



Annual General Conference 2018

Belgrade, 7-9 November 2018

Workshop 2 – Return: current policy and practice Horizont room

Facilitators

Neil Falzon, aditus and ECRE Board

Background

Since 2015-16 Member States and the European Commission have been putting increasing importance on returning irregularly-staying third country nationals to their country of origin or another third country. This has led to a rash of policy initiatives culminating in the September 2018 'targeted review' of the Return Directive.

During this working group we will look at recent trends and the direction of European return policy. We will go through several provisions of the recast Return Directive including the list of criteria introduced to assess a risk of absconding and the 'obligation to cooperate' (both closely linked to detention); legal remedies; restrictions on voluntary departure and the proposed border procedure. Our discussions will be fed into ECRE's advocacy work with EU and other stakeholders. We will also talk about how to best challenge those provisions that concern us most as a network.

We hope to hear from participants about discussions and practice on returns from your work or country and to exchange information on any good or bad practice, particularly in the areas outlined above.