

Return Assistance in Practice

Tunisia

In spring 2012, Mr. W. decided to return voluntarily to his home country, Tunisia. During the counseling sessions, Mr. W. expressed the wish to join his father's business, because he used to work in his garage before he left Tunisia. Therefore the Federal Office for Migration (FOM) granted him reintegration assistance for the realization of his business project. Mr. W. returned home in March 2012.



After his arrival, Mr. W. submitted his business idea to the office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Tunis who explained him the next steps. After he submitted all the necessary documents, Mr. W. could start setting up his workshop. The realization of his business project was supported by IOM Tunis. Thanks to the financial assistance, he was able to rent a garage and to purchase important material for his business. IOM Tunis made the payment directly to the service providers (landlord and suppliers).



Mr. W. did not have any problems with the set-up of his workshop. In January 2013, collaborators of IOM Tunis visited Mr. W. at his business site. He is very satisfied with his current situation and he told IOM Tunis that he is better off now than before he left Tunisia because he manages his own business and has perspectives to expand it.

As a humanitarian and, at the same time, reasonably-priced solution, the concept of Return Assistance has proved itself and gained acceptance in many European countries. The object of Return Assistance is to harmonize the justified interests of migrants with those of Switzerland and the countries of origin. Return Assistance makes valuable contribution to a sustainable and successful return. It is conceived so as to rule out undesired pull factors in the direction of Switzerland.

