



About FAiR

The Finding Agreement in Return (FAiR) project aims to strengthen the governance of return migration in the EU, addressing the legitimacy issues around return migration policies and alternatives. In the coming years, the project will generate new insights into the factors and processes that either foster or impede the legitimacy and effectiveness of related policies. The initiative places the perspectives of non-EU realities centre stage and brings together multidisciplinary expertise from academic, policy research, governmental, and migrant advocacy organisations across Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.

Project duration: May 2023 - October 2026

Objectives

This project aims to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness, and humanity of EU return management. Our goal is to contribute to a more robust and human-rights based framework for managing returns within the EU. We will achieve this by providing policy recommendations derived from a thorough evaluation of:

1. EU and bilateral intergovernmental return policies,
2. and alternative approaches to return policies.

Focus countries

Georgia - Iraq - Nigeria - Türkiye
Germany - Italy - Poland - Switzerland



Contact

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Task Summary: Monitoring of Post-Return Realities and Human Rights

This research, conducted under FAiR Work Package 7 (Task 7.4), investigates how the human rights of migrants might be affected after their return from the EU, with a specific focus on post-return conditions in **Georgia, Iraq, and Nigeria**. It identifies major gaps in **post-return human rights monitoring**—a stage of the migration cycle that receives limited legal and policy attention despite clear vulnerabilities faced by returnees.

Key Objectives:

- Examine how fundamental rights are considered during the design and implementation of return processes in the specific return contexts of Georgia, Iraq and Nigeria.
- Assess how post-return and human rights related outcomes are monitored, whether this monitoring exists and helps safeguard migrants' rights.
- Consider the circumstances under which human rights post-return monitoring might be introduced in Georgia, Iraq and Nigeria and who should be involved in such process.
- Provide policy recommendations for establishing systematic post-return monitoring for all returns from the EU.

Background:

The EU Return Directive (2008/115) mandates fundamental rights monitoring **only up to the point of handover** in the country of return, excluding post-return realities. This legal and policy vacuum leaves returnees—rejected asylum seekers and especially vulnerable groups such as women, children, LGBTQ+ individuals, and victims of trafficking—exposed to several post-return risks.

Framework:

- **Monitoring Gaps:** There is **no systemic framework** for tracking returnees' human rights situations after arrival. Reintegration programs—mostly run by IOM, Frontex, and NGOs—**focus on service delivery and program performance but rarely measure long-term rights-based outcomes**.
- **Post-Return Risks:** Returnees may face **non-refoulement violations, arbitrary detention, inhumane treatment, stigmatization, marginalization**, as well being exposed to broader risks such as **economic insecurity, mental health issues, and difficulty accessing health, housing, and education**.

Research Methodology:

The study includes desk reviews and expert interviews (10+ per country) with stakeholders involved in reintegration, including NGOs, government officials, and human rights actors. Interviews with returnees are also available

Scope of the research and delivery:

The research will deliver a report on the feasibility of establishing post-return human rights monitoring, contextual analyses of third countries' specific return contexts and policy recommendations on how to close this “accountability gap” in return policies from the EU.

What we are looking for:

Researcher, short-term member of the research team on Post-Return Monitoring & Fundamental Rights (FAiR Project)

[Country Expert: IRAQ]

Location: Fully Remote

Duration: contract from 1 October 2025 to 20 December 2025 - (part of the Horizon Europe [FAiR Project](#))

Institution: Institute of Law Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences, Nowy Swiat 72, 00-330 Warsaw, Poland.

Position Summary:

We are seeking a skilled and motivated **Researcher** to join the research team in **Work Package 7, on Monitoring of Enforced Returns**, with a specific focus on **Task 7.4: Monitoring of Post-Return Realities and Fundamental Rights**. This role involves analyzing qualitative field research collected in Iraq to assess how fundamental rights are respected and monitored in post-return processes. The researcher will map fieldwork results and stakeholders engagement to assess if all key voices/standing points are included in the data that has already been collected and systematized through country-based fieldwork report (10+ expert interviews plus more interviews with returnees). The researcher will be mainly responsible for systematizing and analyzing it, conducting desk research in the context of EU returns to Iraq (based on international and local literature) and drafting 6,000-8,000 words (in English) to be part of a final report.

Overall, the report will focus on field research in 3 receiving countries (Georgia, Iraq and Nigeria – being a receiving and transit countries, with different level of human right protection and political stability) that receive people returned from the EU (a result of voluntary and forced return). **Specifically, the researcher will assess existing practices, needs, opportunities and limits to post-return human rights monitoring in the context of Iraq.**

The researcher will be also invited to participate in co-writing academic paper on the topic based on the fieldwork and desk research conducted, which will be out of the scope of this contract.

Key Responsibilities:

- Analyze legal frameworks and practices related to post-return monitoring and human rights protection in Iraq
- Assess opportunities, gaps, and limitations in existing reintegration monitoring mechanisms

- Collaborate closely with consortium partners (International Centre for Migration Policy Development, Samuel Hall, Erasmus University Rotterdam) to ensure consistency and methodological alignment
- Contribute to policy-oriented outputs and policy recommendations

Required Qualifications:

- PhD in **Migration Studies, Human Rights, Political Science, Law, Sociology**, or a related field
- Strong background in **qualitative research analysis**
- Demonstrated understanding of **return migration policies, fundamental rights, and reintegration practices**
- Excellent written and spoken English
- Excellent in Arabic
- Academic publications in English on migration-related topics
- Possibly – a position at a local university or organization located in Iraq

Desirable Skills:

- Familiarity with EU migration frameworks and return governance
- Policy analysis and report writing skills

What We Offer:

- Opportunity to contribute to a high-impact, EU-funded research initiative
- Collaboration with a multidisciplinary international team
- A total gross salary of €1,000, distributed in monthly payments over the period of employment (October to December 2025).
- Flexible working arrangements. The contract is fully remote

How to Apply:

Please send your CV, a cover letter outlining your motivation and relevant experience, and a sample of previous research work (e.g. publication or report) to Prof. Witold Klaus witold.klaus@inp.pan.pl with the subject line: *Application – Researcher Task 7.4* **by 15 September 2025.** Selected applicants will be invited for interview.