

SUCCESS WELDS TOGETHER

The story of Yousef S., 27 years, a voluntary returnee who entered a welding workshop as a business partner under the IOM project “Integrated Reintegration in the Kurdistan Region, Iraq”



Yousef S. working in his joint welding business

“Everyone who loves his job and takes it seriously is on the way to mastering his life successfully.”

Yousef S., 27 years

The success story of Yousef S. teaches one thing above all: success comes to those who do not give up. Driven by the tense security and employment situation in Iraq, the 27 year old law student started his journey to Germany in the summer of 2015 with not much more in his luggage than the hope for a better life. He imagined that life in Germany would be much easier, however adapting to the new culture posed a great challenge for him. In addition to this, his father’s health seriously worsened and this intensified his wish to return to his home. In a counselling center for voluntary return, Yousef became aware of the possibilities of return and reintegration assistance through IOM. Whilst still in Germany, he applied for assistance under the project “Integrated Reintegration in the Kurdistan Region, Iraq” and consulted IOM regarding support in setting up a business. In February 2016 he returned to Sulaymaniyah. Upon arrival, he elaborated on his business plan with IOM reintegration counsellors in

Iraq. The returnee’s initial concerns were that he would have “to start all over and will fail again” but these were eventually dissolved with the implementation of his business plan.

Through purchasing of the various raw materials for manufacturing doors and windows for a total value of EUR 4,000, Yousef was able to enter as a business partner into an existing welding workshop. He was in such a way able to utilize the knowledge he had acquired during his semester breaks in Iraq before 2015.

In the meantime, Yousef consolidated his skills as a welder and with his income, he can now financially support his parents and his four younger siblings aged nine to 26. Returning to Europe is not an option for him – instead, he passes his positive attitude towards work and life onto others: “Never give up, no matter how bad the situation might seem.” Yousef is already planning his next big step and hopes soon to go into business for himself.