

## Invitation to the Workshop “Challenges of and Prospects for the Reintegration of Returnees – Insights from Research and Practice”, University of Belgrade, 3 November 2021

The Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies (BICC) and the Department of Geography at the University of Belgrade cordially invite you to the workshop “Challenges of and Prospects for the Reintegration of Returnees – Insights from Research and Practice” which will take place on 3 November 2021, 9:00-15:30 at the University of Belgrade.

This workshop takes place in the framework of the BICC research project “Trajectories of Reintegration. The Impact of Forced Displacement, Migration and Return on Social Change” which is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) for the period of 2019-2022.

The workshop aims to bring together experts from academia, decision-makers and implementing institutions dealing with the topic of reintegration and will provide a platform for an open dialogue to share experiences gained through working and researching in the context of reintegration in the Western Balkans. It thus aims to discuss and connect – on the one hand – insights from research on reintegration trajectories of returnees to Western Balkan countries and – on the other hand – insights from practical work on reintegration and best practices of reintegration assistance provided by governmental and non-governmental actors.

Questions that guide the discussions are the following:

- a) What are the experiences of different groups of people (returning refugees, migrants, asylum seekers) in re-establishing their lives following return? How have assisted and unassisted returnees re-organised their lives upon return?
- b) How is ‘reintegration’ perceived? Is it a category that returnees would apply to themselves?
- c) Which are the factors that enable or restrict the reintegration of returnees who organized their return by themselves and independently from assistance schemes? What do returnees perceive as main challenges? (How) have they overcome these challenges?
- d) What are best practices for reintegration assistance? Which additional or alternative avenues for improving the assistance to returnee populations might exist?
- e) How can – in addition to client-based approaches – development, migration, and employment policies support the reintegration trajectories of unassisted returnees?
- f) What lessons can be drawn from unassisted return and reintegration trajectories for reintegration assistance? What can be derived from the comparison of unassisted and assisted reintegration for future programming of reintegration assistance?

### **Draft agenda**

- 9:00 – 09:30 Welcome from the organisers (Clara Schmitz-Pranghe, BICC and Danica Šantić, University of Belgrade) and brief introductory round
- 09:30 – 10:15 Brief Presentation on the project “Trajectories of reintegration” and first findings from field research in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia and Albania (Clara Schmitz-Pranghe and Ruth Vollmer, BICC)
- 10:15 – 10:45 Coffee Break
- 10:45 – 11:15 Reintegration trajectories of unassisted returnees in Serbia (insights from field research conducted by student researchers from the University of Belgrade, Nevena Radić, Milica Todorović, Marko Petrović)
- Discussant: Vladimir Petronijević, Group 484
- 11:15 – 11:45 Plenary discussion
- Moderation: Danica Šantić (University of Belgrade)
- 11:45 – 12:00 The Migration, Integration and Governance Research Centre (MIGREC), Natalija Perišić
- 12:00 – 13:30 Lunch break
- 13:30 – 14.30 Break-out sessions on suggestions for supporting (re)integration endeavors
- / Which alternative/additional avenues for improving the reintegration assistance to returnee populations exist?
  - / How can – in addition to client-based approaches – development, migration, and employment policies support the reintegration trajectories of unassisted returnees?
  - / Which lessons could possibly be drawn from unassisted return and reintegration trajectories for future programming of reintegration assistance?
- 14:30 – 15:30 Wrap-up of break-out sessions (Nevena Radić, Milica Todorović, Ruth Vollmer, tbc) and plenary discussion
- Moderation: Ruth Vollmer, BICC