



IOM International Organization for Migration



Assisted Voluntary Return **EU Quarterly report**

Analysis of Quarter 1- 3 of 2008

February 2009

MRF Brussels

Assisted Voluntary Return EU Quarterly Report

I. Trends in IOM AVR programmes

On the basis of the submitted quarterly reports for the first three quarters of 2008: responses received from 13 EU Member States + Norway and Switzerland for the first two quarters and from 11 EU Member States + Norway and Switzerland for the third quarter, the following general trends can be seen:

I.1.AVR:

- Within the major Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) programmes more **irregular migrants** have been assisted
- The major **countries of return** continue to include Russia, Brazil, Iraq and Serbia
- Concerning the **profile** of the beneficiaries of the AVR programme the majority of them are single young men. Furthermore, more and more specific attention is being given to persons in need of specific assistance such as medical cases, VOT's and UAM's.
- Specific country programmes are being integrated in the general AVR programmes (IOM Bern closed the specific programme for Afghanistan and Angola, IOM Brussels for Congo)

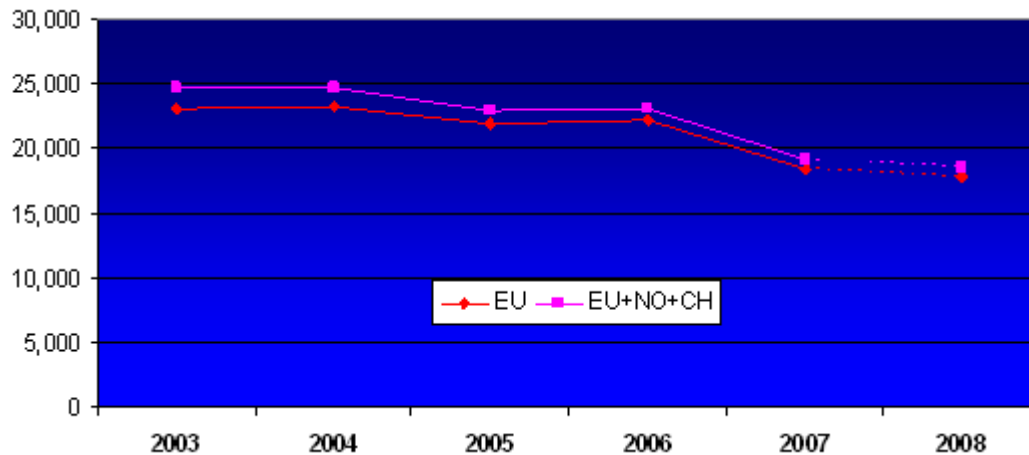
I.2.Reintegration assistance:

- More and more AVR programmes are complemented with reintegration **programmes** in order to provide tailored assistance to the beneficiaries especially those in vulnerable situations and in order to increase the sustainability of the return
- Top countries where reintegration assistance is provided are in line with the top return countries and include Serbia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Russia and Brazil
- The assistance which is requested the most is micro-business assistance, education assistance, temporary accommodation and medical assistance

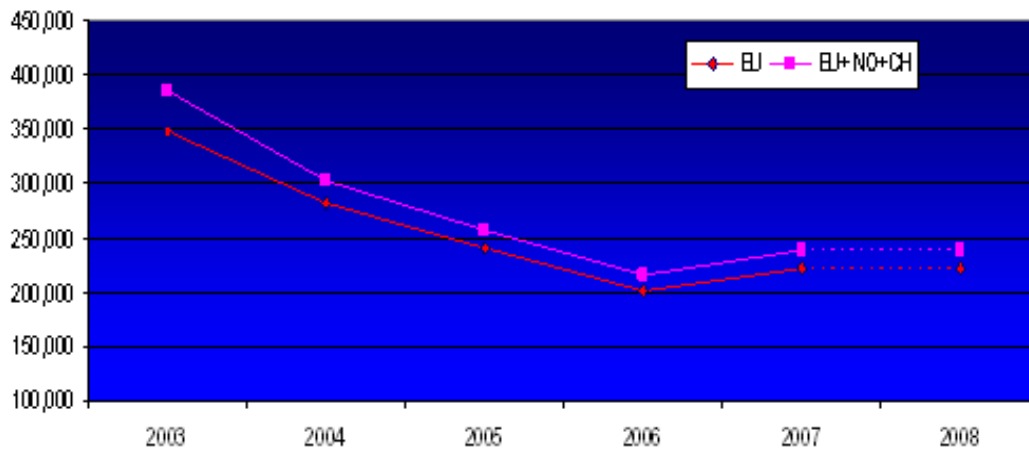
2. Other relevant statistical trends

- Concerning the **asylum applications**, a slight increase can be noticed for 2007 but overall the asylum application are continuing to **decrease**
- In overall returns, **AVR's remain at a stable level** despite a decrease in the target group of rejected asylum seekers and the impact of some migration policies in some countries (for example regularizations in the Netherlands)

AVR in EU



Asylum applications in the EU:



3. Relevant trends on legislative and policy level

- **EU Return Directive** has been adopted in September 2008 and will be transposed into national law (deadline 2010) which is expected to have implications in some of the EU MS.
- In some countries re-entry bans (notably UK) and new national laws on immigration have an impact on AVR policies (IR and Switzerland)

4. Joint programming/synergies

- Follow-up of **IRriCO project**: EU MS which joined the follow-up project are: Greece, Malta and Austria; Countries of Origin which joined: Armenia, Brazil, Congo DRC (To be confirmed), Georgia, Ghana, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Kosovo, Moldova, Pakistan, Serbia and Sudan. (<http://www.iom.int/irrico/>)

- **Research and AVR to Brazil:** project on which Ireland, Portugal and Belgium are working together. Final results have been presented in Brussels in January. The final report will be ready in March 2009.
- **Phase III:** Enhancing Mechanisms and Harmonizing Standards in the Field of Voluntary Return of Irregular Migrants in the Central European Member States, this is the third phase of the project and aims to continue the assisted voluntary return (AVR) operations from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia in an EU-aligned and harmonised manner, while introducing voluntary return operations from Bulgaria, where the AVR system is not yet in place, and expanding AVR in Romania , where the system is underdeveloped.