

BUILDING BRIDGES FOR DIGNIFIED RETURN AND SUSTAINABLE REINTEGRATION



Financed by
the European Union



Implemented by
ICMPD





WHAT WE DO

The Return and Reintegration Facility (RRF) supports EU Member States and Schengen Associated Countries (MS) in enhancing the effectiveness, coordination and sustainability of their return and reintegration systems.

Through operational and financial support, RRF develops **solutions with clear EU-added value**, bridging gaps between national initiatives and EU-level frameworks.

The RRF also contributes directly to the **EU Strategy on Voluntary Return and Reintegration**, promoting harmonised, rights-based, and results-oriented approaches across the European Union.

RRF operates under a **governance structure** that unites the European Commission (DG HOME), MS, and Frontex, which provides strategic guidance and oversight. It is chaired by MS **on a rotating basis**, while **ICMPD serves as the implementing partner**, offering technical expertise and administrative support for the Facility's day-to-day implementation. Together, these actors ensure that the RRF remains operational, responsive, relevant, and aligned with EU priorities.



KEY FEATURES



DRIVEN BY MS NEEDS

responding directly to operational and policy priorities identified by MS.



RAPID AND FLEXIBLE RESPONSE

enabling swift mobilisation of resources and expertise to address existing and emerging gaps.



HUB FOR INNOVATION

piloting and scaling up new activity approaches to return and reintegration management.



COMPLEMENTARY TO NATIONAL AND EU PROGRAMMING

ensuring coherence and avoiding duplication with other EU-funded initiatives.



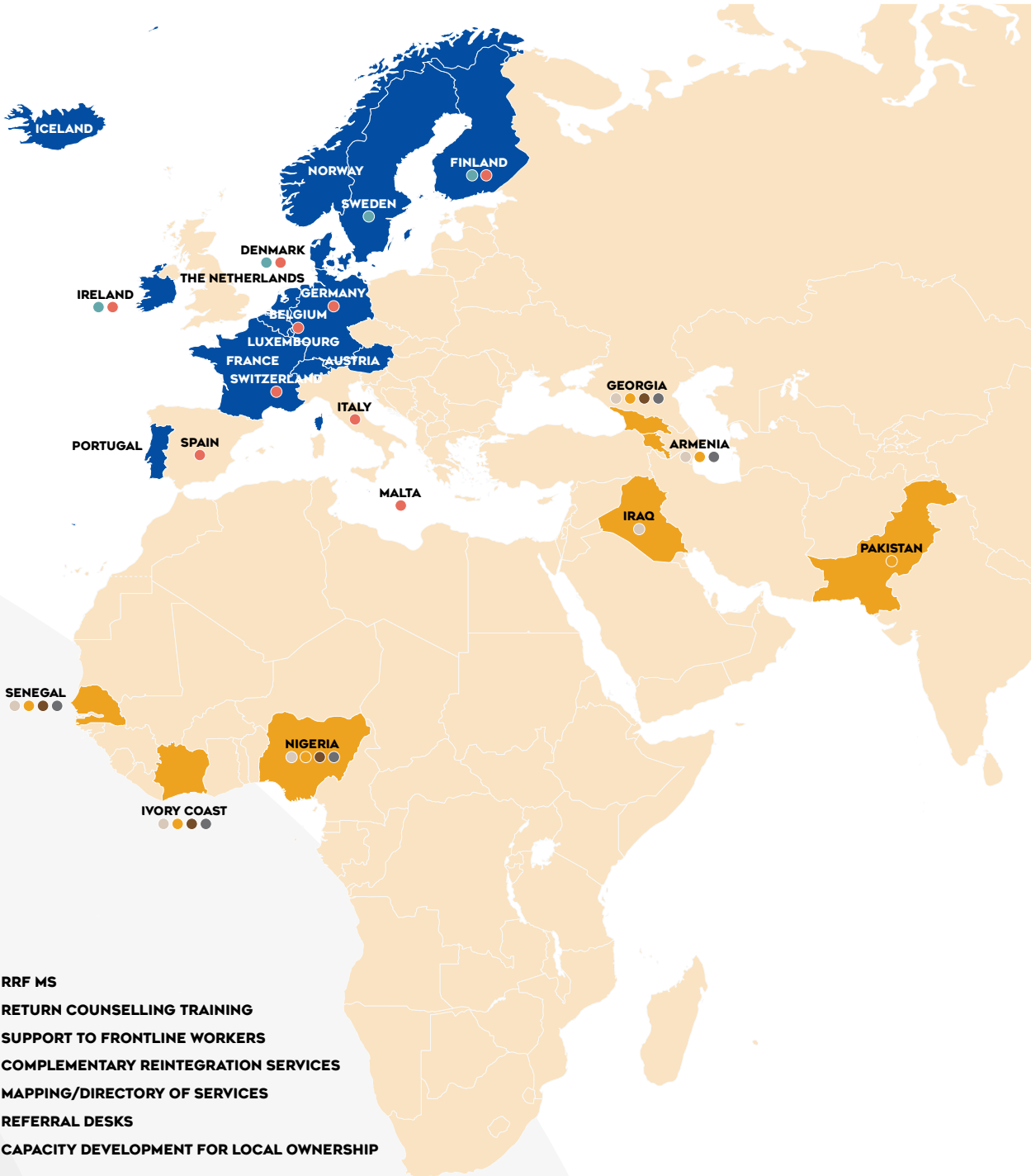
GROUNDING IN EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACHES

all actions draw on data, lessons learnt, and continuous feedback from MS and relevant partners.



WHERE WE WORK

The RRF operates across the full return and reintegration continuum – from pre-departure counselling in MS to post-arrival and reintegration assistance in countries of origin.





HOW WE WORK

The RRF focuses on the following thematic areas within the return and reintegration process:



OUTREACH AND COUNSELLING

professionalising national systems through capacity development activities and improving outreach to hard-to-reach groups like undocumented migrants.



DIRECT SERVICES

providing practical, high-quality support to returnees through existing EU-compliant mechanisms.



LOCAL OWNERSHIP, INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT, AND REFERRALS

fostering sustainable reintegration through local capacity development and coordination frameworks.



REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE TOOL (RIAT)

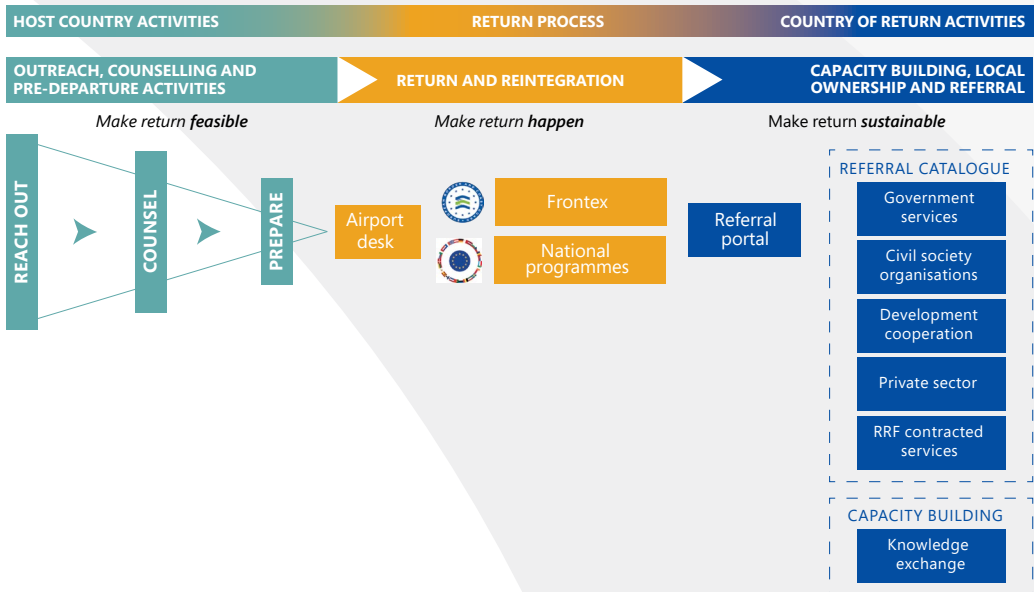
advancing EU's digitalisation of return and reintegration case management.



KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

capturing and applying lessons learnt to improve effectiveness and impact.

All RRF activities are closely coordinated with the European Commission (DG HOME), MS, and Frontex, ensuring evidence-based, demand-driven, and coherent interventions.



WHAT WE OFFER

OUTREACH AND RETURN COUNSELLING



The RRF helps MS strengthen the quality and consistency of return counselling through specialised training, peer-to-peer learning, and operational exchanges. These services enable national actors to deliver professional, rights-based, and harmonised counselling that supports informed decision-making and contributes to sustainable reintegration outcomes.

- **Specialised Training Modules on Return Counselling**

RRF delivers tailored courses that complement the Frontex EU Curriculum on Return and Reintegration Counselling. Each course is supported by practical guidelines, manuals, training materials, and interactive exercises.

Materials cover topics such as:

- Return Counselling for Families with Children;
 - Empowering Women during Return Counselling Sessions;
 - Return Counselling for Migrants Facing Mental Health Challenges.
- **Exchange Visits and Peer Learning (Support to Frontline Workers Initiative)**
- RRF exchange visits bring together key actors involved in frontline support management across Europe — national authorities, municipalities, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) — to share experiences and learn from one another's approaches to migrant outreach and counselling.

By showcasing good practices in multi-level coordination and referral mechanisms, these exchanges strengthen cooperation and promote more consistent, humane, and results-oriented case management of irregular migrants.

The lessons and tools developed are shared through RRF's dedicated online forums and knowledge repository, fostering continued learning and improvement.

These activities build the foundation for professional, harmonised, and client-centered return counselling services across the EU.

DIRECT REINTEGRATION SERVICES



The RRF enables MS to access ready-to-use reintegration services through EU-compliant contracts, removing the need for additional separate national procurement. These mechanisms offer **tailored assistance packages** for returnees, including **medical assistance** under the Medical Reintegration Assistance project (MeDRA+) and secure digital cash transfers under the Cashless Transfer Project (CTP).

LOCAL OWNERSHIP, CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND REFERRALS



The RRF strengthens local ecosystems in countries of origin to ensure that reintegration support provided by MS results in long-term, sustainable outcomes. It also brings together diverse stakeholders involved in reintegration to address operational challenges and explore referral solutions.

- **Complementary Reintegration Services**

RRF delivers context-specific and complementary reintegration services in selected countries of origin, addressing diverse returnee needs and reinforcing local service networks.

- **Referral Systems and Service Catalogues**

RRF develops and maintains service catalogues and referral systems that make reintegration support accessible, coordinated and transparent. Where applicable, these tools are interoperable with the Reintegration Assistance Tool (RIAT) for efficient data reporting.

- **Capacity Development and Local Partnerships**

Reintegration partners, local NGOs, and authorities participate in RRF-led training, exchanges (Reintegration Briefings), and capacity development activities, strengthening national ownership and service quality delivery.

- **Technical Working Group on Reintegration and Development**

This platform allows MS to engage with migration and development stakeholders to coordinate approaches and explore synergies.

- **Airport Reception Capacity Assessments**

RRF conducted airport reception capacity assessments in select countries of origin, providing MS with actionable insights to strengthen post-arrival procedures.

These efforts ensure that reintegration efforts and interventions generate lasting impact and contribute to local ownership.

REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE TOOL (RIAT)



RRF contributes to EU's digitalisation of return and reintegration management by supporting the development and implementation of RIAT. Owned by the European Commission, RIAT is a secure digital platform for reintegration case management and data exchange that is available to all MS.

- **RIAT Development**

In close alignment with Frontex and MS, RRF guides the functional development of RIAT to ensure the system keeps track of developments in the EU Reintegration Programme and national and European legislation focusing reintegration.

- **RIAT Implementation**

RRF supports MS and Reintegration Partners in using RIAT. RRF guides configuration (who does what on RIAT in a MS), provides training and develops best practices and user standards.

- **RIAT Data and Support**

RRF contributes to smooth and uninterrupted running of RIAT by providing technical support (help desk) and troubleshooting. RRF develops reporting formats that provide MS with full details on their reintegration caseload.



FURTHER RESOURCES

Learn more about RRF's work, ongoing projects, and digital tools:

- Visit www.reintegrationfacility.eu
- Follow the RRF on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/return-and-reintegration-facility/>
- Watch our RIAT videos: **Connect – Empower - Collaborate**
- Contact us: rrf@icmpd.org

