



IOM Helsinki  
AVR Update  
January 2007



## Return Counselling Handbook – “Coping with Return”

This AVR update is to inform you about the publication of a new IOM return counselling handbook, “Coping with Return”, published by IOM in the Netherlands.

The handbook was officially presented at a press conference in Brussels on 13 December 2006.

In addition to an overview of methodologies, definitions and best practices in return counselling to vulnerable asylum seekers, the handbook also presents case stories and recommendations.

The handbook is thus of particular relevance to people who work with groups of vulnerable asylum seekers such as unaccompanied minor asylum seekers, victims of trafficking, returnees with health problems, and asylum seekers who have staid in the host country for a long time.

However, addressing also more general issues of providing return counselling in view of facilitating sustainable return, the handbook is relevant to all those whose daily work involves asylum seekers.

The publication is the outcome of the project "Coping with Return", coordinated and implemented by IOM in the Netherlands. The project aimed at facilitating sustainable return of asylum seekers in the enlarged EU through methodology development and exchange of best practices in the enlarged European Union with particular emphasis on vulnerable asylum seekers.

Countries participating in the project were Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, United Kingdom, Switzerland, and the Netherlands.

The Coping with Return working conference in Amsterdam in November 2005 brought together over 70 return counsellors and delegates from ministries and NGOs from 19 European countries, including a representative from IOM Helsinki.

An electronic copy of the handbook can be downloaded directly from the IOM the Netherlands website through the link below:

<http://www.iom-nederland.nl/data/Coping%20With%20Return%202007117152417.pdf>

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## Assisted Voluntary Return

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### AVR application forms

Application forms for Assisted Voluntary Return can be downloaded from the AVR form page on the IOM Helsinki website ([www.iom.fi](http://www.iom.fi)).

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### Previous IOM Helsinki AVR updates

- Reintegration efforts in Afghanistan continue (Nov-06)
- IOM Moscow Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Trafficking (Nov-06)
- Return and Reintegration to the Western Balkans (Aug-06)
- New brochure: "Return and Reintegration to Kosovo (Jun-06)
- IOM Reintegration Assistance for Returnees to Moldova (May-06)
- Assistance to Returnees at the IOM Chisinau Rehabilitation Centre (Feb-06)
- IOM services for assisted voluntary returns to Sri Lanka (Dec-05/Jan-06)

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