

A watercolor-style world map in shades of blue, red, and orange, serving as a background for the slide.

European Practical Cooperation

in the field of return



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Who am I?

- ✓ International Project Manager - Belgian Immigration Office / ILOBEL
- ✓ CPEP : Common planning and evaluation platform > ERIN + EURLO + VCI
- ✓ Program lead EURLO



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Today?

- ✓ Focus : operational cooperation between official state organizations
- ✓ Different approaches:
 - ✓ From a social perspective
 - ✓ From a “migration control” perspective
 - > Both add value



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Observations

- ✓ European migration crisis > for a while not clear whether Europe is in control
- ✓ Important role for Member States
- ✓ Will stay as it is, also with a “new” Frontex
- ✓ Member States will need to keep investing in a solid and effective operational framework on the national level



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Cooperation - Why?

- ✓ Set-up to solve problems we can not solve ourselves > Best Practices
- ✓ Help you neighbors > helping yourself
- ✓ Create scale effects

- ✓ Aim from project to daily business



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Cooperation - When?

- ▶ Return decision making

- ▶ Assess whether a migrant can effectively return?
- ▶ Quid mental and physical capacity? (art 9 return directive)
 - ▶ MEDCOI : Since 2009 - Medical Country of origin information
 - ▶ Led by Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS)
 - ▶ 10 MS involved
 - ▶ Network of medical experts/doctors in CoO
 - ▶ Actual information on availability and accessibility of medical health care
 - ▶ Secured database
 - ▶ > EASO > ongoing debate



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Cooperation - When?

- ▶ Voluntary return and reintegration
 - ▶ Migrant in control, actively organises return
 - ▶ Reintegration services in CoO > sustainable return
 - ▶ ERIN : Since 2011 - European Reintegration Network
 - ▶ Led by Dutch Repatriation and Departure Service
 - ▶ 18 MS involved
 - ▶ Contracting of reintegration services + contract management
 - ▶ Procurement office > Fedasil (BE)
 - ▶ National AMIF NP - the Netherlands



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Cooperation - When?

- ▶ Voluntary return and reintegration
 - ▶ Reintegration services in CoO > sustainable return
 - ▶ Targeted initiatives: under umbrella of Mobility Partnerships.
 - ▶ E.g; Georgia and Armenia
 - ▶ CZ and FR colleagues
 - ▶ Reintegration services by national authorities - integration in national policies
 - ▶ All returning migrants, not only those from EU



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Cooperation – When?

▶ Identification

- ▶ No voluntary return > forced return
- ▶ Travel documents needed
 - ▶ EURINT : Since 2010 - Integrated Return Management
 - ▶ Led by Dutch Repatriation and Departure Service (R&DS)
 - ▶ 27 EUMS/SAC involved
 - ▶ Operational WG's per CoO
 - ▶ Incoming / outgoing delegations
 - ▶ Operational activities > Frontex



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Cooperation – When?

- ▶ Forced Return
 - ▶ Joint Return Operations (JRO)
 - ▶ Frontex coordinates implementation by MS
 - ▶ Forced Return Monitoring (FreM) > ICMPS
 - ▶ Pool + guidelines
 - ▶ “New” Frontex



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Cooperation - When?

- ▶ Operational return support in CoO
 - ▶ voluntary return + forced return
 - ▶ need for local network
 - ▶ EURLO : Since 2015 - European Return Liaison Officers
 - ▶ Led by Belgian Immigration Office (BIO)
 - ▶ 24 EUMS/SAC organisations involved
 - ▶ Deployment of *national* LO's > multilateral representation
 - ▶ 377/2004 CR ILO's > specialized in Return
 - ▶ 9 deployed (BE, EE, NL, NO, CH, SE) > aim: 12 Full time
 - ▶ LO's by MS, Program coordination to Frontex



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Cooperation - Future?

- ▶ Lot of opportunities exist !
- ▶ EU Action Plan on Return > EU Commission role = growing
 - ▶ EURA + SOP's
 - ▶ Funding (AMIF/ISF/DEVCO/TRUST FUND/...)
 - ▶ IRMS/IRMA
- ▶ New strategic partnerships with 3rd countries (Compacts) / Valetta



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Cooperation – Fundamental Rights

- ▶ “Respect of Fundamental Rights as a safeguard for a sustainable return policy” > FRA
- ▶ increase acceptance of return decisions by the migrant;
- ▶ allow them to stay in control and keep steering their own return as much as possible, > keeping them strong, healthy and able to deal mentally with the stress that is linked with their returns;
- ▶ significantly lower costs and risks linked to the use of force;
- ▶ allow a sustainable return back home > sustainable return enforcement policies.



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Thank you.

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