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Re-entry after a Sojourn Abroad. Challenges Awaiting Professionals from International Cooperation "Returning Home"

Re-entry is one of the most crucial and most sensitive parts of a sojourn abroad, yet it is often the least prepared. Indeed, people prepare their departure with great care, to prepare their life in a new setting and in a new culture. At the end of their stay, however, they usually don't see any need to prepare their re-entry, as they are «going home». Going home means going to a place one knows, to people one knows, so why worry?

Going home, however, is often an illusion after a long stay abroad. The people at home have changed, the people going home have changed, and the home country itself has changed. One is arriving, rather than coming home…This arrival requires a process of integration, which presents many similarities with the integration process abroad. Even culture shock is part of the process of coming home. cinfo has developed a set of services to help persons coming home understand their process, develop creative coping strategies, and use this phase as a bridge to the future.

The workshop «Rückkehr… aber wie?» addresses the sensitive issues of a re-entry process, and of the changes that have occurred in participants' cultural identity after a long sojourn abroad.
The workshops «Bilan de compétences» and «Kompetenzenbilanz und Laufbahnorientierung» enable participants to identify and name the skills they have developed whilst living and working abroad. They will thus be able to prepare the next professional phase in a more conscious way.

The workshop «KonsulentIn in der internationalen Zusammenarbeit» helps people who are interested in this professional direction to think about the possibilities and limits of such a choice.
Re-entry is never an easy phase. But if the persons who experience it understand the process they go through, they shall be able to live it in a more meaningful way, and to use it as an enriching transition towards the future.