FINAL CONFERENCE

Shaping the Future of Return and Reintegration

24th November 2026 Agenda (Please note that this agenda can change prior to the Conference)

Time	Session
09:00 – 09:30	**WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS** Opening words: Ms. Anna BRANDT, German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) Introduction: Mr. Joachim SCHEURER, MFD and Mr. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Mathias CZAIKA, UWK
09:30 – 10:40	**PANEL 1 — Governing return: what works, what doesn't, and the future** This panel sets the policy frame for the day. It asks how circular and return migration is being governed within countries in 2026, not as an aspiration but as a functioning (or struggling) system. Speakers are asked to address three questions in turn: What has changed in the policy landscape in your country or institution over the past two years? Where do you see the most acute mismatch between policy design and the realities that returnees encounter? What single shift would make the biggest difference? **Moderator:** Mr. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Mathias CZAIKA, UWK **Speakers:** • Ms. Nadja HAUER, Austrian Federal Ministry of Interior • Mr. Frank AYISI, Ghana Immigration Service • Ms. Farwa ABBAS, Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development • Ms. Zohra WANDAA, CRM Graduate, Refugee and Humanitarian Practitioner and Researcher, Germany • Mr. Moussa Seydou DIALLO, Ministry of Employment, Vocational Training and Technical Education (MEFPT), Senegal
10:40 – 11:00	COFFEE BREAK
11:00 – 12:20	**PANEL 2 — Transnational cooperation on return: Origin – Transit – Destination** While Panel 1 focuses on policies within each country, panel 2 examines what happens between them. The questions here are operational: how do origin, transit and destination actors actually share information, hand-off cases, fund reintegration, and protect people in motion? Where does cooperation hold up and where does it collapse? The panel deliberately mixes state and non-state voices because cross-border cooperation rarely works through a single channel. **Moderator:** Ms. Simona SCHREIER, MFD (former) **Speakers:** • Ms. Mary Osatohanmwen IGBINOSUN, Civil Society Network on Migration and Development (CSOnetMADE), Nigeria • Mr. Osama Hussein Ali ALOMARI, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Jordan • Ms. Larisa SCHÄLIKE, Flüchtlingszentrum Hamburg (former Raphaelswerk e.V.), Germany • Mr. Prof. Mustafa KARATAŞ, Presidency of Migration Management, Türkiye • Mr. Richard GOLDSCHMIDT, Liaison Officer EU stationed in Serbia
12:20 – 13:30	LUNCH BREAK (ON-SITE, BUFFET)
13:30 – 14:40	**THEMATIC SESSION 1 – Protecting the Vulnerable** This session focuses on the people for whom standard return procedures are most likely to fail. The discussion is built around concrete cases: what protection mechanisms were in place, what was missing, and where did state and civil-society actors take complementary roles. A short research input frames the cases against what is known about long-term outcomes for these groups. **Moderator:** Ms. Heather KOMENDA, IOM **Presenters:** • Ms. Duaa NOOREDDINE, International Medical Corps, Lebanon/Italy, Ms. Irem GÖL, Association for Social Development and Aid Mobilization, Türkiye **Case study:** "Marginalised in Displacement, Overlooked in Return: Designing Inclusive Pathways for Dom Communities" • Ms. Maia NASRASHVILI, President of the International Association Civitas Georgica, Georgia **Case study:** "From Invisible Children to Visible Policies: Building a Child-Sensitive Support System for Transnational Families and Returning Migrants in Georgia" • Ms. Dr. Constanze WEIGL-JÄGER, Diakonisches Werk Heidelberg, Germany **Case study:** "Return Migration to North Macedonia. Evaluating the assisted voluntary return and reintegration of rejected asylum seekers" • Mr. Frank AYISI, Ghana Immigration Service, Mr. Tadele Akalu TESFAW, IOM, Ethiopia **Case study:** "Tuberculosis case Facilitating Continuous access to anti-tuberculosis treatment for circular and return migrants"

Time	Session
14:40 – 15:00	COFFEE BREAK
15:00 – 16:00	**THEMATIC SESSION 2 – Informed Decision-Making & Digital Innovation** This session examines how the quality of pre-return information shapes outcomes and how digital tools are changing the counselling landscape. The discussion asks: Are virtual contact centres replacing in-person counselling, complementing it, or creating a two-tier system? What does "informed" actually require, and who is accountable when information is incomplete or misleading? **Moderator:** Mr. Mag. MSC Friedrich ALTENBURG, UWK **Presenters:** • Mr. Timon BARTH, Micado Migration gGmbH, Germany, Ms. Larisa SCHÄLIKE, Flüchtlingszentrum Hamburg, Germany **Case study:** "DiReturn – Development of the First Virtual Contact and Clearing Center for Potential Returnees" • Mr. İlker GÜNEY, Refugee Support Association (MUDEM), Türkiye **Case study:** "Restarting in Aleppo: A Digital Storytelling and Game-Based Psychological Support Program for Returning Syrian Children" • Ms. Joyce EJUKONEMU, Centre of Excellence in Migration & Global Studies, National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), Mr. Oluwabamidele AKANGBE, Institut for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Nigeria **Case study:** "Digital Ecosystem and the Facilitation of Irregular Migration: The Role of Social Media in Driving the West Africa Migration Narrative"
16:00 – 16:20	COFFEE BREAK
16:20 – 17:10	**THEMATIC SESSION 3 – Skills Across Borders** Long-term sustainability of returns depends on the economic opportunities to which returnees return, and on the bilateral structures that connect destination and origin labour markets. This session looks at both: how institutions in origin and transit countries build capacity to receive, support and accompany returnees over time, and how skilled-training partnerships can convert what is often a one-way return into something closer to circular migration. **Moderator:** Ms. Mag. Dr. Lydia RÖSSL-GROBBAUER, UWK **Presenters:** • Mr. Halo Mohammed KARIM, RWANGA Foundation, Iraq, Mr. Sirwan Saber Taher ALZEBARI, RWANGA Foundation, Iraq, Ms. Sahar Talib AHMED, ICMPD Office, Iraq **Case study:** "The Role of Skills Development Trainings and financial support in Facilitating sustainable Reintegration of Returnees in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq" • Mr. Paul BARKAM, AWO Soziale Dienste gGmbH, Germany, Ms. Damla İLBAŞ, Association for Social Development and Aid Mobilization, Türkiye **Case study:** "She Built - a technical and craft skills programme for Syrian Female Returnees from Türkiye" • Mr. Juan Camilo PULIDO RIVEROS, PhD Candidate **Case study:** "ARRIVES - Assisting the Reintegration of Returnees through Integrated Vocational and Entrepreneurship Support in Nigeria"
17:10 – 17:30	**GRADUATION & ALUMNI NETWORK – Closing** • Graduation and thanks to all CRM Certificate Program attendees • Q&A • Closing words from consortial partners: Mr. Joachim SCHEURER, MFD and Mr. Mag. MSC Friedrich ALTENBURG, UWK • Closing words from university partners: Ms. Prof. PHD Gloria O. ANETOR, National Open University of Nigeria; Mr. Prof. Dr. Murat ERDOĞAN, Ankara University, Türkiye; and Mr. Mohammed El Mehdi LAHLOU, Association Migration internationale, Morocco