

Briefing Note

European Reintegration Network
ERIN, KRG/ Iraq



AMIF: Migration in Movement



This program is co-funded by
The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund



European
Technology and
Training Centre



THE PURPOSE

This briefing note intends to provide information for counselors and pre-departure counseling entities who are involved in counseling of potential returnees and preparation of return and reintegration procedures to Iraqi Kurdistan Region.

They could learn about the possibilities the returnees have at present according to the situation and development in KRG.

The staff in "ERIN partner countries" which joined the ERIN program should be enabled by providing basic information about housing, education, employment, healthcare and business environment to support their clients in the decision process to return home.

Background

"European Technology and Training Centre", ETTC, is providing reintegration services and facilities in Iraq for the Iraqi returnees from different "ERIN partner countries". One of the reintegration programs the ETTC facilitates is the ERIN program (European Reintegration Network program) co-funded by the European Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. The involved host countries are listed on the last page of this briefing note.

This program is being implemented through the coordination of the ERIN Program Management Unit in the Netherlands.

Your service provider

European Technology and Training Centre

The aim and mission of ETTC is to facilitate the return of returnees to their country of origin in a humane way. ETTC believes that every individual should have the chance after return to receive reintegration assistance. We seek appropriate help for every individual and provide support in accordance with the individual's needs. Together with the returnee we try to establish a clear picture of what is and not possible upon their return. In consultation with our local partners, preparations are then made for reintegration in the KRG.



A joint Approach to
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The ETTC was opened in 2009 on the initiative of a German NGO and supported by the German government. We are registered as an international non-profit organization in KRG under the NGO law.

The core competencies of the ETTC are focused on the provision of reintegration services and training for public servants, refugees, IDP`s and local jobseekers.

Meanwhile we have accompanied more than 6000 returnees from different European countries in the reintegration process to Iraq and Kurdistan Region.

In KRG we are located in Erbil with our main office and the training compound. Beside focal points in different areas of Central Iraq we have regional branch offices in Dohuk and Suleimania. In general we cover all the KRG governorates and regions with return and reintegration services. Our core team of reintegration counselors could provide more than 10 years of appropriate working experience. Mainly our projects are funded by European countries and institutions.



Overview about reintegration services

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airport pick-up (upon request) • Onward travel assistance • Counselling and referral • Temporary Housing • Business Start-up | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job placement • Education and Schooling • Vocational Training • Social, legal and medical support • Family Tracing • Monitoring (optional on request by host country) |
|---|--|

Please note: Those services we announced under special request are not covered by the standard services of ERIN program and has to be agreed between the service provider and the host country counselors or institutions as part of the reintegration package.

Target groups

The agreed services will be provided to all returnees without distinction in treatment.

Further target groups in need will be assisted by additional services.

Assistance to unaccompanied minors-contact to parents/ relatives prior to return/ providing family tracing.

Assistance to families with underage children- managing housing opportunities, health services and enrollment in school education.

Assistance to elderly people – extended support for housing, health services and general orientation.



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Contact prior to return

Direct counselling could be provided before return by email, Skype and mobile phone from Sunday to Thursday at 8:30 to 17:30 Iraqi local time.

Geographical coverage in KRG:

Reintegration services will be provided in the following areas of KRG

- Erbil
- Duhok
- Suleimanyia

Pre-departure counselling recommendations

- Returnee should provide contact information in CoR (Country of Return) and additional telephone number in Iraq (family or friend telephone number).
- Giving an opportunity to the returnees to have a Skype call with ETTIC reintegration team in country of return before their departure (will be available on request). First contact will be always arranged through the counsellors from ETTIC. Contact details of counsellors in return destinations will be provided in the process of return only.
- Returnees are generally not promised cash money after return unless stated differently in the National Annex.
- Brief project explanation by national counsellors in host countries indicating counselling, education, housing, vocational training, job placement, business start-up, legal support...etc.
- Returnees should provide a clear basic business idea before their departure from host countries if they want to start a business.

Infrastructure, security and economic situation

Airports

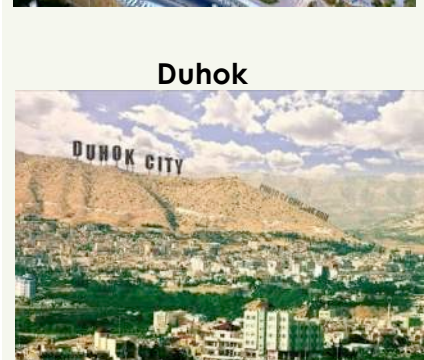
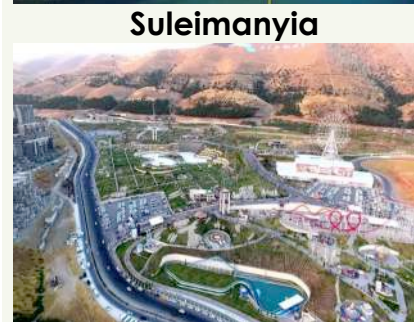
KRG / Iraq has international airports located in **Erbil** and **Suleimanyia**.

Despite the weekly flights of Iraqi airways from different European destinations to KRG you find also a number of international airlines with regular flights to Erbil (Lufthansa, Austrian Airlines, Germania Airlines, Turkish Airlines, Iraqi Airways, Fly Dubai, Emirates Airlines..., etc.

Meet and greet and orientation service is provided as follows:

- Onwards transportation assistance: Upon returnees request, ETTIC can provide you with onward transportation to your final destination within the country, and charges will be covered through your reintegration grant.
- Referrals to urgent medical care for treatment continuity.
- Temporary accommodation upon returnees request.
- Providing returnee with ETTIC leaflets and brochures request upon arrival.

Please Note that the counsellors in host country have to inform ETTIC for cases who want airport pick-up at least **7 days** before returnee's departure to country of origin.



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Public transport

By Taxi:

Returnee can take a private taxi or share it with other passengers who would like to travel to the same destination. Normally the prices are discussed and agreed at the beginning of the travel. There are two ways for paying; **first**, the price is paid per trip, **second**, Airport taxis take 25-35 \$ USD to the city center. They can be stopped on the street. Prices for shared taxis depend on the number of passengers travelling. Shared taxis can be arranged from designated stations.

Housing and accommodation

The Kurdistan Region is under an ongoing development process. Due to this the infrastructure possibilities are in a constant growth. Anyone that has a valid ID card, ration card and a proof from the Asayish (security office) that she/he is allowed to live in the area, can rent a house/apartment

Accommodation prices

City	Monthly Rent: Apartment
Erbil	US\$ 200-600
Duhok	US\$ 200-500
Suleimanyia	US\$ 200-500

City	Monthly Rent: House
Erbil	US\$ 200-1000
Duhok	US\$ 150-700
Suleimanyia	US\$ 150-700

Water and energy supply

There is a rapid growth of power demand and the need to improve and extend the existing system.

80 % of the generation capacity of electricity is privately owned and 20 % by government. More than 60 % of the production is used by private households. Although 98 % of the households are connected to the public system, households have to use shared generators as the main electricity source because of the limited supply of electricity coming from the community system. The most critical issues are the enormous technical losses due to poor management and maintenance and also a very weak commercial orientation.

Due to the very low water tariffs there is no incentive to save water and also the quality of sanitation equipment is so weak that the economy and the single households are faced by enormous losses of water. The water consumption in KRG has to be described as excessive (international standard: 120 litres per capita per day; KRG standard up to 400 litres per capita per day).



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Education

The public state education is free of charge, from Primary School all the way to Doctoral degrees. Private education institutes do exist, with high qualities but they are expensive.

In case returnees are interested in continuing their school career, they can join evening schools as adults. Furthermore, there are many training centres and language institutes for returnees interested in upgrading their professional skills.

The responsibility for primary and secondary education is taken by the Ministry of Education.

The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research is responsible for higher education concerns.

In addition, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs runs vocational schools for adults which have not completed secondary education schools and for unemployed people.

The school system in the Kurdistan Region consists of:

- 2 years (not compulsory) pre-school education for the 4-5 years' age group;
- Compulsory primary education for 6-11 years old;
- Secondary education of 2 cycles each 3 years for 12-18-year-old.
- 2-6 years' study of higher education (university) covering the age group 18-23 years.

Schools for returnee children

Parents can enrol their children in schools/universities that welcome returnee children and offer special programs and language training for easier reintegration. There are a list number of schools. In the following you find a number of most famous schools:

- Fakhir Mergasori International School, Erbil
- Cambridge International School, **Erbil**: www.cis-kurdistan.com
- Ishik High School, **Erbil**-Gulan St.: www.ishikhighschool.com
- British School, **Erbil**
- Hawler Typical Secondary School, **Erbil**-40-meter street.
- American International School Kurdistan, **Erbil**-Gulan St.: www.ais-k.org
- Private Suleimanyia Girls College, **Suleimanyia** -Tuy malimk St.
- Gasha School, **Suleimanyia**
- Private Salahaddin Ayyubi Secondary School, **Suleimanyia** -Zagros St.: www.salahaddinayyubi.com
- German School in **Erbil** and **Suleimanyia**
- International School of Choueifat in **Suleimanyia**, Suleimanyia – Qasimlu St.
- Nu Hat School, **Duhok**
- Knowledge Private School, **Duhok Ashty Rd.:** www.kps-duhok.com



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Academic education in the Kurdistan Region:

In the Kurdistan Region public or private universities are accessible for those with a high school degree. Below you can find a selection of possibilities.

Public universities

- Salahaddin University, Erbil: www.usalah.org
- Erbil Polytechnic University, Erbil-Zanko area: www.epu.edu.krd
- University of Suleimanya, Suleimanya: www.unisul.com
- Suleimanya Polytechnic University, Suleimanya -Shorsh St.: www.spu.edu.iq
- University of Duhok, Duhok: www.dohukuri.net
- Duhok Polytechnic University, Duhok-Zakho way: www.dpu.edu.krd
- Soran University, Soran-Kawa St.: www.soran.edu.iq
- University of Koya, Koya: www.koyauniversity.org
- Hawler Medical University: www.hawlermu.org
- Charmo University, Chamchamal- Suleimanya -Kirkuk Rd: www.charmouniversity.org
- Duhok Polytechnic University, Duhok-Zakho way: www.dpu.edu.krd
- Soran University, Soran-Kawa St.: www.soran.edu.iq
- University of Koya, Koya: www.koyauniversity.org
- Hawler Medical University: www.hawlermu.org
- Charmo University, Chamchamal- Suleimanya-Kirkuk Rd: www.charmouniversity.org

Private universities

- University of Kurdistan Hawler, Erbil: www.ukh.ac
- University of Cihan, Erbil: www.cihanuniversity.edu.iq
- University of Hayat, Erbil
- American University in Suleimanya, Suleimanya
- Sabis University, Erbil: www.sabisuniversity.net
- Ishik University, Erbil: www.iu.edu

Health care

In general, the system of health care in KRG consists of two types of health treatment, public and private services are accessible.

Public health services

The public hospital services are cheap or provided at very low charges and are accessible by all of the people. But most of the time it's hard to get specified medicine in public hospitals. The patients have to buy the medicine outside of the public hospitals sometimes.

In the Kurdistan Region there are approximately **59** public and **40** private hospitals with **680** primary health care centers.

Public clinics and emergency care units of hospitals are in general opened in the morning from **8 am** to **2 pm**.

In the public sector, the health services are provided through a network of primary health care (PHC) centers and hospitals.

Basic medical treatment and medicines are almost free in public health facilities (PHCs and hospitals) in the morning, where patients pay around **US\$ 0.4** (IQD 500) for basic medical treatment. Prices however depend very much on the service. A treatment at the dentist costs about **US\$ 20-40 (IQD 25.000-50.000)**.

Refugees, returnees and IDPs are granted the same rights of access to health services as the general population.

Private health services

There are also privately owned hospitals and health centres where examination, treatment and surgical interventions are delivered at high costs. Mostly the hospitals are opened from **3 pm** until late in the **evening**. Private patients have to pay between **US\$ 20-30 (IQD 25.000-35.000)** for the examination only. Treatment costs depend on the required service.





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Economic and security situation

The economic boom in the first decade of 2000 in Kurdistan was stopped firmly.

The influx of more than 1.8 million refugees (IDP and Syrian refugees) is part of the worsening of the situation. Other factors are the ongoing discussions about the missed share of KRG from the oil income in Central Iraq and the fall of oil prices in general and last but not least the increased burdens by the war against ISIS/ Daesh.

There is a foreigner friendly investment law and a well-developed bank system, but due to the financial crisis and the security situation most of the foreign companies have left or drastically reduced their activities in KRG. A number of multinational companies are still operating in KRG, mainly in the oil and gas sector. Oil and gas exports could be a great opportunity for economic recovery.

Access to Employment

Due to the economic crisis, there are limited job opportunities for people and returnees as well as in public and in the private sector.

Currently the public sector as the most important employer in the past is not able to hire new employees.

People with excellent language skills, for example in English and Arabic, may have better chances in finding a job. Furthermore, those with additional vocational qualifications and experiences or extraordinary managerial skills will face better opportunities to find an employer.

Despite the crisis in KRG the communities are still faced by a raising request for housing and improvement of existing facilities. Generally, the employers does not provide special trainings for newcomers in their companies and the whole system in construction works is mainly based on training on the job. Electricians, tillers, plumbers and AC maintaining belong to the branches where a shortage in qualified skills could be considered. Knowledge about installing, inspecting, maintaining and repairing existing private and public systems is still highly requested and provides employment opportunities.

Depending on skills also woman have relatively good chances to get employed in KRG, although their share in employed population is still low and there are huge opportunities for an increase.

Salaries and wages

A number of salary and wage examples in different professions you will find in the following, please consider that the salaries are always depending on the working experience and the place of work.

Profession	Wage (US\$)
Physicians working in public Institutions	US\$ 500-1,500 / month
Nurse	US\$ 400-800 / month
Primary School Teacher	US\$ 300-700 / month
Secondary School Teacher	US\$ 400-800 / month
University Professor/ Lecturer	US\$ 600-2,000 / month
Public official/ employee	US\$ 300– 750/ month
Building Worker / Daily Labour	US\$ 25 / day
Industrial Worker	US\$ 20-30 / day
Farmer's revenue, which has to be shared with the farmer's employees	US\$ 500-1,500 / month

Salaries and wages

(Continue)

Due to the economic situation it could be a good idea for returnees to open a small business. Starting a business in fields of maintenance and repair of technical equipment (AC, Fridge, Cars) and the according knowledge are always highly requested by customers. Also with handicrafts you can earn your income. The ETTC team is well experienced in counselling business start-up and supporting the development of a business plan as well as registration and other administrative procedures. To rent a shop you have to pay the rent of one year in advance some times.





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Contact details

We are open for communication with counsellors from host countries and try to find the best solution in case of any problems or issues. So please provide us your feedback.

Working days and hours:

From Sunday to Thursday at 8:30 to 17:30

ETTC Erbil main office, ERIN KRG Project officer

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Host Country List

Australia	Department of Immigration and Border Protection
Austria	The Federal Ministry of Interior of Austria (Moi-Austria)
Belgium	Federal Immigration Office and Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers
Denmark	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Finland	Finnish Immigration Service (MIGRI)
France	French Office for Immigration and Integration-OFII
Germany	Federal Office for Migration and Refugees - BAMF
Greece	European and Development Programs Division (EDPD)
Italy	Ministry of Interior
Luxembourg	Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs
Malta	Ministry of Home Affairs and National Security
Netherlands	Repatriation and Departure Service (R&DS) – Ministry of Security and Justice of the Netherlands
Norway	Norwegian Directorate of Immigration
Romania	General Inspectorate for Immigration
Spain	Integration of Immigrants Migration Board
Sweden	The Swedish Migration Agency
Switzerland	State Secretariat for Migration
United Kingdom	Home Office-Immigration Enforcement