



IOM International Organization for Migration
IOM Internationale Organisation für Migration

REAG/GARP 2008 - Information Sheet

Reintegration and **E**migration Program for **A**sylum-Seekers in **G**ermany (**REAG**)
Government **A**ssisted **R**epatriation **P**rogram (**GARP**)

Program of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and its Federal States
to provide financial assistance to destitute returnees/third country migrants

A. General Information

The REAG (travel assistance)/GARP (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 REAG/GARP program is administered by IOM on behalf of the Ministry of the Interior and the relevant 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 consular interviews or to the airport upon departure and the like) 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

Within the framework of the program the following types of assistance are granted:

- a) payment of transportation costs (by plane, train or bus)
- b) petrol allowance: € 205,- per car
- c) travel assistance: up to the amount of € 100,- for adults/youths and up to € 50,- for children under 12 years of age, depending on the Federal State where the migrants are registered

GARP start-up cash: € 200 per adult/youth and € 100 per child under the age of 12 (max. € 600 per family) for nationals of: Algeria, Angola, China, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Lebanon, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Syria, and Vietnam

GARP start-up cash: € 250 per adult/youth and € 125 per child under the age of 12 (max. € 750 per family) for nationals of: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, Macedonia, Montenegro, Russian Federation, Serbia (incl. Kosovo) except Serbian and Roma minorities from Kosovo, Turkey and Ukraine.

GARP start-up cash: € 500 per adult/youth and € 250 per child under the age of 12 (max. € 1.500 per family) for nationals of: Afghanistan, Iraq and Serbia (only for Serbian and Roma minorities from Kosovo)

January 2008

IOM - Verbindungsstelle bei der Regierung der Bundesrepublik Deutschland:

Charlottenstr. 17 • D-10117 Berlin • Germany
Tel: +49.30.278 778 0 • Fax: +49.30.278 778 99

IOM - Vertretung in Nürnberg:

Postfach 40 01 59 • D-90206 Nürnberg • Frankenstrasse 210 • D-90461 Nürnberg • Germany
Tel: +49.911.4300 0 • Fax: +49.911.4300 260

E-mail: IOM-Germany@iom.int • Internet: <http://www.iom.int/germany>

Bankverbindung: Deutsche Bank Bonn • BLZ 380 700 59 • Kto.-Nr. 1 360 031

C. Applications

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

D. Eligibility and Prerequisites

The following target groups are eligible to receive REAG/GARP assistance

- persons that are eligible under § 1 of the "Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz" act (the German asylum seekers' benefit act);
- foreigners whose sojourn is due to the law of nations, humanitarian or political reasons;
- victims of trafficking or forced prostitution;
- recognized refugees

Upon departure, all returnees/third country migrants, must be at least in possession of a border crossing certificate as well as valid travel documents. For those returning to the Serbian province of Kosovo, a EU-Laissez-Passer can be issued. In case of land return to Montenegro, Serbia (incl. Kosovo) and Bosnia Herzegovina a so-called return vignette is additionally necessary.

By signing the REAG/GARP 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 REAG/GARP assistance.

Since 1 January 2004, citizens from member states of the European Union (EU) will no longer be granted REAG/GARP assistance. This does not apply to victims of trafficking or forced prostitution.

E. Visas for migration to third countries

In order to obtain information on the available possibilities, foreigners who seek admission and permanent residence in a third country, should first consult an information or counselling center for emigrants and people working abroad (e.g. Raphaels-Werk, Diakonisches Werk, DRK). Directories of these counselling centres may be obtained from the Federal Administration Office (Bundesverwaltungsamt), 50728 Cologne www.bundesverwaltungsamt.de IOM is only able to process applications for subsidized travel to third countries in case the foreigner is in possession of a visa for permanent residence in the respective country.

F. Further Information

Further information on the REAG/GARP 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 (German or English).

G. Special Migrants Assistance Program (SMAP)

For those not eligible under the REAG/GARP 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 e.g. a welfare office or NGO.