

REAG/GARP Program 2017

Reintegration and Emigration Program for Asylum-Seekers in Germany (REAG) Government Assisted Repatriation Program (GARP)

Project “Nationwide Financial Assistance to Voluntary Returnees”

Fact sheet

A. General Information

The return assistance and start-up program is a humanitarian assistance program. It supports voluntary return and third country migration, offers start-ups and is a steering instrument for migration movements.

The program is administered by IOM on behalf of the Federal Government and the Federal States. It is implemented in cooperation with local and regional authorities, voluntary welfare organizations, specialized NGOs and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The program supports the orderly preparation and implementation of voluntary return and third country migration. Prerequisite is that neither the departing person him/herself nor any other person or agency responsible for his/her support can provide the necessary financial support. Any costs incurred during preparation for the departure (e.g. fees for passports or visas, trips to the airport or to consular interviews) must be borne by the responsible social welfare office or any other responsible authority or NGO. In the event of a third country migration, the corresponding visas have to be present.

B. Assistance

The following types of assistance are granted:

- payment of transportation costs (by plane, train or bus)
- petrol allowance: € 250 per car
- travel assistance: € 200 per adult/youth and € 100 per child under 12 years of age

Nationals of EU member states cannot participate in the REAG/GARP program.

No travel assistance is granted to nationals of European third countries, who are permitted to enter the German federal territory without a visa (e.g. FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro, Republic of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Albania, Republic of Moldova, Kosovo (Resolution 1244/99 of the UN Security Council), Georgia (if entry after March 27, 2017) as well as Ukraine (if entry after June 10, 2017). Here, only travel costs will be granted.

Victims of trafficking and/or forced prostitution are exempted from these regulations of exclusion.

- Start-up cash

Start-up cash Group 1 € 500 per adult/youth and € 250 per child under the age of 12 for nationals of the following countries:

Afghanistan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan

Start-up cash Group 2 € 300 per adult/youth and € 150 per child under the age of 12 for nationals of the following countries:

Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Ivory Coast, DR Congo, Egypt, Georgia (only if entry into Germany before March 28, 2017), Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Mongolia, Niger, Palestinian territories, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine (only if entry into Germany before June 11, 2017), Vietnam.

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Georgian and Ukrainian citizens do not get any start-up cash, if they entered German federal territory after the visa liberalization.

For group 1, a maximum amount of € 1.500 can be granted to families holding an incontestable decision according to §29 Abs. 1 Nr. 1 AsylG (German asylum procedure act), a so called "Dublin case" at the time of applying for REAG/GARP assistance. For Group 2, the maximum amount is € 900 accordingly.

C. Applications

Applications can only be submitted through one of the local or regional authorities (e.g. social welfare offices, aliens' affairs offices), voluntary welfare agencies, specialized NGOs or the UNHCR.

D. Eligibility and Prerequisites

The following target groups are eligible to receive assistance:

- persons that are eligible under § 1 of the "Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz" act (the German asylum seekers' benefit act);
- recognized refugees;
- other foreigners who have been granted a right to sojourn for humanitarian or political reasons, or on grounds of public international law;
- victims of trafficking and/or forced prostitution.

In case of a so-called "Dublin procedure" (transfer to another EU member state), there is no entitlement to receive REAG/GARP assistance.

Upon departure, all returnees/third country migrants must at least be in possession of a border crossing certificate as well as valid travel documents. For certain countries of destination, an EU-Laissez-Passer can be issued.

By signing the application, the applying persons confirm that they intend to return voluntarily to their home country or migrate to a third country. They have to waive their right to appeal or remedy and also abandon their sojourn status if required. There should be no indications for a permanent return to the Federal Republic of Germany. There is no legal claim for assistance.

E. Visas for migration to third countries

In order to obtain information on the existing possibilities, foreigners who seek admission to and permanent residence in a third country, should first consult an information or counselling centre for emigrants and people working abroad (e.g. Raphaelswerk, Diakonisches Werk, DRK). Directories of these counselling centres can be found here:

http://www.bva.bund.de/DE/Organisation/Abteilungen/Abteilung_ZMV/Bundesstelle_f%C3%BCr_Auswanderer_und_Auslandstaetige/Beratungsstellen/beratungsstellen_node

Applications for subsidized travel to third countries can only be processed by IOM, if the foreigner is in possession of a visa for permanent residence in the respective country.

F. Further Information

Further information on the program may be obtained from all social welfare or aliens' affairs offices in any German city or district, from voluntary welfare organizations, specialized NGOs or directly from IOM Nuremberg (in German or English).

G. Special Migrants Assistance Program (SMAP) (only outgoing flight)

For persons not eligible under the program, IOM can arrange flights and offer special fares within SMAP (special migrants assistance program). This especially applies to emigrants to the U.S., Canada or Australia. Flight costs have to be covered either by the migrants themselves prior to the departure or they have to be provided by another entity (e.g. a welfare office or NGO).