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# ***Readmission, Return and Reintegration in Georgia***

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The issue of regulating migratory processes has drawn increasing attention in Georgia over the last few years. Entities are being established within different ministries and normative acts for regulating this sphere are being published. Recipient countries have to deport illegal immigrants back to their countries of origin. However, there are now attempts to make their return to the homeland, including, *inter alia*, their deportation, as humane as possible complying with internationally recognized human rights principles.

It must be noted that the registration of those deported has improved significantly over the last years; however, there are still a few countries, which fail to submit comprehensive information to Georgia on deported individuals. Therefore, even though, the available data with respect to deportation cases are incomplete, the data still represent the actual situation. The share of deportations from EU countries to Georgia is not high. For instance, this share constituted some 10-20% of the individuals deported, 2005-2007. Main countries of deportation for Georgia include Russia, Turkey and Ukraine. It is also noteworthy to remark that the execution of some acts of deportation in this period was accompanied by harsh human rights violations. As a good illustration of this fact, it will suffice to recall the use of transport planes to deport Georgians from Russia to our country in 2006.

**Table 1. Number of deported individuals by country of deportation, 2005-2007**

Years of deportation	Total	among them		
		Russia	Turkey	Ukraine
2005	5059	1071	2173	320
2006	6984	3460	1024	429
2007	9607	2047	5319	823

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia

In 2009-2010, the number of those deported, including those deported from EU countries, did not decrease; for instance, 780 citizens were deported from these countries in 2009 and 1271 in 2010.

**Table 2. Number of the individuals deported from EU countries by sex, 2009-2010**

EU Country	Total	Sex	
		Male	Female
		Austria	147
Belgium	31	28	3
Bulgaria	1	1	X
Germany	339	308	31
Denmark	2	1	1
United Kingdom	59	50	9
Spain	120	114	6
Estonia	2	2	X
Ireland	44	40	4
Italy	17	14	3
Cyprus	6	2	4

EU Country			
	Total	Sex	
		Male	Female
Lithuania	3	3	X
Netherlands	66	58	8
Poland	489	402	87
Portugal	4	4	X
Romania	4	4	X
Greece	415	343	72
France	119	108	11
Slovakia	6	5	1
Slovenia	1	1	X
Hungary	4	4	X
Finland	4	4	X
Sweden	27	25	2
Czech Republic	106	100	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2051</b>	<b>1778</b>	<b>278</b>

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia

**Table 3. Number of the individuals deported from EU countries, 2009-2010, 2011**

EU country	Year	
	2009-2010	2011
Austria	147	44
Belgium	31	21
Bulgaria	1	4
Germany	339	113
Denmark	2	2
United Kingdom	59	20
Spain	120	52
Estonia	2	2
Ireland	44	18
Italy	17	19
Cyprus	6	10
Latvia	35	24
Lithuania	3	8

EU country	Year	
	2009-2010	2011
Netherlands	66	34
Poland	489	159
Portugal	4	3
Romania	4	6
Greece	415	127
France	119	35
Slovakia	6	3
Slovenia	1	X
Hungary	4	11
Finland	4	5
Sweden	27	27
Czech Republic	106	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>2051</b>	<b>768</b>

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia

Illegal frontier crossing, using forged documents and following illegal labour activities is the main reason for deportation.

Based on the agreement concluded between Georgia and the EU countries, target programs aiming to support persons returned from the EU to Georgia have been implemented (Table 4).

**Table 4. Readmission Statistics for Georgia (01.03.2011-01.01.2013)**

Requesting State	Number of requests	Approved	Declined
Germany	411	366	45
Austria	276	253	23
Greece	207	202	5
Netherlands	116	102	14
Sweden	98	86	12
Lithuania	90	89	1
Belgium	104	100	4
Poland	69	68	1
Spain	67	66	1
Italy	58	50	8
Hungary	24	24	X
France	37	33	4

Requesting State	Number of requests	Approved	Declined
Cyprus	11	11	X
Romania	6	6	X
Bulgaria	4	4	X
Czech Republic	4	4	X
Portugal	5	4	1
Finland	3	3	X
Estonia	5	5	X
Slovak Republic	1	1	X
<b>TOTAL</b>	1596	1477	119
Percentage	100,0	92,5	7,5

Source :Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) plays a major role here by providing assistance to Georgian citizens, residing in EU countries. They have been ready to return to their homeland voluntarily since 2003 (Table 5).

**Table 5. Assisted Voluntary returns to Georgia by country of departure (2003-2012)**

Country of departure	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Belarus	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	27	9	0	68
Belgium	0	0	0	0	4	4	19	30	24	11	92
Czech Republic	8	13	56	18	4	2	1	0	0	0	102
Ireland	0	0	0	3	13	10	35	38	32	11	142
Poland	0	0	0	1	0	0	186	227	86	29	529
Switzerland	0	0	0	37	46	56	68	45	33	16	301
United Kingdom	3	8	24	41	31	23	26	25	13	4	198
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	18	4	0	26
Latvia	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	7	51	16	7
Lithuania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	0	8
Netherlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	69	16	2	87
Austria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	21	31
Norway	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	5	5	19
Other	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	14	27	20	67
Total	11	21	80	100	99	98	379	514	311	135	1748

Source : <http://www.iom.ge/index.php?activities&reintegration&avr&>

The assistance package for reintegration includes provision for free travel, vocational training, temporary asylum, medical care and help with a small business startup.

Under respective programs undertaken by IOM, over 1,600 citizens have been given reintegration support. Thanks to this assistance, over 100 individuals succeeded in getting jobs, while 580 returnees either launched a new or extended an already existing small business; 72 individuals acquired professional qualifications by participating in vocational training courses, whilst 66 families were granted provisional accommodation.

Supporting small business turned out to be especially successful in the following fields:

1. Small shops selling essential commodities;
2. Small agricultural enterprises (meat and dairy production, bee keeping, technical maintenance of vehicles);
3. Furniture manufacture; setting up bakeries;
4. Assistance in organizing training courses in various computer programs, foreign languages and accounting.

“Targeted Initiative Georgia” (TIG) is the most important project within the framework of the Mobility Partnership Agreement signed between Georgia and the EU in November 2009. It aims at facilitating readmission between Georgia and EU countries. The project is being implemented by a consortium consisting of nine EU states headed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Czech Republic, in cooperation with the IOM and the local Georgian authorities. The total budget of this three-year project is 3,020,000 EUR, within which 3 million EUR have been allocated by the EU and 20,000 EUR- by the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Protection of Italy (Annex 1).

Under this project, the so-called mobility centers being established in various regions of Georgia offer the following services to those readmitted: general consultations, emergency medical care, temporary asylum, consulting on employment issues and business start-up (Annex 2).

This conclusion can be offered: readmission to Georgia has many positive aspects; however, in our opinion, its scale is small and therefore, it is not capable of substantially influencing the process of return of our compatriots to Georgia.