedmont Region;

7. Mr. Grzegorz Orawiec (Poland) - Director of Department of Regional Policy, Marshall Office of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship;

8. Mr. Marko Kac (Slovenia) - Director of Development, Institute for Innovativeness and Entrepreneurship, Maribor.

Project activities, outputs as well as policy recommendations were presented and discussed by partners, TAB members as well as representatives of ministries, municipalities and NGOs. One of the most interesting new outputs was premiere of the documentary movie "ReTurn or never have left?" prepared by Italian partner UNCEM Piedmont (PP2) in coordination with Geronimo Carbone documentary company. Representatives of University Szegéd (PP8) presented for the first time one of key project outputs - Transnational Strategy for re-attracting and re-integrating migrants.

On Friday, the last day of the conference, was prepared Study trip to the Ústí region. Study trip was organized by the Requalification and Information Centre (PP4). For partners and other conference participants was prepared agenda which was targeted on introducing the region to the participants. During the journey to Most city they could see České Středohoří (the Czech Middle Highlands), Severočeskou hnědohelnou pánev (the North-Bohemia browncoal basin) with main centers and manufactories and also Krušné hory (the Ore Mountain) which comprise the border with Germany. First visit was prepared to a "moon landscape" - the Czechoslovak Army Mine (one of the biggest brown coal mining area in the Czech Republic). Group of participants could enjoy the coal safari through the mining area as well as through revitalised parts of the former mining areas.



After picnic in Most (in the area of The Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary which was moved a distance of 841.1 meters at a velocity of 1-3 centimetres per minute in October 1975 due to necessity make room for the expanding lignite mines in the area of the old town Most) we moved to the Žatec town. Žatec became famous for an over-700-year-long tradition of growing Saaz noble hops used by several breweries worldwide. In accordance with the reputation the participants enjoyed Žatec brewery sightseeing and also attended the Hop and Bier Temple and extend information about the brewery and hops history and also related history of the region.

It was the last point after the final conference and study visits during the project. Partners and project participants saw 6 study regions in the Central Europe and had a taste of the regional spirit.



The regions were: Harz Region (Germany), Podravska Region (Slovenia), Transdanubia Region (Hungary), Piedmont (Italy), Świętokrzyskie Region (Poland) and Ústí Region (Czechia).

## Re-Turn Policy Workshop at the European Parliament in Brussels

Nuria Mignone,  
UNCEM,  
PP09

On 2nd April 2014, the Re-Turn project presented its activities and results at the European Parliament in Brussels during a Policy Workshop on "Return migration after the 2004 enlargement of the European Union: arguments for a reconfiguration of European policies". Representatives of the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions and of various European regions agreed on the importance of return migration within the European Union. "Migration has deeply changed in the last decades in Europe", declared Mr. Sergio Cofferati, Member of the European Parliament, "nowadays people move through Europe easily not to escape from wars, they move to other countries for different reasons and often they come back to their country of origin. This process is not supported by common rules in the Member States, especially for what concerns, labour legislation".

The presentation of Re-Turn results made clear that returning migrants need political support by European policy makers. While the EU's labour market regulation guarantees free movement, migrants still face

difficulties in terms of compatibility of social security systems and the acknowledgment of foreign work experience. With the Transnational Strategy on "XY" that was developed by the Re-Turn consortium, a set of policy recommendations was presented and appreciated by the participants of the policy workshop. As Sergio Cofferati (MEP) remarked, "the welfare state has nowadays significant differences between Member States that must be overcome. Workers should have similar rights in all European countries, and the Member States should be able to take advantage from people returning back after a period abroad enriched of experience".

During a dinner reception at the East Poland House, discussions between Re-Turn project partners and EU policy makers continued. As a result of this meeting in Brussels, EU policy makers acknowledged that the EU Migration Policy should not only focus on immigration from Third Countries, but must more strongly take into consideration the internal migration within the European Union.





## Partners information

### Element supporting the development of regional policy

In the May 2011, the Department of Regional Policy Świętokrzyskie Marshal's Office joined the project "Regions benefitting from returning migrants - Re-Turn".

Given the contemporary socio-economic situation of Świętokrzyskie Region, the most important goal of the project was to test and implement tools to support vocational and social reintegration of people returning from work abroad. The project involved the creation of conditions so to prevent "brain drain" and encourage qualified staff to return to their homes.



Today, after many months of hard work, the project is going to end. After three years of joint activities carried out by twelve partners from Central Europe, we can conclude that the tools for the reintegration of re-migrants in the Region Świętokrzyskie, have been developed and implemented in a very good and guarantee success.

The most important with tools designed functioning was Point of First Contact (One-Stop-Shop). Its purpose was to provide a contact telephone, elec-

tronic and personal with migrants and the collection and dissemination of all information relating to the promotion of migration. An important role was to provide support for re-migrants in establishing contacts with the institutions in the labor market and pointing toward in search of training, job fairs and other activities to support re-integration.

In order to ensure the smooth operation for migrants interested in obtaining comprehensive information, we have launched a national hotline. For the purpose of the project was launched a regional website, which comprises an information, surveys, contacts, and calendar of activities. Website has so far been most successful tool, yielding a very high score of more than six thousand visits.

Point visited eighteen customers, on hotline called - 59 people. They received concrete assistance in the form of a contact to institutions that provide information on job vacancies, funding opportunities and training.

In the context of ancillary activities were performed, among others, a series of studies on the causes and directions of emigration, education, skills and innovation migrants and workshops. In all regional meetings attended by over a hundred people: re-migrants, labor offices, politicians and entrepreneurs.

Thanks to the strong commitment of the Regional Labour Office in Kielce, who is the associated partner of the

Mariusz Kowalski,  
Świętokrzyskie  
Marshal's Office,  
PP11



project, it was possible to create a very wide network of cooperation, including more than thirty institutions in the region. In order to ensure the sustainability of the results, PP11 in cooperation with the Regional Labour Office in Kielce, Świętokrzyska Provincial Command Voluntary Labour Corps, District Labour Offices (14 offices), Vocational Training Centre in Kielce and other institutions provides stability and continuity of the pilot actions, through a combination of high-level political decision-making with profe-

ssionals in the field of the labor market. Furthermore, there is the possibility of linking this activities, with the latest Regional Development Strategy of Świętokrzyskie Region to the 2020 years.

The success of the project has been achieved thanks to the kindness, experience and expertise of many people - staff offices, labor market institutions and employers who have daily contact with re-migrants and their problems.

## Working Paper forum ifl no. 23

Robert Nadler,  
Leibniz Institute  
for Regional  
Geography,  
LP

In April 2014, Re-Turn survey results were published in IfL's working paper series "forum IfL". Under the titel "Return Migration to Central and Eastern Europe", this issue no. 23 reflects the insights from the Migrant

Survey and the Business Survey. The paper is retrievable under <http://www.ssoar.info/ssoar/handle/document/39065>. For print copies, please send an email to: [P\\_Kraus@ifl-leipzig.de](mailto:P_Kraus@ifl-leipzig.de).

## Re-Turn migration and regional development in Central and Eastern Europe Workshop

Gábor Lados,  
University of  
Szeged,  
PP08

The 'Return migration and regional development in Central and Eastern Europe' scientific workshop was held in Budapest, from 7th to 8th November 2013. The workshop was organized by the University of Szeged (PP08) and the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (Lead Partner) and aimed to provide the opportunity for networking and exchange between return migration experts within Central Europe. In three sessions all together eight presentations were delivered where results of the Re-Turn project was also concerned. The output of the workshop will be an edited book focusing on return migration and regional development.

was also organized between the representatives of the Re-Turn and the SEEMIG project. SEEMIG aims to provide reliable data on migratory, labour market and demographic processes in South-East Europe in order to base policy and strategy recommendations on improved evidence. (See more: [www.seeming.eu](http://www.seeming.eu)) The partners agreed to exchange their experiences and make efforts on cooperation in the future.



In parallel with the scientific conference an inter-project meeting

## Final Workshop concerning the regional action plan in the Re-Turn pilot region of Görlitz County

The Final Workshop concerning the regional action plan in the Görlitz County took place on 26th June 2014 in the framework of the 13th Round Table Forum, which was organised by the TRAWOS Institute of the University of Applied Sciences Zittau-Görlitz together with three other organisations, e.g. the IFL and VSBI from Re-Turn. Under the Headline „Shaking Working Spaces - mobile, multi-locally, individually. Potentials for immigration and re-migration into the Upper-Lusatia“ more than 50 participants from regional public institutions, research institutes and stakeholder organisations discussed in 4 parallel workshops the topics under the aspect of different intervention opportunities:

- vocational opportunities and retention perspectives for women
- pull-factors and instruments for re-migration
- international immigration
- creative milieus beside urban centres

The Workshop „pull-factors and instruments for re-migration“ was designed also as workshop to discuss a regional action plan for Re-Turn in the county of Görlitz. The local project leader, Roger Schmidtchen from VSBI, made the introduction by presenting the Re-Turn survey results concerning push and pull factors of emigrants and re-migrants in eastern Germany and especially in the Görlitz pilot region. More than 15 participants joined this workshop, which was led by Franziska Schubert, member of the county parliament and signer of the transnational Re-Turn Memorandum of Understanding.

The representative of the regional initiative for re-migrants of the regional labour agency „Stell(en)Werk“

Mr. Hohlfeld, presented, that for him the most important criteria of pulling re-migrants are the integration and mobility in the job market, the families, flexible availability of support-services (evening and weekends), coaching and at least the long term employment. The representative of the City of Weißwasser, Mr. Rennhak, was talking about the experience with the Hotline. He underlined, that the most frequented questions were concerning the job-opportunities. Through Re-Turn the cooperation with „Stell(en)werk“ started very successfully. But also housing, kindergartens and schools were topics of the callers interest. The municipality started a welcoming initiative with a special package for immigrants and re-migrants, which is running very successfully.

Finally the participants agreed, that only money-awards would be not enough to attract potential re-migrants and immigrants. Social aspects like friends, families, family friendly infrastructure and services, new flexible and well paid job-opportunities as well as an expressive welcoming-culture would be the main pull-factors in the county of Görlitz and Upper-Lusatia. These inputs have been now introduced to the regional action plan to re-attract, re-integrate and re-employ former emigrants and immigrants to the Upper-Lusatia.

Roger Schmidtchen,  
VSBI,  
PP05



## 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 July 2014 (39 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

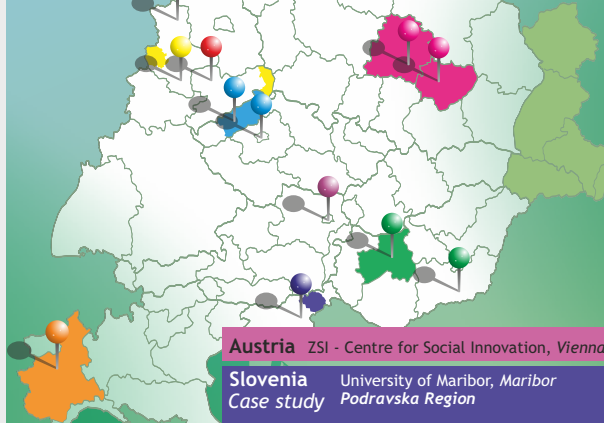
Requalification and Information Centre, Most

**Case study** Ústí Region

**Poland** Lodz Region, Lodz

Swietokrzyskie Region, Kielce

**Case study** Lodz Region, Swietokrzyskie 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

and Authorities - Piedmont Delegation, Torino

**Case study** Piemonte Region

## How to subscribe or unsubscribe the Newsletter

At project website [www.re-migrants.eu](http://www.re-migrants.eu) is in the homepage section "Project Newsletter" where you can include your email address to "SUBSCRIBE" to the Newsletter or by click on link "UNSUBSCRIBE NOW" you can unsubscribe the from 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](mailto:ladosg@geo.u-szeged.hu) (Gabor Lados, Univerzity of Szeged/PP08)

## Project coordination

Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde  
(Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography)  
Schongauerstrasse 9, 04328 Leipzig,  
Germany

Project manager:  
Dr. Thilo Lang  
Tel: +49-341 60055-159  
email: [T\\_Lang@ifl-leipzig.de](mailto:T_Lang@ifl-leipzig.de)

Communication manager:  
Mrs. Nuria Mignone  
email: [Uncem.eu@gmail.com](mailto:Uncem.eu@gmail.com)

## Imprint

Publisher:  
Re-Turn partnership, represented by Lead Partner  
Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (Germany)  
Editor:  
Zuzana Bařtipánová - Requalification and Information  
Centre (Czech Republic)  
Design:  
Tomáš Zahradník - Litvínov training company  
(Czech Republic)

This documentation reflects the authors views. The programme bodies are not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.