

Extended reintegration support

NOK 10,000 in reintegration support for people who return voluntarily to their home country. The offer is valid until 31 December 2010.

Financial support for voluntary return

From 1 September 2009, most people who return voluntarily will be offered NOK 10,000 in reintegration support. The offer is valid until 31 December 2010.

Who is eligible for support?

Reintegration support is intended for asylum seekers and persons without legal residence in Norway. The support is given to nationals of countries that qualify for official development assistance from Norway. With a few exceptions, this includes most asylums seekers who come to Norway. At www.udi.no/reintegreringsstotte, you will find a list of those who can apply for reintegration support.

People who return voluntarily to Iraq and Afghanistan will receive reintegration support through separate schemes. They will not receive this support in addition.

Dublin cases, i.e. persons who have first applied for asylum in a country other than Norway and whose application for asylum is therefore processed in a country other than Norway, are not eligible for reintegration support.

The purpose of reintegration support

Reintegration support is intended to make it easier for those who do not have a residence permit in Norway to return voluntarily, by receiving financial support to re-establish themselves in their home country. The amount of NOK 10,000 per person is meant as a contribution to ease the initial period after their return.

How to receive reintegration support

Those who wish to receive support must apply for voluntary return through the VARP project (Voluntary Assisted Return Program). VARP is run by the independent international organisation **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** and is financed by the Norwegian authorities. The programme offers counselling, provides travel documents, airline tickets and other types of assistance relating to returning.

Once the application for voluntary return has been approved, reintegration support will be paid by IOM. There is not a separate application form for reintegration support. The support is offered to everyone in the target group who applies for voluntary return during the project period, i.e. until 31 December 2010.

How to apply

Applications for **voluntary return** should be sent to IOM in Oslo by the end of December 2010.

For further information, contact IOM on tel. (+47) 23 10 53 20 or visit its website at www.iom.no

Repayment of excess tax paid

Persons who have lived in Norway for less than 183 days can contact the tax authorities before they leave and request an advance tax assessment. A person who lives in Norway for more than 183 days during a 12-month period or more than 270 days during a 36-month period becomes resident for tax purposes in Norway and must submit a tax return within the normal deadlines, also for the year of departure. We recommend that those preparing to return contact their local tax office about this matter as part of their preparations for returning.

The importance of a deadline for leaving

Persons who have received a final rejection of their applications for asylum will be given a deadline for leaving in connection with the rejection. If you do not leave the country or cooperate on voluntary return, you may be escorted out of the country by the police against your will. Forced return means that you will not have time to prepare for your return home. You will also have to repay the expulsion costs to the Norwegian state. In addition, you will receive an expulsion decision that prohibits you from entering countries in the Schengen area, either permanently or for a limited period of time.

Return for those who are not eligible for support

Those who are not eligible for reintegration support may nonetheless be qualified for the offer of voluntary return through VARP. Contact IOM for further information.