

What is the Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) Programme?

The AVR is a return assistance programme offered to asylum seekers and migrants without a legal right to reside in Cyprus. It aims to provide assistance to those who are willing to return voluntarily to their home countries in an **organised, safe and dignified manner**.

As a returnee under the voluntary return Cyprus programme, you are eligible for cash assistance provided by the Return Office of the Migration Department to help you get started once you go back to your home country. The cash grant ranges vary between nationalities and country of origin.



AVR programme includes:

- ✓ Non-binding and individual counselling which is free of charge.
- ✓ Assistance in making a well-informed decision.
- ✓ The protection of the returnees.
- ✓ Returning home in a safe and dignified manner.
- ✓ Organisational support.
- ✓ Provision of a considerable amount of cash.

Who is eligible?

- ▶ Asylum seekers with a pending asylum application.
- ▶ People who have withdrawn their asylum application.
- ▶ People whose asylum application has been rejected.
- ▶ People whose appeal to the Administrative Court of International Protection has been rejected.
- ▶ Any migrant not registered with the Government of Cyprus and without a right to stay.

The AVR programme service will:

- ▶ explain your return options through counselling;
- ▶ help you obtain travel documents, if necessary;
- ▶ assist with travel arrangements to the final destination;
- ▶ provide any other type of pre-return assistance;
- ▶ pay for all travel expenses;
- ▶ offer assistance during departure at the airport;
- ▶ offer financial assistance, in cash, prior to departure to the country of origin.

The actual process of the AVR Programme

Step 1: Visit one of the counselling centres located in all Districts of the country, as well as the “Pournara” First Reception Centre or contact one of the return programme counsellors to discuss your options. You can also book an appointment by sending an email to returncounselling@moi.gov.cy. You can talk in-depth about the process of voluntary return and the possibilities for support that are available to you, based on your residence status and nationality. This will ensure that you make a well-informed decision.

Step 2: Fill in the declaration form, which can be provided by the counsellor or can be found on the Migration Department website.

The counsellor may provide you with assistance in filling in the declaration form. At this point, it may be helpful to inform the counsellor about any medical condition, so as to be dealt with accordingly. The information provided will facilitate the process for your convenience.

Step 3: In case you encounter difficulties with your travel documents, please notify the counsellors and the AVR programme will proceed to all necessary arrangements.

Step 4: With the assistance of the counsellor, you will be informed about the flight options and the details of your journey.

Step 5: The AVR programme will cover all travel expenses and provide you with the flight confirmation, as well as practical information regarding the journey.

Step 6: On the day of the flight, a dedicated staff member/voluntary return officer will be waiting for you at the airport to assist you with check-in and help you with custom formalities. At this point, right before departure, you will receive financial assistance for the journey, in cash.





RETURNS OFFICE
HELPING YOU RETURN HOME

Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) Programme

Benefit from the financial support for voluntary return and reintegration for Third Country Nationals in Cyprus



Contact information:

Returns Office, Migration Department 90, Arch. Makarios III, 1077 Lefkosia
Tel.: 22308759. 22308804/802
Email: returncounselling@moi.gov.cy

Asylum Service
www.moi.gov.cy/asylum
Tel.: 22308501/505
Email: info@asylum.moi.gov.cy

Aliens and Immigration Unit, Lefkosia 6, Agamemnonos Street, 2411 Egkomi Tel.: 22802360

Aliens and Immigration Unit, Lemesos
223, Franklin Roosevelt, "D. Nikolaou" Building, 2nd floor, 3046 Zakaki
Tel.: 25805211

Aliens and Immigration Unit, Larnaka
34, Tasos Mitsopoulos Street, 6027 Larnaka
Tel.: 24804223/24804226

Aliens and Immigration Unit, Pafos
22, Eleftherios Venizelos Street and Kaningos corner, 2nd floor, 8021 Pafos
Tel.: 26806222

Aliens and Immigration Unit, Ammochostos
31, Giorki Papadopoulou Street, 5282 Paralimni
Tel.: 23803286



Reintegration Support

People who wish to return to their home country may be eligible to benefit from reintegration assistance as offered by one of the reintegration partners. Reintegration partners offer a variety of reintegration packages, divided into post-arrival (3 days after the travel), and post-return (up to 12 months) assistance.

Post-Arrival Assistance

- Airport pick-up or reception at place of arrival
- Temporary accommodation
- In-country travel assistance
- Referrals for urgent medical care
- Special assistance for vulnerable people after arrival

Post-Return Assistance

- Business start-up assistance
- Long-term housing support
- Social, legal and medical support
- Job placement assistance
- Schooling
- Language training



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