



EUROPEAN REINTEGRATION NETWORK (ERIN) SPECIFIC ACTION PROGRAM

BRIEFING NOTE

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN (also available in Persian)

Post-arrival and reintegration assistance to Iranian nationals returning from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom



I. ERIN PROJECT OVERVIEW

The ERIN (European Reintegration Network) Specific Action Program runs from 1ST June 2016 to end of 31ST May 2017 and aims to implement sustainable return and reintegration of third country nationals in their country of origin, with further cooperation among participating ERIN partner countries. This Program was built on the European Reintegration Instrument (ERI), which was implemented from 2012 to 2014 and the ERIN project which was implemented from June 2014 to May 2016.

The European Commission (European Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund – Specific Action) funds the ERIN Specific Action Program with co-funding from the eighteen participating ERIN partner countries listed below. The project is implemented by the following ERIN Partner Institutions and the selected ERIN service providers in countries of returns.

- Austria – Ministry of Interior
- Belgium – Federal Immigration Office, and the Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (Fedasil)
- Denmark – Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Finland – Finnish Immigration Service
- France – French Immigration and Integration Office
- Germany – Federal Office for Migration and Integration Office
- Greece – Ministry of Public Order and Citizen Protection
- Italy – Ministry of Interior
- Luxembourg – Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs
- Malta – Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security
- Netherlands – Repatriation and Departure Service
- Norway – Norwegian Directorate of Immigration
- Romania – General Inspectorate for Immigration
- Spain – Integration of Immigrants Migration Board
- Sweden – Swedish Migration Agency
- Switzerland – State Secretariat for Migration
- United Kingdom – The UK Home Office – Immigration Enforcement

2. IOM MISSION STATEMENT

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. IOM was established in 1951 to help governments to manage migration and to assist migrants in the migration process. Today, with 481 offices and representations across the world, and 165 Member States, IOM is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration. Amongst other activities, IOM supports people all over the world in returning home and building a new life under its assisted voluntary return and reintegration program (AVRR), an area of IOM expertise that has been developed through 30 years of experience. Since 1979, IOM's AVRR activities have grown to include more than 100 projects, helping individuals return to some 160 countries worldwide. In the past decade alone, IOM has assisted upwards of 3.5 million migrants to return voluntarily to their home countries.

IOM also works with its partners in the international community to assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration, advance understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration and uphold the well-being and human rights of migrants.

3. PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

The potential returnees will be informed by the respective Partner Institutions of the ERIN Specific Action services that are available for them upon return. The national Partner Institutions counsellor will identify the type of assistance to be provided depending on the applicant profile and needs identified in the information counselling. Each Partner Institution (PI) has counsellors operating in the reception centres and administrative detention centres and provide pre-departure counselling to the potential returnees residing in the centres. The meetings should be in informal and friendly manner and ensure the participants clearly understand the objective of the meeting and feel comfortable to ask questions.

In pre-departure counselling, the following information must be provided with special stress:

- Those Iranian nationals choosing to return voluntarily will be incentivized through larger re-integration packages than those returned non-voluntarily.
- Prior to return the target group (including voluntary and non-voluntary returnees) will be informed by the respective PI counsellors that they can address IOM in Iran for post-arrival reintegration assistance.
- Return assistance will be provided by the PI, while IOM will provide required reintegration assistance upon arrival that will enable the returnees to build up their lives independently.
- Information counselling meetings can be more effective if conducted on regular basis.
- Social and economic considerations must be factored in when envisaging the return of potentially vulnerable individuals, such as women, children and the elderly or single parents with small children. In such cases, reintegration in a socially and religiously conservative environment presents additional challenges.
- It is encouraged for the project beneficiary to translate any relevant medical documents and/or educational and training certificates before the return, in the official language of the country of return, or (if not possible), into English. This will help the returnee register in their local institutions and to facilitate their medical follow up.

Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMC):

UMCs can be assisted by IOM Tehran on a case by case basis according to the following general parameters:

1. IOM will:

- a) Confirm the identity of the legal guardians in both the host country and the country of origin (or in a third country, where applicable and subject to the legal requirements of the third country);
- b) Confirm that the Best Interests Determination (BID) process has concluded that it is in the best interest of the UMC to return, and;
- c) Confirm that a family assessment by IOM has been completed.

2. IOM's assistance will be determined by the outcome of the BID process and the confirmed willingness of the child to return.

3. Due to the inherent vulnerability of UMC, and the interest of the Organization in maintaining the highest standards of protection and assistance, IOM will in general adhere to UNICEF's policy positions on child protection.

4. Prior to facilitating the AVRR of an UMC, IOM will:

a) Receive letters of confirmation from the legal guardians in both the host country and the country of origin confirming that the return to the country of origin is in the child's best interest. IOM will ensure that the legal guardian for UMC in Iran is identified prior to its involvement in assisting UMCs with reintegration assistance.

b) Conduct a family assessment to i) confirm the identity of the parents or legal guardians and that they are willing and able to care for the child until he/she reached the age of 18 years of age, and ii) to determine the feasibility of assistance by IOM.

Non-Voluntary returns (i.e. non-IOM returnees)

IOM Iran does not assist any non-voluntary return to Iran.

4. IOM IN THE I.R. IRAN:

Relying on its 12 years of experience, IOM Tehran is currently collaborating with 20 countries¹ on AVRR projects to assist a large number of clients to return to/from (Iran) and reintegrate into their home country in a sustainable manner. So far, IOM Tehran managed to assist more than 9000 cases from whom, 1200 cases were assisted in 2013 and 700 cases were assisted during the first 9 months of 2014.

Islamic Republic of Iran joined IOM as observer in 1995 and accepted as full member in IOM's Governors' Council in 2001. IOM Tehran's confederate objective with its homocentric colleagues is to work on multifarious migration challenges which are plenty due to Iran's strategic and geographical situation. By the end of 2000, IOM, jointly with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), repatriated approximately 370,000 Afghan nationals voluntarily to Afghanistan.

IOM in IR of Iran has its focus on the assisted voluntary return and reintegration, capacity building, effective sustainable return and reintegration of qualified Afghans, advocating the integration of migration into development planning and programs, encourages links with Diasporas, including through knowledge and skill transfer programs and remittance facilitation.

¹ Majority of them are European countries.

Potential returnees and European Partner Institutions counsellors can directly call the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) if they have additional questions or need more information:

<p style="text-align: center;">ERIN SPECIFIC ATION PROGRAM POINT OF CONTACT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ERIN IOM Website: http://erin-iom.belgium.iom.int/?q=iran</p> <p>Available from Sunday to Thursday from 08:00 to 16:00 (Iranian time which is at GMT+3:30)Mr</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mohamad Safari, AVRR Unit Coordinator Email: msafari@iom.int Office phone: 0098 (21) 22048886-7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mr. Changiz Mahjoub , Reintegration counsellor, Email: cmahjoub@iom.int</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Office phone: 0098 (21) 220 488 86-7, Phone extension 108</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Address: International Organization for Migration, IOM Tehran Address (By Car): No. 27, Taheri Street, North Nelson Mandela (Africa) Blvd, Tehran, Iran Address (Walking): No. 27, Taheri St., Opposite Jam-e-Jam St., Vali- e- Asr Ave., Tehran, IR Iran. Postal Code: 1966865533</p>

5. ERIN AVRR SERVICES PROVIDED BY IOM TEHRAN:

Services offered to AVRR clients by IOM Tehran starts once each case arrives in Iran until the successful conclusion of the case in order to ensure the sustainability of proposed plans by returnees.

As previous monitoring and evaluations reveal, majority of returnees regard the ordeal of irregular migration as a formative experience relying on which they are loath to repeat the same experience toward any other countries. They generally consider provided reintegration assistances as momentum towards resuming a well-established life in their home country notwithstanding the disproportionate amount of assistance they receive comparing to actual cost of a running a business. Hopefully, returnees widely disseminate their first-hand experience among their peer group, which per se, inhibits other people to have the same experience.

IOM Tehran consistently is on the lookout for any opportunity to further enhance the sustainability aspect of each return and strives to provide tailor-made advice to clients on most feasible plans to benefit from their entitlements.

The reintegration assistance package is delivered in-kind (unless stated differently in the National Annex) and the amounts vary according to the sending country, the national reintegration grants, the type of return, and the beneficiary profile and needs. Additional reintegration services will be provided to unaccompanied minor.

Upon screening, evaluation, and approval from the Partner Institution, as well as a further identification of needs done by IOM post-return; the following services are available for ERIN beneficiaries on a case by case basis:

CASE BY CASE AIRPORT ARRIVAL ASSISTANCE

- Meet and greet and orientation service
- Onwards transportation assistance: Upon your request, IOM can provide you with onward transportation to your final destination within the country, and charges will be covered through your reintegration grant.
- Referrals to urgent medical care for treatment continuity
- Emergency housing for a minimum of one week

REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE:

The reintegration grants can be used for the following reintegration services:

- **Micro-Business Support:** Assistance to start, to re-launch, or to partner into a micro-business activity for economic autonomy and income generation: If you choose to start your own business, IOM helps you to identify a suitable business type. The choice of business depends amongst others on your previous experience, other businesses in your area of return etc...
- **Vocational training** enrolment to enhance skills and employability: trainings can be identified based on availability, prior work experience, education, interest, local market demand for specific skills.
- **Temporary accommodation** to respond to immediate material needs.
- **Medical costs** coverage (medication, consultations) to enable you access to healthcare upon return.
- **The grant can be used to cover the costs of education and schooling for children,** and any required medical care.

6. I. R. IRAN COUNTRY INFORMATION

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Police: 110	Emergency: 115	Information: 118	Fire: 125
Taxi: 133	Postal Codes: 140	Flights info: 199	24 Hrs Pharmacies: 199
Date & Time: 192	Gas emergency: 194	Earthquake, aid, and drugs: 147	

TRANSPORT

Arrival Information: Transportation from Tehran's international airport (IKIA) to the city centre is fairly easy. Once the arrival hall has been exited, taxis are available outside the terminal. In addition, the airport is also accessible by car, bus, and Tehran's metro system.

Customs Regulations: Passengers must complete a customs form upon arrival; the form is usually issued after clearing immigration and before proceeding to the baggage claims area. The forms should be filled in as comprehensively as possible, in order to minimize delays. The customs form explains which customs channel to pass through².

Prohibited Items: Alcohol³, plants and vegetation: berries, fruit, plants and their parts, seedlings or vegetables, bulbs, rhizomes, roots, seeds or tubers, soil, living (or collections of) bacteria, fungi, insects, nematodes or viruses, live birds, animals and their products;

Import of Foreign Currency: Import of local currency (Iran Rial-IRR) up to IRR 5,000,000- allowed. Amounts exceeding IRR 5,000,000 must be deposited at Bank Melli or Bank Sepah at the airport. No restriction applies to the import of foreign currencies, which must be declared upon arrival on a special form⁴.

National flights:

Approximate flight connection prices:

From/to	Price
Tehran/Isfahan	IRR 1,227,000
Tehran/Mashad	IRR 1,704,000
Tehran/Orumieh	IRR 1,428,000
Tehran/Ahwaz	IRR 1,350,000
Tehran/Bandar Abbas	IRR 2,319,000
Tehran/Tabriz	IRR 1,333,000
Tehran/Kerman	IRR 1,700,000

Road network system: The road network system in Iran is well organized. There are good roads connecting in all the cities and towns. Iran is connected by road to Europe through the Turkish transit.

Rail system: In Iran, there are few train connections (12,998 km railway in total). Train connections are mainly from Tehran to other major cities, as well as other countries such as Turkey, Pakistan and the Republic of Azerbaijan. Further information regarding Iranian railways as well as timetable and booking can be found on the homepage of Iran Railways: <http://www.raja.ir/>

²<https://www.internationalsos.com/countryguide/travelguide.aspx?languageid=ENG&countryid=43&content=emb&embed=-100>

³ Ibid

⁴ <http://www.iatatravelcentre.com/IR-Iran-customs-currency-airport-tax-regulations-details.htm>

Selected train ticket prices (one way), IRR:

From	To	Price
Tehran	Mashad	730,000 IRR
Isfahan	Mashad	998,000 IRR
Tehran	Kerman	584,000 IRR
Tehran	Tabriz	460,000 IRR
Bandar Abbas	Mashad	1,125,000 IRR
Qom	Mashhad	779,000 IRR

MEDICAL CARE

Availability of Medication: Despite the fact that Islamic Republic of Iran is known as medicines producers in the world and is a pacemaker in production and testing the new medicines, pharmaceutical products are vastly imported under the supervision of Ministry of Health.

The Red Crescent has been determined as the focal point for import of some specific medicines and provides such medicines for special patients through designated pharmacies. In general, almost all critical medicaments are available in Iran. Medicaments are usually only distributed in small quantities in order to avoid resale on the black market. The two below pharmacies are the most famous in Tehran:

- Helal Ahmar Pharmacy: Tehran, Cross section of Taleghani Ave. and Farahani Ave., No.3
Tel: (0098 21) 88803871-5
- Aban Pharmacy: Tehran, cross section of Karim Khan Zand Ave. & Kheradmand
Tel: (0098 21) 88849011-5

Health Insurance: Although over 98% of the population uses an insurance system to reimburse their health expenses, the government heavily subsidizes pharmaceutical production/importation in order to increase affordability of medicines. There are two different kinds of health insurance coverage: either through employment or private.

Family benefits: Iran's Minister of Economy has announced the family cash benefits, which so far have been sent to all households to cushion the removal of government subsidies on energy and food staples, will only be provided for families that demonstrate their financial need for such supplements.

Average total food price for 1 person and family of 5: The daily recommended minimum amount of money for food per person is USD 3.28, and the monthly recommended minimum amount of money for food per person (assuming 31 days per month) is USD 101.78.

HOUSING

Temporary at arrival: IOM provides returnees with temporary accommodation at hotel for up to 48 hrs upon their return. IOM does not work with local companies which provide temporary housing for returnees.

Renting Accommodation: In general, there are sufficient number of houses and apartments available in Tehran and throughout the country. The price for purchasing or renting a residence varies depends on the city and location. Subsidized housing is only available for government employees. Everyone can

request for housing loan from Maskan Bank which has its own rules and process.

Requirements to buy/rent accommodation:

a) Purchasing property: Only Iranian citizens can purchase private property and the Iranian citizenship must be proven. To buy an apartment, one can refer to real estate agencies. Loans can be granted for individuals, who want to buy a house or an apartment. The allocation of a loan depends on the proof of sufficient financial resources stability.

Considering the constant expansion of private banking system in Iran, people are facilitated for gaining loan with proportionate interests within appropriate loan repayment period for purchasing houses.

b) Renting property: The following formalities have to be fulfilled in order to rent an apartment in Iran once signing the lease agreement:

- A proper ID;
- Deposit money between IRR 50,000,000 to 1,000,000,000 - it varies based on location of property and is sometimes negotiable.
- 12 cheques for the rental at each month, plus a cheque equal to 10 times as much as the deposit.

Monthly Rent: Tehran: the average rate for a two-bedroom apartment in a good residential area is around IRR 30,000,000 – 50,000,000 per month. This amount can be further negotiated with the landlord and has to be paid as a security deposit and monthly rent, i.e. 100,000,000 Rials as deposit and 20,000,000 Rials monthly payment.

EMPLOYEMENT

Requirements to access the job market: To access the labor market, it is necessary to hold a birth certificate and to get a special permission from relevant labor union. This rule applies to all Iranian citizens.

Average salaries:

- Construction workers: average salary is between IRR 300,000 and 600,000 per day
- Taxi drivers: average salary is between IRR 300,000 and 500,000 per day
- Municipality workers: average daily salary is between IRR 50'000 and 100'000 per day
- Computer Specialists: approximately IRR 80,000 per hour

Working Hours: The workweek in Iran is based on a 44-hour week. Typically, employees work Saturday through Wednesday (8 hours per day) and a half a day on Thursday (4 hours). Any hours worked beyond these will entitle the employee to overtime.

Minimum Wage: On March 8, 2016, the minimum wage increased from IRR 7,124,250 to IRR 8,121,660 (USD \$265.5) per month. The figure shows a 14% increase compared to a year before, but labour activists say that is too little.

Holidays: Employees are entitled to leave on all official state holidays (approximately 22 days a year) and Fridays. Additionally, employees are entitled to one-month holiday per annum. The annual leave

for those employees engaged in hard and hazardous employment is five weeks per annum. Employees are entitled to save up to 9 - 15 days of their annual leave depends on their employers. In case of termination, disability or redundancies, employees must be compensated for any accrued leave. Finally, employees are entitled to 3 days of paid vacation for marriage or death of a spouse, father, mother or child.

Insurance through employment: Government employee, benefit from free access to public health insurance through their employment. Private companies cover the accidental insurance for their own employees.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Education: Education in Iran is highly centralized and is divided into K-12 education and higher education. K-12 education is supervised by the Ministry of Education (<http://www.medu.ir/Portal/Home/>) and higher education is under supervision of Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (<http://www.irost.org/en/>). All institutions are gender segregated in Iran beginning at the pre-school level.

Iran has 80 state universities including 28 medical universities, as well as a significant number of government research institutes. There are 25 private universities, including the Islamic Azad University, which has branches all over the country. For a list of higher education institution and universities, please refer to the following link: <http://www.4icu.org/ir/iranian-universities.htm>

Costs and Fees: As a general rule, primary, secondary and higher education is free, although private schools and universities do exist and are permitted to charge tuition fees. Most universities in Iran have their own financial aid offices to help students fund their studies. Ferdowsi University of Mashhad for example, has an Office of Student Welfare to provide loans and financial aids to students, i.e. tuition loan, lodging loan, marriage loan, loan for buying research facilities, etc. Also, Educational Administrative Affairs gives some discount to students according to their rank among their peers.

Update: 27/10/2016

Disclaimer
IOM has carried out the gathering of information with great care. IOM provides information at its best knowledge and in all conscience. Nevertheless, IOM cannot assume to be held accountable for the correctness of the information provided. Furthermore, IOM shall not be liable for any conclusions made or any results, which are drawn from the information provided by IOM.

ERIN SPECIFIC ACTION DONORS

The program is funded by the European Commission (European Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund), and co-funded by the eighteen participating Partner Countries as listed below:

ERIN SPECIFIC ACTION PROGRAM PARTNER COUNTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS	
COUNTRIES	INSTITUTIONS
Austria	Ministry of Interior
Belgium	Federal Immigration Office
	Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (Fedasil)
Denmark	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Finland	Finnish Immigration Service
France	French Immigration and Integration Office
Germany	Federal Office for Migration and Refugees
Greece	Ministry of Public Order and Citizen Protection
Italy	Ministry of Interior
Luxembourg	Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs
Malta	Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security
Netherlands	Repatriation and Departure Service
Norway	Norwegian Directorate of Immigration
Romania	General Inspectorate for Immigration
Spain	Integration of Immigrants Migration Board
Sweden	Swedish Migration Agency
Switzerland	State Secretariat for Migration
United Kingdom	The UK Home Office – Immigration Enforcement