1

00:00:02,240 --> 00:00:08,480

Hello, everyone.

And a warm welcome to everyone here,

2

00:00:08,560 --> 00:00:11,960

ladies and gentlemen, and Excellencies.

3

00:00:12,040 --> 00:00:16,360

Also a warm welcome

to everyone in the online audience.

4

00:00:16,440 --> 00:00:19,480

We still have some people

coming in to the seminar,

5

00:00:19,560 --> 00:00:23,760

but we will start promptly,

as we have quite a tight schedule.

6

00:00:23,840 --> 00:00:26,240

My name

is Agneta Carlberger Kundoori,

7

00:00:26,320 --> 00:00:29,640

and I'm Head of Secretariat at Delmi.

8

00:00:29,720 --> 00:00:33,560

We are delighted, again, to see

so many participants here today.

9

00:00:33,640 --> 00:00:39,000

And also knowing

that a lot of you are participating online.

10

00:00:39,080 --> 00:00:43,240

We look forward to

a very interesting afternoon together.

11

00:00:43,320 --> 00:00:47,280

The theme of today

is return migration diplomacy,

12

00:00:47,360 --> 00:00:50,720

and we will focus on the first sub-project

13

00:00:50,800 --> 00:00:56,200

within the larger return project

that we've run at Delmi since last year.

14

00:00:56,280 --> 00:01:00,440

This is funded by

the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

15

00:01:00,520 --> 00:01:03,080

within the European Union.

16

00:01:03,160 --> 00:01:08,760

In this project,

we studied the issue of return migration

17

00:01:08,840 --> 00:01:12,760

in relation to international migration policy.

18

00:01:12,840 --> 00:01:16,760

Initially, we will listen

to a presentation of the report

19

00:01:16,840 --> 00:01:21,640

written by Constanza Vera-Larrucea

and Iris Luthman:

20

00:01:21,720 --> 00:01:24,440

"Return Migration Diplomacy."

21

00:01:24,520 --> 00:01:30,080

This will be followed by a panel discussion

led by Annika SundÃ©n.

22

00:01:30,160 --> 00:01:33,120

Finally, there will be room for questions.

23

00:01:33,200 --> 00:01:37,520

For everyone here in the room, you can

ask questions by just raising your hand,

24

00:01:37,600 --> 00:01:41,440

and for everyone online,

we have a Menti QR code,

25

00:01:41,520 --> 00:01:44,400

which you can click on,

follow the instructions,

26

00:01:44,480 --> 00:01:46,320

and write down your questions,

27

00:01:46,400 --> 00:01:49,520

which we will bring up here at the seminar.

28

00:01:49,600 --> 00:01:54,880

So, without further ado,

the floor is yours, Constanza and Iris.

29

00:01:54,960 --> 00:01:56,960

Welcome.

30

00:02:03,480 --> 00:02:06,720

Hello and welcome

to the presentation of our report:

31

00:02:06,800 --> 00:02:10,840

"Return Migration Diplomacy:

On Return and Readmission Cooperation"

32

00:02:10,920 --> 00:02:13,720

"Between Sweden

and Diplomatic Missions."

33

00:02:13,800 --> 00:02:16,000

My name is Constanza Vera-Larrucea.

34

00:02:16,080 --> 00:02:20,160

I'm joined today by my colleague

and co-author of this report,

35

00:02:20,240 --> 00:02:22,280

Iris Luthman.

36

00:02:22,360 --> 00:02:25,920

Together, we will present

a small part of our report.

37

00:02:26,000 --> 00:02:31,520

Due to time constraints,

we cannot detail all of our results.

38

00:02:31,600 --> 00:02:33,240

So...

39

00:02:33,320 --> 00:02:36,440

As you probably know,

return has been high on the agenda

40

00:02:36,520 --> 00:02:38,800

for quite some time now.

41

00:02:38,880 --> 00:02:43,600

And it has become even more evident

after the TidÃ¶ Agreement,

42

00:02:43,680 --> 00:02:46,560

which formed

the current government coalition.

43

00:02:46,640 --> 00:02:51,000

But these efforts,

in order to combat irregular migration

44

00:02:51,080 --> 00:02:53,240

and enforce return decisions,

45

00:02:53,320 --> 00:02:58,120

have actually been taking place

for almost a decade now.

46

00:02:58,200 --> 00:03:00,760

Why is this so difficult?

47

00:03:00,840 --> 00:03:04,320

If we were to ask somebody on the street,

they would probably say,

48

00:03:04,400 --> 00:03:06,360

"Well, just send them back."

49

00:03:06,440 --> 00:03:10,800

"Send back those who don't have

the right to stay in Sweden."

50

00:03:10,880 --> 00:03:14,400

But we realized that this,

as a goal, is difficult

51

00:03:14,480 --> 00:03:18,360

because it's not only

about the Swedish will.

52

00:03:18,440 --> 00:03:24,240

If we look at the return cases

of the Swedish Migration Agency in 2023,

53

00:03:24,320 --> 00:03:28,960

we see that from a total

of almost 12,000 cases,

54

00:03:29,040 --> 00:03:35,720

more than half, 58%, voluntarily returned.

55

00:03:35,800 --> 00:03:38,280

9% were handed over to the police

56

00:03:38,360 --> 00:03:41,200

because they declared

their intention to not return,

57

00:03:41,280 --> 00:03:44,160

and that was qualified as a forced return.

58

00:03:44,240 --> 00:03:47,360

33% absconded.

59

00:03:47,440 --> 00:03:50,680

So we have an important part

of the return decisions

60

00:03:50,760 --> 00:03:56,040

that are not implemented,

at least not right away.

61

00:03:56,120 --> 00:03:58,800

Although it is difficult for us to know

62

00:03:58,880 --> 00:04:04,040

whether the police

implemented all these decisions,

63

00:04:04,120 --> 00:04:10,160

what we do know is

that it is an important part of...

64

00:04:10,240 --> 00:04:16,040

The will of the applicant

is an important part of this puzzle.

65

00:04:16,120 --> 00:04:18,640

So, return depends not only on the will

66

00:04:18,720 --> 00:04:22,280

of the individual

who has received a return decision,

67

00:04:22,360 --> 00:04:26,840

it also depends on the country of origin

which readmits a citizen.

68

00:04:26,920 --> 00:04:30,760

This creates a need for cooperation.

69

00:04:30,840 --> 00:04:36,720

At Delmi, we have previously written

reports considering the will of the applicant,

70

00:04:36,800 --> 00:04:41,120

and the return process from the perspective

of the Swedish agencies,

71

00:04:41,200 --> 00:04:43,840

but we hadn't taken into account

72

00:04:43,920 --> 00:04:48,560

the perspective of the country of origin

who has to readmit its citizen.

73

00:04:48,640 --> 00:04:54,280

That's why we are

undertaking this very study.

74

00:04:54,360 --> 00:04:59,920

So, we are studying here

the Return Migration Diplomacy.

75

00:05:00,000 --> 00:05:03,000

And why just diplomatic missions?

76

00:05:03,080 --> 00:05:06,720

We understand

that our international relations

77

00:05:06,800 --> 00:05:10,760

influence, through many ways,

the political will,

78

00:05:10,840 --> 00:05:15,040

but also the capacity of countries of origin

to readmit citizens.

79

00:05:15,120 --> 00:05:20,240

And, in operational terms,

embassies and consulates

80

00:05:20,320 --> 00:05:24,120

need to facilitate

identification of individuals for return,

81

00:05:24,200 --> 00:05:28,280

but also issue travel documents

necessary for the return process.

82

00:05:28,360 --> 00:05:31,000

We have seen among our interviews

83

00:05:31,080 --> 00:05:34,760

at agencies in charge

of implementing return decisions,

84

00:05:34,840 --> 00:05:37,320

that there is an inconsistent cooperation.

85

00:05:37,400 --> 00:05:40,960

Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't,

sometimes not at all,

86

00:05:41,040 --> 00:05:44,800

which creates

several operational challenges

87

00:05:44,880 --> 00:05:48,760

for the Migration Agency

and the Swedish Police Authority.

88

00:05:49,800 --> 00:05:54,160

My colleague, Iris,

will explain a little more

89

00:05:54,240 --> 00:05:57,120

about our aim and research questions.

90

00:05:57,200 --> 00:06:00,680

The primary aim of our study

was to describe and explore

91

00:06:00,760 --> 00:06:03,920

the functions,

responsibilities, and perceptions

92

00:06:04,000 --> 00:06:05,960

of diplomats and embassy staff

93

00:06:06,040 --> 00:06:09,560

in the process

of return and readmission from Sweden.

94

00:06:09,640 --> 00:06:14,080

We were particularly focused

on trying to understand the cooperation,

95

00:06:14,160 --> 00:06:16,160

or sometimes lack of cooperation,

96

00:06:16,240 --> 00:06:20,160

between Swedish agencies

and the agencies in the countries of origin

97

00:06:20,240 --> 00:06:22,760

that are expected to readmit their nationals.

98

00:06:22,840 --> 00:06:26,600

To guide our study,

we had a number of research questions.

99

00:06:26,680 --> 00:06:30,440

I won't read them out loud,

but you can see them on the screen.

100

00:06:30,520 --> 00:06:34,600

In the final question, you can see

that we used the word "effective".

101

00:06:34,680 --> 00:06:39,160

This term, "effective" or "effectiveness"

is quite frequently used,

102

00:06:39,240 --> 00:06:44,520

especially by politicians and policymakers,

when talking about return and readmission.

103

00:06:44,600 --> 00:06:47,720

The current Swedish government

has an explicitly stated aim

104

00:06:47,800 --> 00:06:50,640

to increase the effectiveness

of the return procedure.

105

00:06:50,720 --> 00:06:54,720

In 2022, the government tasked

the Swedish Migration Agency

106

00:06:54,800 --> 00:06:56,760

and the Swedish Police Authority

107

00:06:56,840 --> 00:07:04,280

with increasing the enforcement rate

with 50% between 2021 and 2023.

108

00:07:04,360 --> 00:07:08,000

We can see that when policymakers

talk about effectiveness,

109

00:07:08,080 --> 00:07:10,640

they usually do this in numerical terms,

110

00:07:10,720 --> 00:07:15,400

usually expressed as the return rate,

111

00:07:15,480 --> 00:07:18,360

which is the ratio of those ordered to leave

112

00:07:18,440 --> 00:07:22,200

to those effectively returned

to their countries of origin.

113

00:07:22,280 --> 00:07:24,960

This numerical understanding

of effectiveness

114

00:07:25,040 --> 00:07:30,560

has, however, been criticized

for overlooking other crucial aspects

115

00:07:30,640 --> 00:07:34,920

and not adequately considering

other aspects,

116

00:07:35,000 --> 00:07:40,560

such as the humanity, sustainability,

117

00:07:40,640 --> 00:07:46,600

and legally certain aspects

of the return and readmission procedure

118

00:07:46,680 --> 00:07:48,720

for the individual migrants.

119

00:07:48,800 --> 00:07:53,560

In our report, we have chosen

to take a different approach

120

00:07:53,640 --> 00:07:59,560

to the term "effectiveness",

understanding effective cooperation

121

00:07:59,640 --> 00:08:05,960

as the ability of Swedish agencies and

their counterparts in the countries of origin

122

00:08:06,040 --> 00:08:12,080

to facilitate the return of individuals

no longer allowed to stay in Sweden,

123

00:08:12,160 --> 00:08:14,080

in line with international law,

124

00:08:14,160 --> 00:08:17,280

and respecting the rights and safety

of the returnees,

125

00:08:17,360 --> 00:08:20,320

the individuals

who have received their return decisions.

126

00:08:20,400 --> 00:08:22,960

Instead of just counting successful returns,

127

00:08:23,040 --> 00:08:26,720

the emphasis is instead

on agreements, diplomatic relations,

128

00:08:26,800 --> 00:08:31,920

and technical capabilities

that make return decisions enforceable,

129

00:08:32,000 --> 00:08:35,280

ensure readmission,

and, perhaps most importantly,

130

00:08:35,360 --> 00:08:39,520

create the conditions necessary

for sustainable reintegration.

131

00:08:39,600 --> 00:08:42,200

Our approach therefore highlights

132

00:08:42,280 --> 00:08:47,360

the political and operational groundwork

needed to achieve effective return,

133

00:08:47,440 --> 00:08:50,400

in this more holistic understanding

of the word.

134

00:08:53,440 --> 00:08:58,600

Yes, and to be brief

when it comes to theory and methods...

135

00:08:58,680 --> 00:09:01,040

We tried to find a similar study,

136

00:09:01,120 --> 00:09:05,120

tackling foreign authorities

in the process of return and readmission.

137

00:09:05,200 --> 00:09:07,040

We were unsuccessful,

138

00:09:07,120 --> 00:09:11,000

which says something

about the sides that usually are taken

139

00:09:11,080 --> 00:09:14,480

when doing research on return.

140

00:09:14,560 --> 00:09:18,720

So we decided to look

at which sort of theories,

141

00:09:18,800 --> 00:09:21,760

which group of theories

might help us understand

142

00:09:21,840 --> 00:09:24,120

the processes that we were describing.

143

00:09:24,200 --> 00:09:28,520

We chose three different

theoretical bodies of concepts.

144

00:09:28,600 --> 00:09:32,920

The first one is about

leverage and conditionality.

145

00:09:33,000 --> 00:09:35,160

This has to do with the fact

146

00:09:35,240 --> 00:09:39,120

that readmission can sometimes

be costly and unpopular.

147

00:09:39,200 --> 00:09:42,480

Elements of leverage

tend to compensate this cost,

148

00:09:42,560 --> 00:09:47,080

and conditionality

sets the proper conditions

149

00:09:47,160 --> 00:09:51,400

for how return and readmission

should be undertaken,

150

00:09:51,480 --> 00:09:56,400

and what will happen if any of the countries

do not cooperate in the process.

151

00:09:56,480 --> 00:09:59,400

The second one

is called migration diplomacy,

152

00:09:59,480 --> 00:10:02,640

which is a novel concept,

it's not very used.

153

00:10:02,720 --> 00:10:06,320

But we found it

particularly interesting for our case,

154

00:10:06,400 --> 00:10:09,760

because it's about

the use of diplomatic tools,

155

00:10:09,840 --> 00:10:14,040

processes and procedures

to manage cross-border mobility.

156

00:10:14,120 --> 00:10:18,600

It has a strategic character

as it is an interplay

157

00:10:18,680 --> 00:10:25,720

in an environment where power relations

are quite imbalanced between states.

158

00:10:25,800 --> 00:10:30,560

And, finally, we chose

extra-territorial migration management.

159

00:10:30,640 --> 00:10:33,880

This is a very qualitative field

160

00:10:33,960 --> 00:10:40,320

mostly based on the action of returnees

and officers in a foreign country.

161

00:10:40,400 --> 00:10:44,120

It has to do with

all the migration control activities

162

00:10:44,200 --> 00:10:47,680

occurring outside the limits of the state.

163

00:10:47,760 --> 00:10:54,480

To answer our research question,

we decided to follow a qualitative method,

164

00:10:54,560 --> 00:10:58,560

so we made a bunch of interviews

among Swedish diplomats...

165

00:10:58,640 --> 00:11:04,000

Sorry, among Swedish officers

and diplomatic missions.

166

00:11:04,080 --> 00:11:07,240

The first step of interviews

were semi-structured.

167

00:11:07,320 --> 00:11:11,400

We tried to find out what were

the main problems or challenges,

168

00:11:11,480 --> 00:11:15,680

or the things that actually worked

in this interplay and cooperation

169

00:11:15,760 --> 00:11:19,360

between Swedish authorities

and diplomatic missions.

170

00:11:19,440 --> 00:11:24,680

Then we interviewed

diplomatic missions here in Stockholm.

171

00:11:24,760 --> 00:11:27,360

We approached about 30 of them,

172

00:11:27,440 --> 00:11:31,680

and made our sample

based on the top 20 cases

173

00:11:31,760 --> 00:11:35,760

of nationalities receiving

the most return decisions,

174

00:11:35,840 --> 00:11:39,000

but also certain cases

that were often mentioned

175

00:11:39,080 --> 00:11:41,880

by officers working in return.

176

00:11:41,960 --> 00:11:47,400

Finally, only 16 missions

replied to our request

177

00:11:47,480 --> 00:11:50,040

and decided

to take part in our study.

178

00:11:50,120 --> 00:11:52,880

I take this opportunity

to thank you for that,

179

00:11:52,960 --> 00:11:57,040

because they were very generous

with their time and information.

180

00:11:58,800 --> 00:12:04,720

Now, to do this, we need to find out

a bit more about the return process.

181

00:12:04,800 --> 00:12:09,160

We have created a figure

that Iris will be able to explain.

182

00:12:09,240 --> 00:12:13,080

As Constanza said,

before we delve further into our findings,

183

00:12:13,160 --> 00:12:18,000

it's important to highlight the quite

complex and complicated landscape

184

00:12:18,080 --> 00:12:21,000

within which

the various stakeholders operate.

185

00:12:21,080 --> 00:12:23,680

At the national level, Sweden employs

186

00:12:23,760 --> 00:12:26,640

what we in the report call

a multi-layered approach

187

00:12:26,720 --> 00:12:29,200

to managing return and readmission.

188

00:12:29,280 --> 00:12:33,720

The Swedish Migration Agency

begins the process

189

00:12:33,800 --> 00:12:36,120

by issuing a return decision.

190

00:12:36,200 --> 00:12:40,640

And, if necessary, hands over enforcement

to the Swedish Police Authority.

191

00:12:40,720 --> 00:12:44,480

And in cases where coercive measures

are deemed necessary

192

00:12:44,560 --> 00:12:47,680

to implement the actual

physical removal of the individual,

193

00:12:47,760 --> 00:12:53,480

the Swedish Prison and Probation Service,

sometimes with support from Frontex,

194

00:12:53,560 --> 00:12:56,320

will carry out the actual transportation.

195

00:12:56,400 --> 00:12:59,000

Given the aim and focus of our report,

196

00:12:59,080 --> 00:13:03,200

I want to draw your attention

to the dotted lines on the figure.

197

00:13:03,280 --> 00:13:06,160

These represent the steps in the process

198

00:13:06,240 --> 00:13:10,800

that are contingent

on cooperation with countries of origin.

199

00:13:12,120 --> 00:13:16,840

This cooperation, as we've

already mentioned in the presentation,

200

00:13:16,920 --> 00:13:20,560

is often critical for verifying identities,

issuing travel documents,

201

00:13:20,640 --> 00:13:23,240

and ensuring that the return can proceed.

202

00:13:23,320 --> 00:13:27,200

Without active participation

from the country of origin,

203

00:13:27,280 --> 00:13:30,160

the return process

can face significant delays

204

00:13:30,240 --> 00:13:34,160

or may not even proceed at all.

205

00:13:34,240 --> 00:13:39,440

Tools such as readmission agreements,

the deployment of return liaison officers -

206

00:13:39,520 --> 00:13:42,000

we'll talk more about these tools

in a minute -

207

00:13:42,080 --> 00:13:45,200

but these can be vital

for fostering this cooperation.

208

00:13:45,280 --> 00:13:49,200

Equally vital and important are

the units for return coordination

209

00:13:49,280 --> 00:13:54,560

within the Swedish Migration Agency

and the Swedish Police Authority.

210

00:13:54,640 --> 00:14:00,200

These units work with...

211

00:14:00,280 --> 00:14:04,320

They are responsible for managing

the communication with embassies,

212

00:14:04,400 --> 00:14:06,080

organizing interviews,

213

00:14:06,160 --> 00:14:10,240

and ensuring that the necessary

travel documents are obtained.

214

00:14:10,320 --> 00:14:14,000

In that regard,

they play a really crucial role

215

00:14:14,080 --> 00:14:17,880

for facilitating both the logistical

and the diplomatic efforts

216

00:14:17,960 --> 00:14:20,040

behind the return process.

217

00:14:20,120 --> 00:14:25,040

In that sense, their work is essential

for keeping the process moving smoothly.

218

00:14:25,120 --> 00:14:27,120

As you can see in this chart,

219

00:14:27,200 --> 00:14:31,480

a successful return process

is not just about

220

00:14:31,560 --> 00:14:34,840

the Swedish authorities

and the work they do,

221

00:14:34,920 --> 00:14:39,200

it's equally reliant on the two wills

that Constanza mentioned earlier,

222

00:14:39,280 --> 00:14:41,560

the will of the individual returning

223

00:14:41,640 --> 00:14:45,600

and the will

of the country of origin to cooperate.

224

00:14:46,640 --> 00:14:51,360

In that sense, it is reliant

on Sweden's international relations

225

00:14:51,440 --> 00:14:54,520

and agreements that facilitate cooperation

226

00:14:54,600 --> 00:14:57,880

between the host country, Sweden,

and the country of origin.

227

00:14:57,960 --> 00:15:00,800

-Now I'll pass over to you, Constanza.

-Yes.

228

00:15:00,880 --> 00:15:03,840

One of our research questions had to do

229

00:15:03,920 --> 00:15:07,440

with the instruments, ways, and strategies

that have been developed

230

00:15:07,520 --> 00:15:13,120

in order to facilitate

cooperation with foreign missions.

231

00:15:13,200 --> 00:15:17,480

So we collected, in our data,

232

00:15:17,560 --> 00:15:22,520

a series of instruments and tools

that have been used

233

00:15:22,600 --> 00:15:29,200

in order to attempt to approach

diplomatic and foreign authorities.

234

00:15:29,280 --> 00:15:35,200

We have developed

our own typology of these tools.

235

00:15:35,280 --> 00:15:40,480

Some of them were present in previous

studies and reports, especially EU reports,

236

00:15:40,560 --> 00:15:44,200

and some others

were completely new to us.

237

00:15:44,280 --> 00:15:48,600

Because, contrary to what

has been reported in the media,

238

00:15:48,680 --> 00:15:54,120

or, for example,

in civil society associations,

239

00:15:54,200 --> 00:16:00,480

the Migration Agency has done quite a lot

in order to implement return decisions

240

00:16:00,560 --> 00:16:03,560

and tried to approach foreign authorities.

241

00:16:03,640 --> 00:16:07,200

But some of these tools

act at a very micro level,

242

00:16:07,280 --> 00:16:13,560

and we never saw

some sort of strategic systematized list

243

00:16:13,640 --> 00:16:16,520

of all the tools that can be used

244

00:16:16,600 --> 00:16:23,960

to approach and to cooperate

with external authorities.

245

00:16:24,040 --> 00:16:28,200

Among these, you will probably

recognize readmission agreements.

246

00:16:28,280 --> 00:16:30,640

That's probably the one that we all know.

247

00:16:30,720 --> 00:16:35,120

Some of these act at the political level,

or are produced at the political level,

248

00:16:35,200 --> 00:16:38,880

while others,

for example the coordination tools,

249

00:16:38,960 --> 00:16:41,400

are more into an operational level.

250

00:16:41,480 --> 00:16:47,080

And others act at both sides, and it

is very difficult to actually understand:

251

00:16:47,160 --> 00:16:50,720

Is this a political or an operational tool?

252

00:16:50,800 --> 00:16:54,080

But the idea is to facilitate not only return,

253

00:16:54,160 --> 00:16:59,080

but cooperation and understanding

between different authorities.

254

00:16:59,160 --> 00:17:06,000

When it comes

to the more operational tools... Iris?

255

00:17:06,080 --> 00:17:12,880

Right, so as Constanza mentioned,

embassies can act as intermediaries

256

00:17:12,960 --> 00:17:15,440

between the host country

and the country of origin.

257

00:17:15,520 --> 00:17:19,600

They are therefore in a position

to manage both the action-taking,

258

00:17:19,680 --> 00:17:25,440

the operational and more decision-making

dynamics of migration management.

259

00:17:25,520 --> 00:17:28,640

In the report,

we have chosen to present our results

260

00:17:28,720 --> 00:17:31,680

in accordance with these two distinct,

261

00:17:31,760 --> 00:17:34,560

but often, as mentioned,

complementary roles.

262

00:17:34,640 --> 00:17:37,200

So, when it comes

to operational management,

263

00:17:37,280 --> 00:17:40,400

embassy staff can play a really crucial role.

264

00:17:40,480 --> 00:17:43,400

As mentioned,

one of their primary responsibilities

265

00:17:43,480 --> 00:17:45,760

is to work with the Swedish authorities,

266

00:17:45,840 --> 00:17:49,040

like the Migration Agency

and the Police Authority,

267

00:17:49,120 --> 00:17:54,000

to verify the nationality of individuals

and issue necessary travel documents.

268

00:17:54,080 --> 00:17:58,320

This is a task that largely falls

upon the consular section of embassies,

269

00:17:58,400 --> 00:18:03,520

and can significantly impact

the feasibility of enforcing return decisions.

270

00:18:03,600 --> 00:18:08,320

We found that the level of involvement

when it comes to identification

271

00:18:08,400 --> 00:18:10,680

varies between different embassies.

272

00:18:10,760 --> 00:18:13,040

This depends on national practices

273

00:18:13,120 --> 00:18:16,920

and requirements of both

Sweden and the country of origin

274

00:18:17,000 --> 00:18:23,800

when it comes to what, for example, counts

as a significantly established identity.

275

00:18:23,880 --> 00:18:27,160

Some countries describe

their role in this process

276

00:18:27,240 --> 00:18:29,720

as acting akin to a post office,

277

00:18:29,800 --> 00:18:35,200

where they receive a travel document

from the authorities in their home country

278

00:18:35,280 --> 00:18:39,600

and make sure that it reaches

the person who is supposed to return.

279

00:18:39,680 --> 00:18:44,480

Others are more actively involved

by conducting interviews with returnees

280

00:18:44,560 --> 00:18:47,600

to help establish identity and nationality.

281

00:18:49,080 --> 00:18:53,480

Additionally, our interviews revealed

that many diplomatic missions

282

00:18:53,560 --> 00:18:58,080

see their roles as extending beyond

these more administrative tasks.

283

00:18:58,160 --> 00:19:00,160

Many expressed a commitment

284

00:19:00,240 --> 00:19:03,880

to protecting the rights

and interests of their citizens

285

00:19:03,960 --> 00:19:06,600

throughout

the return and readmission process.

286

00:19:06,680 --> 00:19:09,880

However, while embassies

can advocate for their citizens,

287

00:19:09,960 --> 00:19:14,240

they cannot directly interfere with

the legal outcomes of the return cases.

288

00:19:14,320 --> 00:19:18,080

This was highlighted in our interviews

by the representatives.

289

00:19:18,160 --> 00:19:22,080

They can nonetheless

provide valuable support to their nationals.

290

00:19:22,160 --> 00:19:24,080

They can, for example, provide them

291

00:19:24,160 --> 00:19:27,040

with legal representation

in their native language,

292

00:19:27,120 --> 00:19:29,800

to help them better understand

and navigate

293

00:19:29,880 --> 00:19:33,440

the legal process of the return decision.

294

00:19:33,520 --> 00:19:35,960

As you can see, one respondent said,

295

00:19:36,040 --> 00:19:38,440

"The role of the embassy

is to explore pathways"

296

00:19:38,520 --> 00:19:43,000

"so that the return can be made

in a humane and legally secure manner."

297

00:19:45,440 --> 00:19:50,920

To carry out their tasks,

the embassies and Swedish agencies

298

00:19:51,000 --> 00:19:52,920

have some tools, as we mentioned.

299

00:19:53,000 --> 00:19:56,720

When it comes to more operational tools,

we have readmission agreements

300

00:19:56,800 --> 00:20:01,280

as well as identification missions

and electronic systems.

301

00:20:01,360 --> 00:20:04,280

I put the electronic systems

as a little plus,

302

00:20:04,360 --> 00:20:06,960

because it's not

very frequently implemented,

303

00:20:07,040 --> 00:20:10,160

but it's something

where we see great potential.

304

00:20:11,600 --> 00:20:14,200

The thing with readmission agreements

305

00:20:14,280 --> 00:20:17,320

is that they really help

streamline cooperation

306

00:20:17,400 --> 00:20:21,000

by reducing

the administrative workload on embassies.

307

00:20:21,080 --> 00:20:23,720

This can allow for quicker processing

308

00:20:23,800 --> 00:20:27,240

and enable embassies

to act more as these intermediaries,

309

00:20:27,320 --> 00:20:30,960

act more as this post office

that was described earlier.

310

00:20:32,080 --> 00:20:37,960

Technological solutions, as mentioned,

are currently used to a very limited extent,

311

00:20:38,040 --> 00:20:40,760

but can also hold great potential

312

00:20:40,840 --> 00:20:45,160

in terms of facilitating and streamlining

the return procedure.

313

00:20:45,240 --> 00:20:49,440

We have the example of the Georgian

readmission case management system.

314

00:20:49,520 --> 00:20:54,760

It is a digital platform that enhances

coordination between the countries

315

00:20:54,840 --> 00:21:00,640

and facilitates a faster and more secure

handling of readmission cases.

316

00:21:00,720 --> 00:21:04,240

Another important tool

that is not widely used as well

317

00:21:04,320 --> 00:21:06,200

is identification missions.

318

00:21:06,280 --> 00:21:08,400

These admissions are conducted

319

00:21:08,480 --> 00:21:13,360

usually on the basis of bilateral agreements

or memoranda of understanding.

320

00:21:13,440 --> 00:21:18,760

They work in the way

that missions from the third countries

321

00:21:18,840 --> 00:21:21,320

are invited to an EU member state

322

00:21:21,400 --> 00:21:26,720

to confirm the nationality and complete

the identification process of their nationals.

323

00:21:26,800 --> 00:21:31,360

Unlike delegation visits

that you also saw listed in our typology,

324

00:21:31,440 --> 00:21:35,040

ID missions have a more operational goal,

325

00:21:35,120 --> 00:21:39,440

which is to verify identity

and facilitate the return process.

326

00:21:39,520 --> 00:21:44,520

They are typically organized when

diplomatic missions in the host country

327

00:21:44,600 --> 00:21:49,200

are either unwilling, or, more often,

unable for various reasons

328

00:21:49,280 --> 00:21:53,800

to cooperate on issuing travel documents.

329

00:21:53,880 --> 00:21:57,880

That was it about the operational.

I'll give the floor to you, Constanza.

330

00:21:57,960 --> 00:22:01,600

Yes, and when it comes to

a more political dimension,

331

00:22:01,680 --> 00:22:07,480

among our respondents, we see that

sometimes there is an acknowledgment

332

00:22:07,560 --> 00:22:09,880

that things are not being done properly,

333

00:22:09,960 --> 00:22:13,280

but also a way to say,

"We don't know how"

334

00:22:13,360 --> 00:22:17,520

or, "We don't have

the technical capacity to do so."

335

00:22:17,600 --> 00:22:23,120

A representative of an embassy

from the Caucasus Region told us,

336

00:22:23,200 --> 00:22:25,400

"We follow international legislation."

337

00:22:25,480 --> 00:22:30,360

"But implementation might still be an issue

and not in line with Swedish standards."

338

00:22:30,440 --> 00:22:34,840

"We don't think criticism helps,

but we are happy to receive assistance."

339

00:22:34,920 --> 00:22:41,480

This mirrors what many other

diplomatic representatives told us,

340

00:22:41,560 --> 00:22:46,120

"We know there is a problem,

but we don't come with enough resources"

341

00:22:46,200 --> 00:22:49,440

"to do what is required from us."

342

00:22:49,520 --> 00:22:53,120

Unfortunately, we cannot

go through all these tools,

343

00:22:53,200 --> 00:22:57,120

but we will go deeper

in this political dimension,

344

00:22:57,200 --> 00:23:01,440

in what is called Readmission agreements

and Incentive-based.

345

00:23:01,520 --> 00:23:04,000

When it comes to readmission agreements,

346

00:23:04,080 --> 00:23:08,680

with these we see

proper diplomacy of return.

347

00:23:08,760 --> 00:23:13,080

Elements that are not

purely migration movements

348

00:23:13,160 --> 00:23:18,840

are associated to this negotiation

of these bilateral agreements.

349

00:23:18,920 --> 00:23:23,480

We have three cases in our report,

350

00:23:23,560 --> 00:23:27,880

the cases of the negotiations

with Morocco, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

351

00:23:27,960 --> 00:23:33,600

Iraq and Afghanistan have been

high on the agenda for quite some time.

352

00:23:33,680 --> 00:23:38,560

Morocco, although the cases were

not that many, they were highly visible:

353

00:23:38,640 --> 00:23:43,120

Irregular migrants that were visible

for public opinion in media,

354

00:23:43,200 --> 00:23:45,840

and especially in civil society associations.

355

00:23:45,920 --> 00:23:50,080

So the then government

decided to go forward

356

00:23:50,160 --> 00:23:54,240

and try to reach the authorities

in a different way.

357

00:23:54,320 --> 00:23:58,000

These three cases were all very different.

358

00:23:58,080 --> 00:24:00,840

We have a verbal agreement

in the case of Morocco,

359

00:24:00,920 --> 00:24:03,240

a memorandum of understanding with Iraq,

360

00:24:03,320 --> 00:24:06,040

a memorandum of understanding

with Afghanistan,

361

00:24:06,120 --> 00:24:12,040

and also a joined way forward here,

with the EU initiative in Afghanistan.

362

00:24:12,120 --> 00:24:15,320

They were successful at the beginning.

363

00:24:15,400 --> 00:24:19,760

But a few months after this,

it doesn't seem to work

364

00:24:19,840 --> 00:24:25,120

in terms of cooperation,

in terms of implementing return decisions.

365

00:24:25,200 --> 00:24:31,400

We see that this is not sustainable in time,

the results are not sustainable.

366

00:24:31,480 --> 00:24:35,200

In general, agreements

are linked to good bilateral relations

367

00:24:35,280 --> 00:24:37,400

that are functioning and work well.

368

00:24:37,480 --> 00:24:40,320

There is a preference

for bilateral agreements

369

00:24:40,400 --> 00:24:43,160

among our respondents,

over EU agreements.

370

00:24:43,240 --> 00:24:47,440

Bilateral agreements establish exactly

which agencies should be contacted

371

00:24:47,520 --> 00:24:50,120

or how things are going to be made.

372

00:24:50,200 --> 00:24:53,360

We see that there's very little evaluation,

373

00:24:53,440 --> 00:24:57,280

but when there is an evaluation,

there is a focus on effectiveness,

374

00:24:57,360 --> 00:25:01,080

and not, for example,

on the creation on reintegration programs

375

00:25:01,160 --> 00:25:04,080

and the establishment of a cooperation

376

00:25:04,160 --> 00:25:08,600

and a better knowledge

of the agencies working with readmission

377

00:25:08,680 --> 00:25:10,920

in these countries.

378

00:25:11,000 --> 00:25:14,080

When it comes to

the incentive-based instruments,

379

00:25:14,160 --> 00:25:17,840

we see mentioned "Aid to development".

380

00:25:17,920 --> 00:25:21,120

It's always in the background,

nobody says openly,

381

00:25:21,200 --> 00:25:26,040

"We use aid to development so that

this country can cooperate in readmission."

382

00:25:26,120 --> 00:25:28,600

It's always linked to other factors

383

00:25:28,680 --> 00:25:32,080

and it's mostly expressed

in terms of reintegration grants.

384

00:25:32,160 --> 00:25:34,640

However,

diplomatic missions are very aware

385

00:25:34,720 --> 00:25:39,960

when they are receiving

a certain development aid

386

00:25:40,040 --> 00:25:44,000

that is directly connected

to return and reintegration.

387

00:25:44,080 --> 00:25:49,600

We see that visa facilitation is also

an instrument which is incentive-based.

388

00:25:49,680 --> 00:25:52,440

And it's very important for new states.

389

00:25:52,520 --> 00:25:54,800

Which ones?

390

00:25:54,880 --> 00:25:58,520

Mostly Balkan countries

and former Soviet Republics,

391

00:25:58,600 --> 00:26:03,240

because they are looking to promote

their increasing high educated workforce

392

00:26:03,320 --> 00:26:05,440

and look for legal pathways for them.

393

00:26:05,520 --> 00:26:07,920

So if they comply with decisions

394

00:26:08,000 --> 00:26:12,200

from the Swedish Migration Agency

or the Police Authority,

395

00:26:12,280 --> 00:26:17,480

they believe it's sort of a token so that

they can be able to inform their citizens

396

00:26:17,560 --> 00:26:20,920

the way that they can

legally migrate to Sweden.

397

00:26:21,000 --> 00:26:25,040

We see here a proper leverage

and conditionality approach.

398

00:26:25,120 --> 00:26:29,880

When we read about

these issues in reports,

399

00:26:29,960 --> 00:26:33,760

but also when we asked

our respondents to validate them...

400

00:26:33,840 --> 00:26:35,800

Here we see a more nuanced approach.

401

00:26:35,880 --> 00:26:39,440

It's not only about effectiveness,

it's also about sustainability,

402

00:26:39,520 --> 00:26:43,400

especially because it is

directly connected to reintegration.

403

00:26:43,480 --> 00:26:47,440

Now, when it comes to our embassies,

404

00:26:47,520 --> 00:26:51,720

what does this cooperation look like?

405

00:26:51,800 --> 00:26:55,160

So what works and what doesn't?

It's very simple.

406

00:26:55,240 --> 00:26:57,920

Most of them agree

407

00:26:58,000 --> 00:27:01,880

that there is a certain sense

of order and propriety in Sweden,

408

00:27:01,960 --> 00:27:06,600

and, for the most part, a good tone

from the agencies who contact them

409

00:27:06,680 --> 00:27:10,600

for identification or other purposes.

410

00:27:10,680 --> 00:27:15,240

Also many noted the good conditions

for those in need of support,

411

00:27:15,320 --> 00:27:21,000

with the detention centers often mentioned

as an example for them to follow.

412

00:27:21,080 --> 00:27:23,280

What doesn't work?

413

00:27:23,360 --> 00:27:25,520

A very prevalent...

414

00:27:25,600 --> 00:27:29,480

I don't want to say complaint,

but something they expressed,

415

00:27:29,560 --> 00:27:34,160

is that it is difficult to understand

the Swedish administrative system.

416

00:27:34,240 --> 00:27:36,480

The independency of the agencies,

417

00:27:36,560 --> 00:27:42,880

the different units within just one agency

taking part in the return process...

418

00:27:42,960 --> 00:27:47,760

It's difficult for them to grasp, to understand,

to know who they need to contact

419

00:27:47,840 --> 00:27:53,280

in order to assist a citizen in need,

for example, who has to return.

420

00:27:53,360 --> 00:27:58,760

Many said that they lack

a focal point for migration issues

421

00:27:58,840 --> 00:28:01,800

with the Migration Agency,

the Police Authority,

422

00:28:01,880 --> 00:28:04,360

but most of all with the Justice Department.

423

00:28:04,440 --> 00:28:06,320

They'd like to know, politically,

424

00:28:06,400 --> 00:28:09,840

who they need to approach

when there is a problem.

425

00:28:09,920 --> 00:28:16,640

It is important that - because of the difficulty

in understanding the Swedish system -

426

00:28:16,720 --> 00:28:19,240

it is challenging to discern

427

00:28:19,320 --> 00:28:22,360

the appropriate

point of contact for inquiries,

428

00:28:22,440 --> 00:28:27,240

and not to just be sent

from one phone number to the other.

429

00:28:27,320 --> 00:28:32,360

Another point has to do

with the lack of information

430

00:28:32,440 --> 00:28:35,440

regarding return cases

and the particular situation.

431

00:28:35,520 --> 00:28:38,520

Sometimes it's established

on a readmission agreement

432

00:28:38,600 --> 00:28:41,480

that the embassy needs to be informed.

433

00:28:41,560 --> 00:28:45,320

Sometimes it isn't,

but when it isn't, they'd like to know.

434

00:28:45,400 --> 00:28:48,320

And if they can't,

they'd like to know why.

435

00:28:48,400 --> 00:28:53,480

Especially they would like information

about those in a detention center.

436

00:28:53,560 --> 00:28:58,920

Many complain that family members

sometimes approach them and ask for help

437

00:28:59,000 --> 00:29:02,960

or to identify in which detention center

their family member is,

438

00:29:03,040 --> 00:29:06,560

and they were unable

to deliver this information.

439

00:29:06,640 --> 00:29:10,600

There is also a problem

in understanding, or even grasping,

440

00:29:10,680 --> 00:29:14,760

the Swedish Public Access

to Information and Secrecy Act,

441

00:29:14,840 --> 00:29:18,200

<i>Offentlighets- och sekretesslagen.</i>

442

00:29:18,280 --> 00:29:22,360

When it's known,

they more or less understand why,

443

00:29:22,440 --> 00:29:25,480

the impossibility

of the Swedish authorities to inform.

444

00:29:25,560 --> 00:29:28,080

But many of them

don't come with this knowledge

445

00:29:28,160 --> 00:29:31,000

when they arrive to Sweden

to represent their country

446

00:29:31,080 --> 00:29:34,600

or assist citizens in consular matters.

447

00:29:34,680 --> 00:29:36,720

So, what can be improved?

448

00:29:36,800 --> 00:29:40,120

First of all, they would like

more comprehensive cooperation,

449

00:29:40,200 --> 00:29:44,880

and with "cooperation", they mean

communication with Swedish agencies.

450

00:29:44,960 --> 00:29:47,120

This has to do with the nature

451

00:29:47,200 --> 00:29:51,680

and also the content,

what is communicated.

452

00:29:51,760 --> 00:29:55,960

Then the knowledge

of the legal certainty of the process.

453

00:29:56,040 --> 00:30:02,160

Is this person extinguishing

all avenues to stay regularly in Sweden?

454

00:30:02,240 --> 00:30:05,520

The information

on the enforcement of the decisions.

455

00:30:05,600 --> 00:30:09,160

Sometimes they need to know because

their government has contacted them

456

00:30:09,240 --> 00:30:15,400

and told them, "A charter plane landed

from Sweden and you didn't tell us."

457

00:30:15,480 --> 00:30:17,560

"What are you doing there?"

458

00:30:17,640 --> 00:30:20,800

That's the sort of queries

that they might have.

459

00:30:20,880 --> 00:30:28,120

They also need some understanding

in their wish to assist nationals in need.

460

00:30:28,200 --> 00:30:30,520

For example,

461

00:30:30,600 --> 00:30:35,200

a representative of the mission at

the Moroccan embassy in Stockholm to us

462

00:30:35,280 --> 00:30:39,960

that they want to make sure

that citizens don't go back to Morocco

463

00:30:40,040 --> 00:30:44,240

and find out that more could have

been done for them to stay in Sweden.

464

00:30:44,320 --> 00:30:51,760

Finally, if we made a soft classification

of cases within return and readmission,

465

00:30:51,840 --> 00:30:55,840

when it comes to cooperation,

but also implementation,

466

00:30:55,920 --> 00:31:00,600

we can easily distinguish the countries

that have been classified as "best practice".

467

00:31:00,680 --> 00:31:03,040

Here we have Balkan countries,

468

00:31:03,120 --> 00:31:07,080

which have a long history

of cooperation in return and readmission.

469

00:31:07,160 --> 00:31:09,720

You probably remember 20 years ago,

470

00:31:09,800 --> 00:31:15,600

the number of Serbians returning

was significantly higher than today.

471

00:31:15,680 --> 00:31:21,600

Also Georgia, which has actually deployed

the most resources to cooperate here.

472

00:31:21,680 --> 00:31:23,800

Then we have many other countries

473

00:31:23,880 --> 00:31:27,000

which are classified

as "potential for improvement":

474

00:31:27,080 --> 00:31:30,440

Mongolia, Bangladesh,

countries in the Caucasus region.

475

00:31:30,520 --> 00:31:32,680

They want to come closer to Sweden,

476

00:31:32,760 --> 00:31:37,040

but sometimes they lack

the technical capacity to cooperate,

477

00:31:37,120 --> 00:31:39,280

and sometimes the understanding.

478

00:31:39,360 --> 00:31:41,960

When it comes to the unavoidable cases,

479

00:31:42,040 --> 00:31:45,920

I know that many efforts have been done

with these two countries,

480

00:31:46,000 --> 00:31:48,240

with Iraq and Afghanistan.

481

00:31:48,320 --> 00:31:50,600

These are very special countries.

482

00:31:50,680 --> 00:31:55,920

Safety in the countries sometimes make it

so that the asylum seekers

483

00:31:56,000 --> 00:32:00,360

might have opted for asylum one month

and not the other.

484

00:32:00,440 --> 00:32:03,400

So, it is difficult, but it is unavoidable

485

00:32:03,480 --> 00:32:09,240

because in both cases, they have been

at the top ten for the last ten years.

486

00:32:09,320 --> 00:32:14,480

Different strategies have been presented

to deal with these issues,

487

00:32:14,560 --> 00:32:18,960

but we call them "unavoidable"

because something has to be done about it.

488

00:32:19,040 --> 00:32:24,600

And a very interesting category,

the so-called non-readmission countries.

489

00:32:24,680 --> 00:32:28,280

Unfortunately, we only got

a response from Cuba here,

490

00:32:28,360 --> 00:32:33,240

so we cannot really

say much more about the other countries.

491

00:32:33,320 --> 00:32:37,560

But what is interesting is that

the first thing we asked them was,

492

00:32:37,640 --> 00:32:42,920

Why is the country

not readmitting its own citizens?

493

00:32:43,000 --> 00:32:47,080

And the answer was not,

"It's unpopular, it's costly."

494

00:32:47,160 --> 00:32:50,800

It was very simple,

"We don't have the legislation to do so."

495

00:32:50,880 --> 00:32:53,560

Okay, but have you <i>had</i>

the legislation to do so?

496

00:32:53,640 --> 00:32:56,040

"Yes, twice. With the United States."

497

00:32:56,120 --> 00:32:59,920

So, if there is a dialogue

we could be able to open a door there.

498

00:33:00,000 --> 00:33:02,360

We cannot generalize only from this case.

499

00:33:02,440 --> 00:33:08,080

It would have been interesting to also show

what the other embassies thought about it.

500

00:33:08,160 --> 00:33:11,640

But this shows us

that cooperation actually...

501

00:33:11,720 --> 00:33:16,680

Although we can classify this regarding

the implementation and cooperation,

502

00:33:16,760 --> 00:33:20,240

we can see that cooperation

might vary in all categories.

503

00:33:20,320 --> 00:33:24,320

A country classified as best practice

could actually complain

504

00:33:24,400 --> 00:33:27,720

that certain parts of the agreement

are not being fulfilled,

505

00:33:27,800 --> 00:33:32,520

and Cuba might say,

"Yes, we called the Migration Agency"

506

00:33:32,600 --> 00:33:35,720

"to explain to our citizens

that they need to go back."

507

00:33:35,800 --> 00:33:38,360

Finally, our recommendations.

508

00:33:38,440 --> 00:33:41,520

I won't read them all,

we are running out of time.

509

00:33:41,600 --> 00:33:43,320

Annika is looking at me.

510

00:33:43,400 --> 00:33:45,160

We have certain recommendations

511

00:33:45,240 --> 00:33:47,920

at the operational level

and the political level.

512

00:33:48,000 --> 00:33:53,840

You can read this in the report,

but also in the policy brief.

513

00:33:53,920 --> 00:33:56,920

Basically, we ask for evaluation

514

00:33:57,000 --> 00:34:01,880

and more communication

and systematic communication programs

515

00:34:01,960 --> 00:34:04,680

with diplomatic representations.

516

00:34:04,760 --> 00:34:11,120

And at the political level, of course,

a redefinition of the goal of "effectiveness",

517

00:34:11,200 --> 00:34:14,680

and a long-term strategy

towards return and readmission,

518

00:34:14,760 --> 00:34:18,440

distinguishing the need

for both general and ad hoc incentives.

519

00:34:18,520 --> 00:34:24,280

Because if there is some phenomena

that is difficult to predict, it is migration.

520

00:34:24,360 --> 00:34:30,000

So we need a long-standing effort,

but we need flexible strategies.

521

00:34:30,080 --> 00:34:32,640

Thank you very much.

522

00:34:38,120 --> 00:34:40,840

Thank you very much, Constanza and Iris,

523

00:34:40,920 --> 00:34:45,880

for a very interesting

and groundbreaking report, I would say.

524

00:34:45,960 --> 00:34:50,920

Showing us all the complexities

in the readmission process.

525

00:34:51,000 --> 00:34:57,520

Now we're going to discuss this process,

focusing a little more on policy.

526

00:34:57,600 --> 00:35:00,680

So we will come back

to your recommendations, I promise.

527

00:35:00,760 --> 00:35:05,560

To do so, we have

a very initiated and knowledgeable panel.

528

00:35:05,640 --> 00:35:09,960

I want to welcome first...

We're very happy to have Mr. Ambassador,

529

00:35:10,040 --> 00:35:13,880

Mehreteab Mulugeta,

from the Ethiopian embassy. Welcome.

530

00:35:13,960 --> 00:35:17,640

We're also very happy

to have Mr. Anders Hall,

531

00:35:17,720 --> 00:35:21,320

State Secretary to the Minister

for Migration, Johan Forsell.

532

00:35:21,400 --> 00:35:25,560

And, finally, I'm very happy

to welcome Elin Svensson...

533

00:35:25,640 --> 00:35:27,960

Elin, maybe you can stand over there?

534

00:35:28,040 --> 00:35:31,200

Elin Svensson,

who is the project leader for Returns

535

00:35:31,280 --> 00:35:34,480

at the Swedish Migration Agency.

536

00:35:34,560 --> 00:35:40,360

We will go into the different issues

that the report discussed,

537

00:35:40,440 --> 00:35:44,880

but before we do that,

I would like to start with a short round

538

00:35:44,960 --> 00:35:47,720

with the panel participants.

539

00:35:47,800 --> 00:35:52,680

And, actually, Iris and Constanza

will also come into the panel a little later.

540

00:35:52,760 --> 00:35:56,800

But first I want to start

with our three guests...

541

00:35:56,880 --> 00:36:00,360

Just a short general reflection on the report.

542

00:36:00,440 --> 00:36:04,360

What is your main takeaway?

Or did you recognize yourself?

543

00:36:04,440 --> 00:36:08,520

What were you thinking

while reading this report? Mr. Ambassador?

544

00:36:08,600 --> 00:36:10,680

Thank you very much.

545

00:36:10,760 --> 00:36:14,840

First of all, I would like to thank Delmi

for preparing this event,

546

00:36:14,920 --> 00:36:21,000

and also congratulate Constanza and Iris

for preparing a very concise report.

547

00:36:21,080 --> 00:36:24,240

It was very interesting reading the report.

548

00:36:24,320 --> 00:36:27,280

Coming back to your question...

549

00:36:27,360 --> 00:36:33,160

The report, in my opinion, highlighted

that cooperation is very necessary

550

00:36:33,240 --> 00:36:38,480

between the diplomatic missions

and the different Swedish agencies.

551

00:36:38,560 --> 00:36:43,760

And unless we cooperate, the return

and readmission process is not functional.

552

00:36:43,840 --> 00:36:47,120

We cannot just follow

the mechanical issues.

553

00:36:47,200 --> 00:36:51,960

We should take into consideration

political issues and the different aspects

554

00:36:52,040 --> 00:36:56,200

and different cultures, laws,

and regulations in the different countries.

555

00:36:56,280 --> 00:37:01,360

Also, I believe that the report

highlighted to the Swedish authorities

556

00:37:01,440 --> 00:37:06,120

on the functions

and capabilities of missions.

557

00:37:06,200 --> 00:37:08,400

How do we function? How do we work?

558

00:37:08,480 --> 00:37:12,000

What are our mandates

in regard to returns and admission?

559

00:37:12,080 --> 00:37:17,280

So the report shows us to understand

the challenges and the opportunities

560

00:37:17,360 --> 00:37:19,960

in return and readmission cases.

561

00:37:20,040 --> 00:37:22,160

-Thank you.

-Thank you.

562

00:37:22,240 --> 00:37:24,160

-Anders?

-Yes, thank you very much.

563

00:37:24,240 --> 00:37:27,640

It's a very interesting report, and...

564

00:37:27,720 --> 00:37:32,920

Many of the conclusions that you come to,

when it comes on the political level,

565

00:37:33,000 --> 00:37:36,360

go very much in line

with how we are trying to operate.

566

00:37:36,440 --> 00:37:40,880

So it feels gratifying to know

that we are on the right path in that sense.

567

00:37:40,960 --> 00:37:46,240

Of course, it's especially interesting

to look into what doesn't work.

568

00:37:46,320 --> 00:37:52,600

And especially the conclusion

that it is sometimes difficult to understand

569

00:37:52,680 --> 00:37:56,720

the Swedish administrative system

and data protection legislation.

570

00:37:56,800 --> 00:37:59,720

Yes, I can only agree. It is!

571

00:37:59,800 --> 00:38:02,880

There is, of course,

a challenge for us to make this

572

00:38:02,960 --> 00:38:06,600

as clear and understandable as possible.

573

00:38:06,680 --> 00:38:11,840

I think that in one of your slides,

you had put political dialogue

574

00:38:11,920 --> 00:38:15,720

in a category of "last resort"...

575

00:38:15,800 --> 00:38:18,800

And that I would beg to differ with,

576

00:38:18,880 --> 00:38:22,560

because I would say

that all cooperation on return

577

00:38:22,640 --> 00:38:25,120

starts and ends with political dialogue.

578

00:38:25,200 --> 00:38:28,520

Because, as Mr. Ambassador was saying,

579

00:38:28,600 --> 00:38:31,560

there has to be

an on-going political dialogue,

580

00:38:31,640 --> 00:38:38,280

where we build an understanding

of what is important for each country.

581

00:38:38,360 --> 00:38:42,080

And try to find common ground

to go forward.

582

00:38:42,160 --> 00:38:46,280

I would say

the political dialogue is very much...

583

00:38:46,360 --> 00:38:50,240

...something that is tying together

all the different things

584

00:38:50,320 --> 00:38:53,040

that we are trying to do

when it comes to returns.

585

00:38:53,120 --> 00:38:56,840

Thank you.

Elin, what are your takeaways?

586

00:38:56,920 --> 00:39:02,640

You are more in the practical... doing this.

What are your takeaways?

587

00:39:02,720 --> 00:39:07,080

I think that studies like this one

are always useful

588

00:39:07,160 --> 00:39:10,760

for agencies

like the Swedish Migration Agency.

589

00:39:10,840 --> 00:39:15,640

The findings are definitely helpful.

590

00:39:15,720 --> 00:39:20,280

And there are a number of things

in the report

591

00:39:20,360 --> 00:39:23,840

that we both

appreciate to learn more about

592

00:39:23,920 --> 00:39:28,440

and also to start discussing

internally in the Agency

593

00:39:28,520 --> 00:39:30,840

and with other agencies in Sweden,

594

00:39:30,920 --> 00:39:34,280

on how we can improve.

595

00:39:34,360 --> 00:39:38,800

I think it was very clear

when you put up the slide with the map,

596

00:39:38,880 --> 00:39:42,040

or the graph that showed the process.

597

00:39:42,120 --> 00:39:44,720

I think we all just said, "What?"

598

00:39:44,800 --> 00:39:48,920

We had a little bit of trouble

following all the arrows.

599

00:39:49,000 --> 00:39:52,800

But I think it was very effective,

because it really showed

600

00:39:52,880 --> 00:39:57,560

what a complex landscape

the readmission process is.

601

00:39:57,640 --> 00:40:03,400

And, Anders, you were raising

the importance of the political dialogue...

602

00:40:03,480 --> 00:40:08,320

One main takeaway in the report

is around communication.

603

00:40:08,400 --> 00:40:13,280

Many of the embassies

witness that they lack information

604

00:40:13,360 --> 00:40:17,920

about Swedish migration policies,

as well as the roles and responsibilities

605

00:40:18,000 --> 00:40:21,200

of the Swedish agencies

in the area of migration.

606

00:40:21,280 --> 00:40:25,120

Mr. Ambassador, is this something

that you have experienced?

607

00:40:25,200 --> 00:40:27,240

And what do you think?

608

00:40:27,320 --> 00:40:30,720

How can diplomatic missions

and Swedish authorities

609

00:40:30,800 --> 00:40:34,960

improve communication

and mutual understanding?

610

00:40:35,040 --> 00:40:37,920

As you said, you know, sometimes...

611

00:40:38,000 --> 00:40:43,800

For example, when you come

as a new diplomat to Sweden...

612

00:40:43,880 --> 00:40:47,640

First you don't have

any idea about the agencies.

613

00:40:47,720 --> 00:40:50,240

Just to give you my example...

614

00:40:50,320 --> 00:40:53,840

When I came here two years ago,

615

00:40:53,920 --> 00:40:57,160

I had some difficulty

understanding who is who,

616

00:40:57,240 --> 00:41:00,080

the Migration Agency

and the Swedish police.

617

00:41:00,160 --> 00:41:02,440

Sometimes they come together

to my office,

618

00:41:02,520 --> 00:41:05,880

sometimes they come separately,

but they talk the same thing.

619

00:41:05,960 --> 00:41:10,440

So, until I understood who is who,

620

00:41:10,520 --> 00:41:13,280

and what they are doing

and how they function,

621

00:41:13,360 --> 00:41:14,960

and, as the report says,

622

00:41:15,040 --> 00:41:23,040

what is

their subsequent separate obligations,

623

00:41:23,120 --> 00:41:28,040

it is difficult to understand,

really, how they function.

624

00:41:28,120 --> 00:41:30,880

Communication helps in that regard.

625

00:41:30,960 --> 00:41:37,160

What I have seen is that maybe if

the Swedish agencies take some time,

626

00:41:37,240 --> 00:41:41,120

the State Secretary

did some briefings for us...

627

00:41:41,200 --> 00:41:45,680

But if that kind of briefing could be

regular for the missions, you know?

628

00:41:45,760 --> 00:41:48,360

Usually, new diplomats come

629

00:41:48,440 --> 00:41:51,560

during the summer

or at the end of the year...

630

00:41:51,640 --> 00:41:54,240

So that we can have,

for new diplomats to have:

631

00:41:54,320 --> 00:41:56,640

Who is who? What they are doing.

632

00:41:56,720 --> 00:42:00,280

It will give us a clearer idea of our function.

633

00:42:00,360 --> 00:42:05,040

And for the embassies, also,

I would suggest to have some focal person

634

00:42:05,120 --> 00:42:08,440

who directly communicates

with these agencies.

635

00:42:08,520 --> 00:42:11,640

Then there will not be

any disruption of communication,

636

00:42:11,720 --> 00:42:15,000

and we would understand what is going on.

637

00:42:15,080 --> 00:42:19,360

This kind of arrangement

from both sides would help,

638

00:42:19,440 --> 00:42:21,040

and constant communication.

639

00:42:21,120 --> 00:42:26,520

And also getting some feedback

on our return and readmission processes.

640

00:42:26,600 --> 00:42:31,440

If we get feedback and exchange ideas

after the return and readmission,

641

00:42:31,520 --> 00:42:34,240

that would be very important, I think.

Thank you.

642

00:42:34,320 --> 00:42:36,880

Some really practical things

643

00:42:36,960 --> 00:42:42,000

that the Swedish agencies

and ministries could do to help.

644

00:42:42,080 --> 00:42:44,320

-And also...

-The missions as well.

645

00:42:44,400 --> 00:42:46,680

Elin, is this something that you recognize?

646

00:42:46,760 --> 00:42:51,200

How does the Migration Agency

work with these issues?

647

00:42:52,280 --> 00:42:56,480

Well, I think that we try to explain

648

00:42:56,560 --> 00:42:59,560

how we work

and how the Swedish system works,

649

00:42:59,640 --> 00:43:01,840

but it can always improve.

650

00:43:01,920 --> 00:43:05,760

That's also clear

with the results of this report, of course.

651

00:43:05,840 --> 00:43:09,000

So, I think that there's

definitely room for improvement

652

00:43:09,080 --> 00:43:11,640

and it's something that we have to look into,

653

00:43:11,720 --> 00:43:15,000

together with, specifically,

the Swedish police

654

00:43:15,080 --> 00:43:19,280

and also the prison and probation services.

655

00:43:19,360 --> 00:43:23,600

How we communicate

and what we actually say,

656

00:43:23,680 --> 00:43:26,800

and what information

could be made available.

657

00:43:26,880 --> 00:43:30,680

This suggestion of having

a focal point, for example...

658

00:43:30,760 --> 00:43:35,240

Would it improve the process

if there was a focal point at the embassies,

659

00:43:35,320 --> 00:43:39,840

and also one at the Migration Agency,

that had this regular contact

660

00:43:39,920 --> 00:43:43,920

and could also build trust

and understanding between each other?

661

00:43:44,000 --> 00:43:48,760

Possibly. I don't think that there is

one solution that fits all missions.

662

00:43:48,840 --> 00:43:55,360

So, it would probably have to be looked at

at sort of a larger expansion,

663

00:43:55,440 --> 00:43:58,400

to see whether or not

it would work in all cases.

664

00:43:58,480 --> 00:44:01,640

You'd have to also

be flexible to different countries.

665

00:44:01,720 --> 00:44:07,720

I think so, and then, of course,

as an estate agency, we like systemization.

666

00:44:07,800 --> 00:44:14,560

We like things to be, as also

is concluded in the report, in order.

667

00:44:14,640 --> 00:44:17,680

And that's not always actually helpful

668

00:44:17,760 --> 00:44:21,720

when you work with

other countries and foreign missions.

669

00:44:21,800 --> 00:44:28,520

So, it's a challenge that we actually

have to acknowledge and look into a bit.

670

00:44:28,600 --> 00:44:32,240

I want to go back

to the process and the map.

671

00:44:32,320 --> 00:44:37,080

And also, you went through

all these mechanisms and tools,

672

00:44:37,160 --> 00:44:42,200

and we had a structured map.

It looked complicated, but there is at least...

673

00:44:42,280 --> 00:44:44,880

There is a path through this process.

674

00:44:44,960 --> 00:44:48,920

But even so, the conclusion

from the report is that there is need

675

00:44:49,000 --> 00:44:51,480

for a more structured

and strategic approach

676

00:44:51,560 --> 00:44:53,960

to readmission agreements.

677

00:44:54,040 --> 00:44:58,520

Also noting that sometimes

these agreements are not very successful.

678

00:44:58,600 --> 00:45:00,600

And rarely are evaluated.

679

00:45:00,680 --> 00:45:05,480

So, Anders, is this something that

the Swedish government is discussing

680

00:45:05,560 --> 00:45:09,520

and taking any steps to adopt

a more structured approach?

681

00:45:09,600 --> 00:45:14,600

And how can we improve evaluation

and get this to be a learning process?

682

00:45:14,680 --> 00:45:17,560

And feed a learning experience

into the process?

683

00:45:17,640 --> 00:45:19,640

Let me begin by saying

684

00:45:19,720 --> 00:45:25,360

that I wouldn't say that

readmission agreements is a goal in itself.

685

00:45:25,440 --> 00:45:27,040

The end goal for us

686

00:45:27,120 --> 00:45:30,600

is to have a functioning cooperation

between countries.

687

00:45:30,680 --> 00:45:34,720

Sometimes it helps to have this formalized

in terms of an agreement.

688

00:45:34,800 --> 00:45:37,520

But it is a misconception to believe

689

00:45:37,600 --> 00:45:41,000

that once you have an agreement signed,

everything will work,

690

00:45:41,080 --> 00:45:45,080

and you can end with

the political dialogue and the ongoing work.

691

00:45:45,160 --> 00:45:47,160

That is not the case.

692

00:45:47,240 --> 00:45:51,240

We started two years ago

in the government

693

00:45:51,360 --> 00:45:55,360

by creating a state secretary group

for migration issues

694

00:45:55,440 --> 00:45:58,840

to tie the work inside the government

better together,

695

00:45:58,920 --> 00:46:04,160

what we're doing on the foreign office side:

foreign policy, development policy,

696

00:46:04,240 --> 00:46:06,240

and then on the migration side.

697

00:46:06,320 --> 00:46:11,200

Then we have also replicated that work

with the agencies,

698

00:46:11,280 --> 00:46:17,440

in order to go through comprehensively

with each and every country:

699

00:46:17,520 --> 00:46:20,680

What problems

do we need to solve in this case?

700

00:46:20,760 --> 00:46:23,280

Because, as you pointed out in your study,

701

00:46:23,360 --> 00:46:25,960

it looks very different

from country to country.

702

00:46:26,040 --> 00:46:28,760

There is not one model

where you can say,

703

00:46:28,840 --> 00:46:32,960

"Now we have the structure.

We'll do this for each and every country."

704

00:46:33,040 --> 00:46:37,600

You have to look at it case by case

and remember that this is...

705

00:46:37,680 --> 00:46:41,760

When you do this seriously,

you're in for a long-term relationship.

706

00:46:41,840 --> 00:46:44,600

You're building a relationship,

707

00:46:44,720 --> 00:46:48,280

you're building confidence

with the country in question

708

00:46:48,360 --> 00:46:50,400

that we can work together on this.

709

00:46:50,480 --> 00:46:56,000

We can make this work in a way

that is mutually beneficial for us.

710

00:46:56,080 --> 00:47:00,000

And that takes time,

and it has to be continuous work.

711

00:47:00,080 --> 00:47:05,280

And it's not a single blueprint

for all the countries.

712

00:47:06,320 --> 00:47:11,560

But what would you say, if you were

to make any changes to the process?

713

00:47:11,640 --> 00:47:14,800

What is the most important thing

to work on now?

714

00:47:14,880 --> 00:47:20,120

Can you answer that question or is it just

so different between different countries?

715

00:47:20,200 --> 00:47:25,760

No, but I think there's a number of

important details mentioned in the report

716

00:47:25,840 --> 00:47:29,800

of how this works

on an operational level, to make it easier.

717

00:47:29,880 --> 00:47:34,000

And that is something

that we would happily leave to you.

718

00:47:34,080 --> 00:47:40,480

I think, on the political side,

we are still working with tying all...

719

00:47:40,560 --> 00:47:43,600

...to work from

a "whole of government" approach.

720

00:47:43,680 --> 00:47:48,720

To see that we have a couple of issues

that are important to us in Sweden,

721

00:47:48,800 --> 00:47:52,880

the country we are cooperating with

have some things that are important,

722

00:47:52,960 --> 00:47:56,160

but how can we put this

into a comprehensive portfolio

723

00:47:56,240 --> 00:47:59,160

where we find things

that are of mutual benefit?

724

00:47:59,240 --> 00:48:02,960

Because then when we are

both feeling committed and engaged,

725

00:48:03,040 --> 00:48:07,360

this is something where return

and readmission might be a small part,

726

00:48:07,440 --> 00:48:09,760

but an important part for us.

727

00:48:09,840 --> 00:48:13,880

When we can fit that

into a "whole of government" approach,

728

00:48:13,960 --> 00:48:17,080

we can make this

sustainable for a long time,

729

00:48:17,160 --> 00:48:19,160

then it will work much better,

730

00:48:19,240 --> 00:48:24,240

instead of just making

sort of emergency action,

731

00:48:24,320 --> 00:48:27,960

when it's sometimes grinding to a halt

732

00:48:28,040 --> 00:48:32,640

on just reintegration or return issues.

733

00:48:32,720 --> 00:48:35,720

Because that we have tried,

and it doesn't work.

734

00:48:35,800 --> 00:48:39,200

So it's really what Iris and Constanza

are talking about,

735

00:48:39,280 --> 00:48:43,680

this holistic view of the process

and the holistic effectiveness.

736

00:48:43,760 --> 00:48:48,160

Mr. Ambassador, what's your reflection

on that concept, holistic effectiveness?

737

00:48:48,240 --> 00:48:51,800

As I tried to mention at the beginning,

738

00:48:51,880 --> 00:48:55,120

doing it mechanically will not give

739

00:48:55,200 --> 00:48:58,720

whatever result

we want to achieve in this regard.

740

00:48:58,800 --> 00:49:03,040

But looking into the issues

in each country, case by case...

741

00:49:03,120 --> 00:49:07,320

In regards to that, we have

to consider what are the situations

742

00:49:07,400 --> 00:49:10,240

within those countries,

the countries of origin.

743

00:49:10,320 --> 00:49:15,240

What's happening inside the country?

The political situation should be considered.

744

00:49:15,320 --> 00:49:22,160

As the State Secretary said, we cannot

just go into return and readmission only,

745

00:49:22,240 --> 00:49:27,160

we have to see the whole component,

so the holistic approach is very important.

746

00:49:27,240 --> 00:49:30,880

Iris and Costanza,

I want to invite you to sort of...

747

00:49:30,960 --> 00:49:33,480

Your reflections on the discussion so far.

748

00:49:33,560 --> 00:49:36,360

-Do you recognize...?

-Definitely.

749

00:49:36,440 --> 00:49:40,800

I think a lot of our key points

have been summarized in this discussion.

750

00:49:40,880 --> 00:49:45,080

I just want to bring back

the conversation to something...

751

00:49:45,160 --> 00:49:48,560

Anders, you brought up

the readmission agreement,

752

00:49:48,640 --> 00:49:52,600

it not being an end in itself,

and I think that's very true.

753

00:49:52,680 --> 00:49:57,200

You can have great cooperation

and well-functioning readmission

754

00:49:57,280 --> 00:49:58,960

without an agreement.

755

00:49:59,040 --> 00:50:01,240

But I think, at the operational level,

756

00:50:01,320 --> 00:50:04,720

when you take it down

to the nitty-gritty of doing the work,

757

00:50:04,800 --> 00:50:06,880

the readmission agreements really help.

758

00:50:06,960 --> 00:50:11,000

It helps the Swedish agencies

and the consular sections.

759

00:50:11,080 --> 00:50:13,520

Because, as mentioned,

they shift personnel,

760

00:50:13,600 --> 00:50:18,360

so having that agreement on paper

is really useful for the new staff coming in

761

00:50:18,440 --> 00:50:21,200

trying to understand

and navigate these processes.

762

00:50:21,280 --> 00:50:24,400

So I think one should not

give up the agreements,

763

00:50:24,480 --> 00:50:30,080

but have in mind

that they can be very useful... Yeah.

764

00:50:30,160 --> 00:50:33,080

No, absolutely.

I think that's a valid point.

765

00:50:33,160 --> 00:50:35,120

Having sort of a roadmap

766

00:50:35,200 --> 00:50:38,320

for the operational agencies

to work from is very valuable.

767

00:50:38,400 --> 00:50:41,960

The point is that reaching an agreement

768

00:50:42,040 --> 00:50:45,280

is not an end of the process,

it is the beginning.

769

00:50:45,360 --> 00:50:47,720

From then on, we start working together,

770

00:50:47,800 --> 00:50:51,600

and that is going

to take continuous engagement as well.

771

00:50:51,680 --> 00:50:54,600

Is this something you agree with, Elin?

772

00:50:54,680 --> 00:51:00,880

Well, the agreements that are in place

have been useful for us as an agency.

773

00:51:00,960 --> 00:51:04,040

But I think that...

774

00:51:04,120 --> 00:51:08,240

I agree with the point

that the collaboration as such

775

00:51:08,320 --> 00:51:12,240

is the most important thing,

that's sort of the essence.

776

00:51:12,320 --> 00:51:17,880

The agreement is there, and it can probably

be helpful in various parts of the process,

777

00:51:17,960 --> 00:51:22,040

but I think that it's the relationship

that's important.

778

00:51:22,120 --> 00:51:24,680

-And the trust, I think?

-Exactly.

779

00:51:24,760 --> 00:51:28,520

To nourish the relationship is key.

780

00:51:28,600 --> 00:51:33,960

Because one challenge

that the report discusses

781

00:51:34,040 --> 00:51:37,720

is just how to find the balance

782

00:51:37,800 --> 00:51:43,320

between the diplomatic relations

and also the punitive.

783

00:51:43,400 --> 00:51:46,280

What do you do

when countries aren't cooperating?

784

00:51:46,360 --> 00:51:48,200

When this is not working?

785

00:51:48,280 --> 00:51:55,200

And how do you find

that balance, Mr. Ambassador?

786

00:51:55,280 --> 00:52:01,040

Well, you know, sometimes,

these punitive measures,

787

00:52:01,120 --> 00:52:06,120

when it is implemented,

788

00:52:06,200 --> 00:52:12,440

kind of creates some kind of diplomatic...

What can I say?

789

00:52:12,520 --> 00:52:15,280

-Friction?

-I don't want to say friction.

790

00:52:15,360 --> 00:52:19,480

But there are some kinds of causes to...

Okay, causes to friction.

791

00:52:19,560 --> 00:52:22,880

So, now, for the EU sometimes...

792

00:52:22,960 --> 00:52:27,240

We have signed an agreement with the EU,

including, of course, Sweden,

793

00:52:27,320 --> 00:52:29,880

and they try to put these sanctions...

794

00:52:29,960 --> 00:52:36,720

And from our side, that sanction we believe

is not at the right time or moment,

795

00:52:36,800 --> 00:52:40,360

because we believe that we have been

cooperating with Sweden.

796

00:52:40,440 --> 00:52:44,800

So, sometimes it can jeopardize

the good cooperation that is happening

797

00:52:44,880 --> 00:52:48,920

between the countries of origin

and the host country.

798

00:52:49,000 --> 00:52:53,040

So, understanding the issues

of the countries of origin

799

00:52:53,120 --> 00:52:56,120

and the issues of the host country,

800

00:52:56,200 --> 00:53:00,520

and creating this understanding

is very important.

801

00:53:00,600 --> 00:53:03,920

As I said, punitive measures

might work sometimes,

802

00:53:04,000 --> 00:53:09,000

but it might also have a negative effect

on diplomatic relations and cooperation.

803

00:53:09,080 --> 00:53:13,000

Anders, what do you say?

It's, of course, a very difficult balance.

804

00:53:13,080 --> 00:53:17,200

To begin with, I do not like

the term "punitive measures"...

805

00:53:17,280 --> 00:53:20,400

I would say what it actually boils down to

806

00:53:20,480 --> 00:53:25,000

is that the country we're cooperating with

has certain interests,

807

00:53:25,080 --> 00:53:27,720

we have certain interests.

808

00:53:27,800 --> 00:53:31,120

They have something we want,

we have something they want.

809

00:53:31,200 --> 00:53:34,600

We need to make sure

that there is a balance on the scales.

810

00:53:34,680 --> 00:53:39,800

And that is not just in terms of

what you are committing to do,

811

00:53:39,880 --> 00:53:44,000

it's also boiling down to

what is actually happening on the ground.

812

00:53:44,080 --> 00:53:48,800

And as long as we can ensure that,

yes, our interests are taken care of

813

00:53:48,880 --> 00:53:51,480

we will make sure that yours are too.

814

00:53:51,560 --> 00:53:57,680

That there is a balance between these two,

I think that is what it comes down to.

815

00:53:57,760 --> 00:54:00,960

It's a mutual respect

816

00:54:01,040 --> 00:54:05,320

in what is important

for each and every country.

817

00:54:05,400 --> 00:54:08,160

Elin, thinking about...

818

00:54:08,240 --> 00:54:11,680

We've heard about

the embassies' difficulties

819

00:54:11,760 --> 00:54:14,320

in understanding our Swedish system

820

00:54:14,400 --> 00:54:19,480

and the various agencies in Sweden

and their responsibilities.

821

00:54:19,560 --> 00:54:21,360

But what would you say?

822

00:54:21,440 --> 00:54:23,960

Because there must also be similar issues

823

00:54:24,040 --> 00:54:27,120

between agencies

and the political level in Sweden,

824

00:54:27,200 --> 00:54:32,560

finding trust and a working relationship

to get this process working, or...?

825

00:54:32,640 --> 00:54:38,320

It's nothing that the report is talking about,

but I was just...

826

00:54:38,400 --> 00:54:41,520

I think the trust

between the Swedish agencies

827

00:54:41,600 --> 00:54:45,920

and the ministries is there,

no doubt about it.

828

00:54:46,000 --> 00:54:50,800

And I think we collaborate well,

but there is always room for improvement.

829

00:54:50,880 --> 00:54:54,240

But that has nothing to do,

really, with a lack of trust.

830

00:54:54,320 --> 00:54:58,520

It's rather sort of organizational issues...

831

00:54:58,600 --> 00:55:02,320

I think, for instance,

when the individual agencies

832

00:55:02,400 --> 00:55:05,840

rearrange their organization

or their internal processes,

833

00:55:05,920 --> 00:55:07,840

we don't necessarily always

834

00:55:07,920 --> 00:55:13,160

change the surface of collaboration

between the organizations accordingly.

835

00:55:13,240 --> 00:55:17,040

So they could sort of be falling behind.

836

00:55:17,120 --> 00:55:21,200

So it could be improved,

837

00:55:21,280 --> 00:55:25,400

but not because of a lack of trust,

that's not the issue.

838

00:55:25,480 --> 00:55:29,040

I would also just like to stress

what's been said before,

839

00:55:29,120 --> 00:55:32,360

that this <i>is</i> a complicated process.

840

00:55:32,440 --> 00:55:39,240

The whole return process and the picture

that was shown previously in the study...

841

00:55:39,320 --> 00:55:43,280

It shows the complexity,

but as I said to you before as well,

842

00:55:43,360 --> 00:55:47,080

that's the picture of when the system works.

843

00:55:47,160 --> 00:55:50,400

And we all know

that things happen all the time.

844

00:55:50,480 --> 00:55:53,560

Almost in every case,

there's something happening.

845

00:55:53,640 --> 00:55:56,960

And then you deter from that map.

846

00:55:57,040 --> 00:56:03,560

So the reality

is even more complex than that picture.

847

00:56:03,640 --> 00:56:05,880

That's something to bear in mind,

848

00:56:05,960 --> 00:56:11,320

and also, of course, a reason for us being

even more clear towards the missions:

849

00:56:11,400 --> 00:56:15,320

How it actually works,

and what happens when it doesn't work.

850

00:56:15,400 --> 00:56:20,080

Do you discuss or talk

about other approaches?

851

00:56:20,160 --> 00:56:25,160

Or how to change Sweden's approach?

Do you have any examples of how...?

852

00:56:25,240 --> 00:56:28,000

I mean, thinking about the process

853

00:56:28,080 --> 00:56:31,520

and that it works differently

with different countries,

854

00:56:31,600 --> 00:56:35,680

The balance between

the diplomatic relations and the punitive.

855

00:56:35,760 --> 00:56:41,200

I use the word "punitive" because

the report talks about punitive measures.

856

00:56:41,280 --> 00:56:44,400

And there's been suggestions

of punitive measures

857

00:56:44,480 --> 00:56:46,320

related to aid, for example.

858

00:56:46,400 --> 00:56:49,760

But could you give

some concrete examples of when it works?

859

00:56:49,840 --> 00:56:55,040

Do you have

some innovative approaches that work?

860

00:56:55,120 --> 00:57:00,320

Just to give us a little more...

concrete examples.

861

00:57:02,640 --> 00:57:04,040

Well, I mean, it's...

862

00:57:04,120 --> 00:57:10,080

I think, as we said before,

it differs from country to country,

863

00:57:10,160 --> 00:57:12,080

and system to system,

864

00:57:12,160 --> 00:57:18,120

because the country of origin

that we're addressing for a specific case,

865

00:57:18,200 --> 00:57:20,640

you know, they have their system,

866

00:57:20,720 --> 00:57:25,920

which has to then be combined

with the Swedish system.

867

00:57:26,000 --> 00:57:29,640

Each combination is then unique.

868

00:57:29,720 --> 00:57:32,800

So it's difficult to sort of learn from...

869

00:57:32,880 --> 00:57:35,280

We can of course

learn from good examples,

870

00:57:35,360 --> 00:57:41,520

but I think it's a bit tricky to say

that a good example would work

871

00:57:41,600 --> 00:57:44,800

as an overall solution.

872

00:57:44,880 --> 00:57:48,400

But I'm thinking also that it's very important,

873

00:57:48,480 --> 00:57:51,040

the kind of training,

knowledge, and competence

874

00:57:51,120 --> 00:57:54,000

that the case worker

at the Migration Agency has.

875

00:57:54,080 --> 00:57:57,400

That must be something

that you have to work a lot with.

876

00:57:57,480 --> 00:58:01,320

I would also like to stress

that in most cases, it works very well,

877

00:58:01,400 --> 00:58:05,120

the collaboration with other countries

and the missions in Stockholm.

878

00:58:05,200 --> 00:58:08,320

It's not like most of it is a problem.

879

00:58:08,400 --> 00:58:12,480

Most of the collaborations

that we have, of course, work well.

880

00:58:12,560 --> 00:58:15,960

Anders, do you have any examples

of innovative approaches?

881

00:58:16,040 --> 00:58:20,880

When we manage to use

many of the different tools in the toolbox.

882

00:58:20,960 --> 00:58:24,440

Working well

with the agencies in Stockholm,

883

00:58:24,520 --> 00:58:29,720

we engage with, for example, the Swedish

International Development Aid Agency,

884

00:58:29,800 --> 00:58:33,960

we might work together with

European Return Liaison Officers,

885

00:58:34,040 --> 00:58:38,040

and we might work also

from a European Union perspective,

886

00:58:38,120 --> 00:58:41,880

with our relations to a country in question.

887

00:58:41,960 --> 00:58:45,400

When we manage

to coordinate these different things,

888

00:58:45,480 --> 00:58:49,280

and tie it together into a whole,

that is when it works well.

889

00:58:49,360 --> 00:58:52,520

I would like to stress

that we're often focusing...

890

00:58:52,600 --> 00:58:57,160

It's an important part, because it's important

for the credibility of the system,

891

00:58:57,240 --> 00:59:00,640

but there is often very much focus

on the non-voluntary returns.

892

00:59:00,720 --> 00:59:04,280

We should also remember

that there is a lot of things we can do

893

00:59:04,360 --> 00:59:06,840

to encourage voluntary returns,

894

00:59:06,920 --> 00:59:11,680

also in cooperation with countries of origin,

895

00:59:11,760 --> 00:59:17,800

because it's in all our interests to have

as much voluntary returns as possible.

896

00:59:17,880 --> 00:59:22,240

That is sometimes forgotten,

and then the map is not as complicated.

897

00:59:22,320 --> 00:59:25,240

It's slightly simpler.

898

00:59:25,320 --> 00:59:28,680

-That is an important aspect.

-Yes.

899

00:59:28,760 --> 00:59:31,440

-Constanza, you wanted to comment.

-Yes.

900

00:59:31,520 --> 00:59:36,000

I wanted to add to what you asked Elin

about special measures.

901

00:59:36,080 --> 00:59:40,560

For example, certain representatives

told us about these delegation visits.

902

00:59:40,640 --> 00:59:44,760

It was a complete change

for their domestic agencies

903

00:59:44,840 --> 00:59:49,680

when they came to Sweden and realized

this is how the asylum system works here.

904

00:59:49,760 --> 00:59:54,720

Or this is what our citizens

are entitled to receive as asylum seekers.

905

00:59:54,800 --> 01:00:00,520

I think it's one unit at the Migration Agency,

which is a small unit,

906

01:00:00,600 --> 01:00:04,440

The International Secretariat I believe,

I'm not quite sure.

907

01:00:04,520 --> 01:00:08,600

They arrange these meetings,

and they might have a very large effect,

908

01:00:08,680 --> 01:00:11,760

in terms of information and awareness.

909

01:00:11,840 --> 01:00:14,840

Because one thing is to want to cooperate,

910

01:00:14,920 --> 01:00:19,040

but also representatives and especially

the governments of other countries

911

01:00:19,120 --> 01:00:22,120

need to be aware

of the dimension of the problem.

912

01:00:22,200 --> 01:00:27,600

If an embassy that is not only

representing its country in Sweden,

913

01:00:27,680 --> 01:00:32,680

it's stationed in Sweden, but is actually

serving all the Nordic countries,

914

01:00:32,760 --> 01:00:37,800

and they receive three officers

from the police department, and they say,

915

01:00:37,880 --> 01:00:42,320

"We have these three cases. We need

you to provide us with documentation."

916

01:00:42,400 --> 01:00:45,240

But they have so much to do,

the consular system.

917

01:00:45,320 --> 01:00:47,200

They're not going to prioritize this.

918

01:00:47,280 --> 01:00:48,960

But if you ask them,

919

01:00:49,040 --> 01:00:54,560

"Do you know how many return cases

your citizens are receiving?"

920

01:00:54,640 --> 01:00:59,560

We asked them, and sometimes

they were very far away from reality,

921

01:00:59,640 --> 01:01:01,640

by one or two zeros.

922

01:01:01,720 --> 01:01:04,720

And they say,

"It happens sometimes, one or two."

923

01:01:04,800 --> 01:01:08,800

And we could see 2,000 in our statistics.

924

01:01:08,880 --> 01:01:12,760

So this type of information,

as well as delegation visits,

925

01:01:12,840 --> 01:01:14,840

is very important.

926

01:01:14,920 --> 01:01:19,680

Then the embassy will be able to grasp,

"Okay, we have a real problem here."

927

01:01:19,760 --> 01:01:22,800

And ask for resources to cooperate,

928

01:01:22,880 --> 01:01:26,040

but also ask for help

from Swedish authorities.

929

01:01:26,120 --> 01:01:30,520

Because sometimes they don't know

the dimension of this problem.

930

01:01:30,600 --> 01:01:33,320

They only know that some officers arrive

931

01:01:33,400 --> 01:01:39,680

and request for

very simple and predetermined issues.

932

01:01:39,760 --> 01:01:44,480

So I think the need for communication

in terms of information deliverance

933

01:01:44,560 --> 01:01:46,200

should be continuous.

934

01:01:46,280 --> 01:01:49,840

You spoke about these briefings

offered to new diplomats.

935

01:01:49,920 --> 01:01:53,720

I think that's not enough,

because in the Swedish climate,

936

01:01:53,800 --> 01:01:58,560

migration rules or integration rules

might change quite fast.

937

01:01:58,640 --> 01:02:02,920

-It needs to be continuous.

-There need to be continuous updates.

938

01:02:03,000 --> 01:02:05,760

Elin, what are

your reflections on Constanza's...?

939

01:02:05,840 --> 01:02:10,640

I think it's clear in the study

that there's definitely room for improvement

940

01:02:10,720 --> 01:02:12,360

on the information bit.

941

01:02:12,440 --> 01:02:16,040

That's something

that we would have to explore further.

942

01:02:16,120 --> 01:02:17,960

-Yeah?

-Definitely.

943

01:02:18,040 --> 01:02:20,840

I want to turn to a slightly different issue.

944

01:02:20,920 --> 01:02:22,680

We've talked about the balance

945

01:02:22,760 --> 01:02:25,880

between the diplomatic process

and punitive measures.

946

01:02:25,960 --> 01:02:29,120

But there's also, within a country,

Mr. Ambassador...

947

01:02:29,200 --> 01:02:33,520

The report talks about

the balance for a mission

948

01:02:33,600 --> 01:02:39,800

to comply with the Swedish rules

but also protect your own citizens.

949

01:02:39,880 --> 01:02:42,240

And the report discusses

950

01:02:42,320 --> 01:02:46,520

how various countries

put the emphasis a little bit different.

951

01:02:46,600 --> 01:02:49,320

What are you reflections on this area?

952

01:02:49,400 --> 01:02:52,640

And what do you think

the main challenges are?

953

01:02:52,720 --> 01:02:57,400

Well, I think for every mission,

including ours,

954

01:02:57,480 --> 01:03:01,520

one of the priority areas

of functioning in a country

955

01:03:01,600 --> 01:03:03,920

is to represent your citizens

956

01:03:04,000 --> 01:03:07,880

so that they are

represented by the embassy,

957

01:03:07,960 --> 01:03:12,080

and they are being treated

legally and the proper way.

958

01:03:12,160 --> 01:03:17,120

In our embassy, we try to have the balance

959

01:03:17,200 --> 01:03:20,880

between our citizens' rights,

how they are treated,

960

01:03:20,960 --> 01:03:27,680

and, of course, the law of the host country,

in where we are representing.

961

01:03:27,760 --> 01:03:30,960

Usually we look into

the issues of each citizen,

962

01:03:31,040 --> 01:03:34,840

or any request

that comes to us from citizens.

963

01:03:34,920 --> 01:03:38,280

We look into that

according to the agreement we have

964

01:03:38,360 --> 01:03:42,200

with the EU, with Sweden,

and according to international law.

965

01:03:42,280 --> 01:03:47,480

How they are protected

and whether the process is proper or not.

966

01:03:47,560 --> 01:03:51,080

Once we are sure

that this process is proper,

967

01:03:51,160 --> 01:03:53,800

according to those diagrams we saw,

968

01:03:53,880 --> 01:03:57,440

then, of course,

we will definitely cooperate in any way.

969

01:03:57,520 --> 01:04:01,560

But if we think that

the process has some flaws or issues,

970

01:04:01,640 --> 01:04:06,000

we'll try cooperate

with the proper authorities,

971

01:04:06,080 --> 01:04:10,760

the Swedish authorities:

the police, migration, or the justice ministry,

972

01:04:10,840 --> 01:04:14,640

so that we can get

verification or clarification of the issue.

973

01:04:14,720 --> 01:04:18,800

So we try to do the balance accordingly,

with our citizens.

974

01:04:18,880 --> 01:04:21,400

So the dialogue

and the communication is there?

975

01:04:21,480 --> 01:04:23,160

That is very important.

976

01:04:23,240 --> 01:04:29,840

When you have frequent communication

with the Swedish agencies,

977

01:04:29,920 --> 01:04:32,520

you create an understanding.

978

01:04:32,600 --> 01:04:36,160

You will sometimes

have a closer cooperation

979

01:04:36,240 --> 01:04:38,280

with the individuals in this agency,

980

01:04:38,360 --> 01:04:41,000

which will make things

move faster and easier,

981

01:04:41,080 --> 01:04:45,480

because you will create understanding,

as people, you know?

982

01:04:45,560 --> 01:04:48,480

In addition to the regulations and rules.

983

01:04:48,560 --> 01:04:55,160

So it will be easier to pass your new ideas

and to receive their ideas.

984

01:04:55,240 --> 01:04:59,760

It will create a very conducive atmosphere

for communication as well.

985

01:05:01,720 --> 01:05:07,120

But even so, there may be challenges

when it comes to capacity.

986

01:05:07,200 --> 01:05:09,240

The report also talks about that.

987

01:05:09,320 --> 01:05:16,080

The capacity of a country to comply

with the requirements, for various reasons.

988

01:05:16,160 --> 01:05:21,480

The country may want to comply,

but can't because of capacity.

989

01:05:21,560 --> 01:05:24,920

Yeah. It depends, yeah.

990

01:05:25,000 --> 01:05:27,760

It depends, of course,

from country to country.

991

01:05:27,840 --> 01:05:32,160

It depends also

on the situation within the country.

992

01:05:32,240 --> 01:05:38,800

The situation in the country, but for example

we have signed the agreement with the EU

993

01:05:38,880 --> 01:05:45,560

for the readmission and return

of our citizens from European countries,

994

01:05:45,640 --> 01:05:48,520

but unfortunately we had internal conflict.

995

01:05:48,600 --> 01:05:52,680

Yes, of course, there can be

technical, economic, conflict...

996

01:05:52,760 --> 01:05:57,400

Different issues play in this regard,

in addition to the capacity.

997

01:05:57,480 --> 01:06:01,440

And also, the capacity

of the authorities within the countries.

998

01:06:01,520 --> 01:06:03,800

For example, if you take Ethiopia,

999

01:06:03,880 --> 01:06:07,880

the immigration agency

has gone through different reforms.

1000

01:06:07,960 --> 01:06:12,000

So the process of readmitting,

issuing travel documents,

1001

01:06:12,080 --> 01:06:15,040

it took time,

more than necessary sometimes.

1002

01:06:15,120 --> 01:06:20,840

So there are different issues that we

have to consider in addition to the capacity.

1003

01:06:20,920 --> 01:06:27,720

As somebody mentioned, the number

of diplomats in the embassies in Sweden...

1004

01:06:27,800 --> 01:06:32,120

For example, for us,

when our embassy was functioning in 2022,

1005

01:06:32,200 --> 01:06:34,800

it was only me and one diplomat here.

1006

01:06:34,880 --> 01:06:38,560

So, when you are

in this kind of understaffed situation,

1007

01:06:38,640 --> 01:06:40,720

things move very slowly,

1008

01:06:40,800 --> 01:06:42,760

Now we have enough staff,

1009

01:06:42,840 --> 01:06:48,320

we have contact persons working with

the Swedish police and Migration Agency.

1010

01:06:48,400 --> 01:06:52,200

Now things go smoothly,

they communicate through email and such.

1011

01:06:52,280 --> 01:06:56,480

-So it depends on different factors.

-Of course.

1012

01:06:56,560 --> 01:06:58,600

But capacity can be an issue.

1013

01:06:58,680 --> 01:07:01,480

Anders and Elin,

from your various perspectives,

1014

01:07:01,560 --> 01:07:04,080

how do you work with this issue?

1015

01:07:04,160 --> 01:07:07,000

To begin with,

when it comes to the embassies' role

1016

01:07:07,080 --> 01:07:08,960

in representing its citizens,

1017

01:07:09,040 --> 01:07:13,480

we feel fairly confident

that we have a robust system

1018

01:07:13,560 --> 01:07:18,120

for when you're going through

the asylum application system.

1019

01:07:18,200 --> 01:07:20,800

And we are happy to brief about that,

1020

01:07:20,880 --> 01:07:27,200

and to show and be very transparent in how

each and every case has been handled.

1021

01:07:27,280 --> 01:07:34,560

Then, of course,

capacity might sometimes be a challenge.

1022

01:07:34,640 --> 01:07:37,200

And I think that is one part of it.

1023

01:07:37,280 --> 01:07:39,680

We are working on different levels,

1024

01:07:39,760 --> 01:07:45,240

also helping or supporting capacity-building

in countries we're cooperating with.

1025

01:07:45,320 --> 01:07:49,360

It can be through the work of IOM,

1026

01:07:49,440 --> 01:07:54,280

it can be on EU-level,

and it can also be on a bilateral level.

1027

01:07:54,360 --> 01:07:58,760

And where we're working now,

there's a new strategy for foreign aid.

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01:07:58,840 --> 01:08:01,800

There's also going to be

a new thematic strategy

1029

01:08:01,880 --> 01:08:05,840

for how we work on migration issues

in developing assistance.

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01:08:05,920 --> 01:08:09,320

There these parts can very well come in.

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01:08:09,400 --> 01:08:14,280

But I would also like to say

that when you look at the interests

1032

01:08:14,360 --> 01:08:18,640

of citizens from the countries concerned,

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01:08:18,720 --> 01:08:23,400

it is also important to remember

that there is, of course,

1034

01:08:23,480 --> 01:08:28,920

protecting the interests of the citizens

who are subject to return and readmission,

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01:08:29,000 --> 01:08:33,880

it is also the fact of the interests

of all the other citizens in the country,

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01:08:33,960 --> 01:08:36,520

who might have better access

1037

01:08:36,600 --> 01:08:39,480

to legal pathways

for migration, for example,

1038

01:08:39,560 --> 01:08:43,200

if we know that we have

a functioning cooperation together.

1039

01:08:43,280 --> 01:08:50,160

That is going to benefit

a much bigger part of the population, also.

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01:08:50,240 --> 01:08:54,200

Elin, capacity-building. Is this something

the Migration Agency is involved in?

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01:08:54,280 --> 01:08:58,320

Yes, it is, both on a bilateral

and an EU level,

1042

01:08:58,400 --> 01:09:03,520

and also together with IOM, so...

that we are indeed.

1043

01:09:03,600 --> 01:09:09,000

Can you provide an example of what,

for example, that your agency is doing?

1044

01:09:09,080 --> 01:09:11,080

It's not my area of expertise,

1045

01:09:11,160 --> 01:09:15,400

but we are involved

with the IOM in various countries,

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01:09:15,480 --> 01:09:19,160

and also have

Nordic co-operations in Iraq, for instance,

1047

01:09:19,240 --> 01:09:24,760

and bilateral arrangements as well

with various countries.

1048

01:09:24,840 --> 01:09:27,400

Giving practical knowledge

about the process.

1049

01:09:27,480 --> 01:09:31,440

And building the capacity

of the country of origin.

1050

01:09:31,520 --> 01:09:35,960

So there are numerous projects ongoing.

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01:09:36,040 --> 01:09:41,720

That's very important, of course,

to contribute to that as well.

1052

01:09:41,800 --> 01:09:44,920

There are many pieces to this puzzle.

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01:09:45,000 --> 01:09:51,080

I want to now turn to the audience

here in the room and also online,

1054

01:09:51,160 --> 01:09:55,480

to see what your questions

and reflections are.

1055

01:09:55,560 --> 01:09:57,560

Do we have any questions?

1056

01:10:01,040 --> 01:10:05,920

No one? Well, let's see.

There's one in the back here.

1057

01:10:06,000 --> 01:10:09,800

Behind you first. There.

1058

01:10:09,880 --> 01:10:14,000

And can you please state

your name and your organization.

1059

01:10:14,880 --> 01:10:19,640

Hi, my name is Aimee Chan.

I am from the embassy of the Netherlands.

1060

01:10:19,720 --> 01:10:24,920

Mr. Hall mentioned

voluntary measures to improve returns.

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01:10:25,000 --> 01:10:29,560

I was wondering

if the government has recent numbers

1062

01:10:29,640 --> 01:10:32,840

on how effective these measures could be.

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01:10:32,920 --> 01:10:35,920

Or perhaps also the scientific domain.

1064

01:10:37,320 --> 01:10:41,280

We will take one more question

and then we go to the panel.

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01:10:41,360 --> 01:10:43,960

So, Miss...

1066

01:10:45,400 --> 01:10:48,800

Thank you very much.

I am the ambassador of Lebanon.

1067

01:10:48,880 --> 01:10:53,040

I would like to thank you for the report

and the very valuable interventions.

1068

01:10:53,120 --> 01:10:57,760

I just would like to mention

that the problem presents itself

1069

01:10:57,840 --> 01:10:59,960

with the non-voluntary return.

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01:11:00,040 --> 01:11:04,320

And by adopting

what you have mentioned in your tools,

1071

01:11:04,400 --> 01:11:07,360

punitive measures or aid for development,

1072

01:11:07,440 --> 01:11:11,400

you want to turn the non-voluntary return

into a forced return.

1073

01:11:11,480 --> 01:11:16,720

Aren't you afraid that, for instance,

when used, such as the aid development,

1074

01:11:16,800 --> 01:11:19,720

and you deprive,

for instance, a certain country

1075

01:11:19,800 --> 01:11:22,240

the aid development you are providing,

1076

01:11:22,320 --> 01:11:25,560

that this is going to fire back on your policy?

1077

01:11:25,640 --> 01:11:29,320

Because usually, the aid development

provided to certain countries

1078

01:11:29,400 --> 01:11:33,400

is intended to help

the vulnerable people in this country,

1079

01:11:33,480 --> 01:11:36,760

which means the poorest,

to alleviate their poorness,

1080

01:11:36,840 --> 01:11:40,040

so that they will never think

to pack their luggage

1081

01:11:40,120 --> 01:11:42,480

and find a country to migrate to.

1082

01:11:42,560 --> 01:11:44,200

If you deprive those people

1083

01:11:44,280 --> 01:11:47,560

of the aid development

that you are providing them with,

1084

01:11:47,640 --> 01:11:53,080

this will magnify the problem in the country

and make it more pronounced.

1085

01:11:53,160 --> 01:11:59,800

And instead of having less people

knocking on your door, you may have more.

1086

01:11:59,880 --> 01:12:05,960

So I think, in my judgment,

it's not the wisest tool to use.

1087

01:12:06,040 --> 01:12:07,640

Thank you very much.

1088

01:12:07,720 --> 01:12:12,240

Anders, do you want to start?

Any reflections on the two questions?

1089

01:12:12,320 --> 01:12:20,320

Yeah. First, when it comes to different ways

of supporting voluntary return,

1090

01:12:20,400 --> 01:12:26,840

we are right into looking at

how we can improve incentives

1091

01:12:26,920 --> 01:12:29,440

working with that, I mean.

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01:12:29,520 --> 01:12:32,520

There has been support for that

for a long time.

1093

01:12:32,600 --> 01:12:36,160

I know that the Agency

is working very hard

1094

01:12:36,240 --> 01:12:43,680

with implementing new ways

to incentivize, actually, voluntary return.

1095

01:12:43,760 --> 01:12:48,680

We might also look on the support side

and structure that a little bit differently.

1096

01:12:48,760 --> 01:12:54,240

I don't have figures right now

for going from a pre-case to a post-case,

1097

01:12:54,320 --> 01:12:58,560

saying that, "We did these changes

and now we have this development."

1098

01:12:58,640 --> 01:13:02,640

That's very much a process

that we are right in the middle of.

1099

01:13:02,720 --> 01:13:06,360

I don't know if you want

to add something to that, Elin?

1100

01:13:06,440 --> 01:13:08,920

No, I agree.

1101

01:13:09,000 --> 01:13:15,920

At the Migration Agency,

we have a large ongoing project or work

1102

01:13:16,000 --> 01:13:22,120

of both changing and making

our processes more effective.

1103

01:13:23,120 --> 01:13:28,120

We're looking at all aspects

of the voluntary return process.

1104

01:13:28,200 --> 01:13:35,160

So it's a little bit too early

to say what the outcome will be.

1105

01:13:35,240 --> 01:13:38,120

Then the question from the ambassador

about aid.

1106

01:13:38,200 --> 01:13:42,160

Coming back to why I want to avoid

the term "punitive measures".

1107

01:13:42,240 --> 01:13:43,960

No, but...

1108

01:13:44,040 --> 01:13:49,800

All these different tools that you have

in the toolbox must be used wisely.

1109

01:13:50,960 --> 01:13:58,960

And Sweden has for decades

been investing a lot of money in foreign aid,

1110

01:13:59,040 --> 01:14:03,280

in trying to fight root causes for migration.

1111

01:14:03,360 --> 01:14:06,120

We are still with a considerable problem

1112

01:14:06,200 --> 01:14:09,400

when it comes to

integration and returns in Sweden.

1113

01:14:09,480 --> 01:14:15,960

Then it actually also boils down

to our accountability to our own taxpayers.

1114

01:14:16,040 --> 01:14:20,880

Are we going to continue investing money,

1115

01:14:20,960 --> 01:14:24,000

investing in our relationship

with a certain country,

1116

01:14:24,080 --> 01:14:28,280

when things that are important to us

are not really taken into account?

1117

01:14:28,360 --> 01:14:32,040

That becomes a pedagogical problem

to a Swedish electorate,

1118

01:14:32,120 --> 01:14:34,600

to ask for more taxpayer money for that.

1119

01:14:34,680 --> 01:14:38,840

With that said,

of course what we'd like to strive for

1120

01:14:38,920 --> 01:14:43,800

is not a situation where we are

punishing each other, tit for tat.

1121

01:14:43,880 --> 01:14:47,680

We want to find a solution

where we can put pieces on the table

1122

01:14:47,760 --> 01:14:51,080

and find that this is good for us,

and this is good for you.

1123

01:14:51,160 --> 01:14:56,360

So we start by building

a positive dynamic in this,

1124

01:14:56,440 --> 01:15:02,000

instead of a tit-for-tat, punitive relationship.

1125

01:15:03,200 --> 01:15:05,480

We have a question here.

1126

01:15:07,440 --> 01:15:09,680

-Hi. Is it on?

-Yeah.

1127

01:15:09,760 --> 01:15:11,360

Okay. Thank you.

1128

01:15:11,440 --> 01:15:14,920

I'm Alexandra Segenstedt,

I work for the Swedish Red Cross,

1129

01:15:15,000 --> 01:15:19,760

but mainly for the global Red Cross

Red Crescent Movement.

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01:15:19,840 --> 01:15:22,840

Thank you very much

for a very interesting topic.

1131

01:15:22,920 --> 01:15:27,360

I always need to raise

the perspective of the migrants,

1132

01:15:27,440 --> 01:15:30,200

the individuals

and the returnees, themselves.

1133

01:15:30,280 --> 01:15:35,160

I just want to stress the thing that you said

about the will of the individual.

1134

01:15:35,240 --> 01:15:42,360

But I think that the discussion tends to be

you're either a refugee, an asylum seeker,

1135

01:15:42,440 --> 01:15:45,200

or you are an economic migrant.

1136

01:15:45,280 --> 01:15:47,560

But many end up in between.

1137

01:15:47,640 --> 01:15:52,240

Because even if you're not raised

to the level of being a refugee

1138

01:15:52,320 --> 01:15:55,560

or part

of the subsidiary protection in Sweden,

1139

01:15:55,640 --> 01:15:58,080

you might still have protection needs,

1140

01:15:58,160 --> 01:16:02,320

even if you don't reach

the level of citizenship

1141

01:16:02,400 --> 01:16:05,520

or permanent residence permit in Sweden.

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01:16:05,600 --> 01:16:10,800

So you always need to look into

the needs of each individual.

1143

01:16:10,880 --> 01:16:14,480

And there might be protection needs,

even if you're not...

1144

01:16:14,560 --> 01:16:19,800

Because, as you all know,

the asylum system is based on credibility.

1145

01:16:19,880 --> 01:16:22,080

So if you're not credible,

1146

01:16:22,160 --> 01:16:25,680

you might have protection needs

that have not gone through.

1147

01:16:25,760 --> 01:16:30,240

But also, if you don't measure up

to the level of residence permit,

1148

01:16:30,320 --> 01:16:32,440

you might still have protection needs.

1149

01:16:32,520 --> 01:16:35,640

As an organization

working a lot with individuals,

1150

01:16:35,720 --> 01:16:40,200

and we do a lot of return counseling,

not only in Sweden but in many countries,

1151

01:16:40,280 --> 01:16:43,400

and also working

with reintegration measures,

1152

01:16:43,480 --> 01:16:49,320

I think this is very important also for

the practitioners working with return.

1153

01:16:49,400 --> 01:16:51,960

That you need to look

at the individual cases

1154

01:16:52,040 --> 01:16:57,360

and if you can support individuals

also in these concerns.

1155

01:16:57,440 --> 01:17:02,720

I think that would also raise

the voluntary return or mandatory returns.

1156

01:17:02,800 --> 01:17:06,360

And also the stigma

faced by many of those returning,

1157

01:17:06,440 --> 01:17:11,240

and the support in the local communities

they return to and the reintegration.

1158

01:17:11,320 --> 01:17:13,600

I think that is also a key factor

1159

01:17:13,680 --> 01:17:18,200

when it comes to

a sustainable return process.

1160

01:17:18,280 --> 01:17:22,680

Because it is a lot of stigma to return.

I just wanted to raise that.

1161

01:17:22,760 --> 01:17:27,280

It was maybe not questions,

but things to add to the discussion.

1162

01:17:27,360 --> 01:17:28,960

-Thank you.

-Thank you.

1163

01:17:29,040 --> 01:17:33,120

I want to hear the panel

reflect on your whole reflection,

1164

01:17:33,200 --> 01:17:36,120

but I was thinking about

the last thing you said,

1165

01:17:36,200 --> 01:17:39,520

the capacity-building

when people come back.

1166

01:17:39,600 --> 01:17:42,360

How do you think about that,

Mr. Ambassador?

1167

01:17:42,440 --> 01:17:44,680

Does Ethiopia think about...?

1168

01:17:44,760 --> 01:17:51,040

Do you have... when people return...

how do you make it?

1169

01:17:51,120 --> 01:17:56,800

We try as much as possible,

as per our development stage or standard,

1170

01:17:56,880 --> 01:18:00,400

to provide the people to resettle back.

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01:18:00,480 --> 01:18:07,400

And as she said earlier, it's very important

how you reintegrate the people returning,

1172

01:18:07,480 --> 01:18:10,640

because of the stigma,

because of different factors.

1173

01:18:10,720 --> 01:18:12,920

If you don't work properly on that,

1174

01:18:13,000 --> 01:18:16,400

you're going to have

the immigrant coming back again,

1175

01:18:16,480 --> 01:18:21,360

or trying to go back to Europe

or other parts of... where they think that...

1176

01:18:21,440 --> 01:18:26,920

So resettling, readmission,

and reintegration should be sustainable.

1177

01:18:27,000 --> 01:18:28,680

We have to work also on that.

1178

01:18:28,760 --> 01:18:31,760

Not only returning,

but once they are returned.

1179

01:18:31,840 --> 01:18:33,960

What is next for these people?

1180

01:18:34,040 --> 01:18:38,280

Does that need to be

part of this process more explicitly?

1181

01:18:38,360 --> 01:18:41,360

We work with the EU

through different agencies,

1182

01:18:41,440 --> 01:18:42,840

with the IOM also,

1183

01:18:42,920 --> 01:18:45,880

and the Swedish government

and other countries.

1184

01:18:45,960 --> 01:18:49,440

They provide different support,

they provide some funds.

1185

01:18:49,520 --> 01:18:51,640

But we still need to work on that,

1186

01:18:51,720 --> 01:18:55,560

to improve how we should

reintegrate these people.

1187

01:18:55,640 --> 01:19:01,160

By providing different kinds of training

or different kinds of funds,

1188

01:19:01,240 --> 01:19:04,480

so that they can have a sustainable life.

1189

01:19:04,560 --> 01:19:08,200

Otherwise they will

look forward again to remigrate.

1190

01:19:08,280 --> 01:19:11,840

So it's very important,

the reintegration part.

1191

01:19:11,920 --> 01:19:13,880

Anders and Elin, your reflections?

1192

01:19:13,960 --> 01:19:21,320

I can just very much agree that building

as good a support package as possible

1193

01:19:21,400 --> 01:19:24,280

for those returning voluntarily,

1194

01:19:24,360 --> 01:19:27,000

that is a very important part

to work with.

1195

01:19:27,080 --> 01:19:30,320

Because that is also going to create,

in the long term,

1196

01:19:30,400 --> 01:19:32,360

a much more sustainable situation.

1197

01:19:32,440 --> 01:19:36,560

And the thing about

increasing the role of the migrant,

1198

01:19:36,640 --> 01:19:38,600

or taking the migrant's view,

1199

01:19:38,680 --> 01:19:41,800

or incorporating

the migrant into the process.

1200

01:19:41,880 --> 01:19:43,600

Elin?

1201

01:19:43,680 --> 01:19:45,560

I think that it's important

1202

01:19:45,640 --> 01:19:50,920

to obtain a sustainable reintegration

for someone who returns.

1203

01:19:51,000 --> 01:19:57,280

And we work, of course, with reintegration,

both cash and in-kind,

1204

01:19:57,360 --> 01:20:00,400

it depends on which country you return to.

1205

01:20:01,440 --> 01:20:06,240

And it also depends on the country,

how well it works.

1206

01:20:07,240 --> 01:20:14,640

And in the asylum process? I think that

is what the questioner was talking about.

1207

01:20:14,720 --> 01:20:20,440

The role of the migrant in the process.

1208

01:20:20,520 --> 01:20:24,560

Well, the migrant, of course,

is center of the process for us,

1209

01:20:24,640 --> 01:20:29,920

so I would say that we do have

the migrant perspective in mind

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01:20:30,000 --> 01:20:33,440

at the Migration Agency.

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01:20:33,520 --> 01:20:37,480

It's important to stress

that if you have been going through

1212

01:20:37,560 --> 01:20:40,840

the whole legal procedure

and appeals and so on,

1213

01:20:40,920 --> 01:20:46,000

at the end of the day, it's not optional

to comply with a return decision.

1214

01:20:46,080 --> 01:20:48,520

That we have to be very clear about.

1215

01:20:48,600 --> 01:20:52,960

Then we can try to facilitate

and make it as good as possible,

1216

01:20:53,040 --> 01:20:56,160

but at the end of the day, it's not an option.

1217

01:20:56,240 --> 01:21:02,160

-There has to be a clear communication...

-It has to be very clear... Exactly.

1218

01:21:02,240 --> 01:21:07,240

Let's see, do we have

any questions from the audience online?

1219

01:21:07,320 --> 01:21:10,560

-...some issues.

-We have some technical issues.

1220

01:21:10,640 --> 01:21:13,200

We'll take one more

from the audience here.

1221

01:21:13,280 --> 01:21:16,960

It's a privilege for being here,

getting to ask the questions.

1222

01:21:17,040 --> 01:21:22,600

Hi, my name is Isabelle,

and I'm not part of any association at all.

1223

01:21:22,680 --> 01:21:25,240

I'm just here because I'm curious.

1224

01:21:25,320 --> 01:21:29,440

I'm wondering if you have any idea

of how many of the people

1225

01:21:29,520 --> 01:21:34,760

who have been forced to

or voluntarily gone back to their countries

1226

01:21:34,840 --> 01:21:36,960

come here again?

1227

01:21:37,040 --> 01:21:41,600

Either staying here

without papers, being irregular,

1228

01:21:41,680 --> 01:21:46,160

or waiting five years

and trying to apply for asylum again.

1229

01:21:46,240 --> 01:21:49,160

Do you have any idea of how common it is?

1230

01:21:49,240 --> 01:21:51,640

And do you have any reflections on them

1231

01:21:51,720 --> 01:21:56,840

probably making the very difficult

and life-threatening trip once more?

1232

01:21:56,920 --> 01:22:01,760

And maybe giving money

to human traffickers once more?

1233

01:22:01,840 --> 01:22:04,760

Do you have any idea

of how often this happens?

1234

01:22:04,840 --> 01:22:08,640

Looking to the Migration Agency,

do you have statistics on this?

1235

01:22:08,720 --> 01:22:11,960

Of course I can't answer that

off the top of my head,

1236

01:22:12,040 --> 01:22:14,880

and I would like to stress

that we only know

1237

01:22:14,960 --> 01:22:18,080

of people who we know

are actually in the country.

1238

01:22:18,160 --> 01:22:23,000

So there's a built-in problem

with answering that question as well.

1239

01:22:23,080 --> 01:22:26,640

But I can't give you any numbers...

1240

01:22:26,720 --> 01:22:29,920

Are you allowed

to apply again after five years?

1241

01:22:30,000 --> 01:22:33,960

Yeah, and that's part of the clue, actually.

1242

01:22:34,040 --> 01:22:38,320

We do know that,

of all applications every year,

1243

01:22:38,400 --> 01:22:45,600

about 25% is actually cases

that have been... What do you call it?

1244

01:22:45,680 --> 01:22:50,200

Well, after four years, you can apply again.

1245

01:22:50,280 --> 01:22:55,080

And then, of course, you can speculate

whether the person applying again,

1246

01:22:55,160 --> 01:22:59,680

did he or she ever comply

with the return decision?

1247

01:22:59,760 --> 01:23:02,760

Or did they stay in Sweden

in non-compliance,

1248

01:23:02,840 --> 01:23:05,280

waiting four years to apply again?

1249

01:23:05,360 --> 01:23:09,040

Or have they been in their home country

or some other country,

1250

01:23:09,120 --> 01:23:11,120

and come back after four years?

1251

01:23:11,200 --> 01:23:12,720

That we don't know.

1252

01:23:12,800 --> 01:23:18,040

I think there is reason to believe

that quite many actually stay in Sweden.

1253

01:23:18,120 --> 01:23:23,840

That's where we're working on another side

with the Swedish Taxation Authority

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01:23:23,920 --> 01:23:28,760

to try to get a grasp of how many people

are actually living hidden in Sweden today,

1255

01:23:28,840 --> 01:23:31,520

in non-compliance with returns.

1256

01:23:31,600 --> 01:23:36,560

And, yeah, there's reason to believe

that it's actually quite a lot of people.

1257

01:23:37,560 --> 01:23:43,880

Can I just add as well that support money

that's given to people who've returned...

1258

01:23:43,960 --> 01:23:49,640

I don't think it's common

that that's used to pay for remigrating,

1259

01:23:49,720 --> 01:23:53,240

because it's controlled

what you can use the money for.

1260

01:23:53,320 --> 01:23:59,320

You're not just given a bag of money

that you can use in whatever way you want.

1261

01:23:59,400 --> 01:24:02,720

We are almost to the end of this seminar,

1262

01:24:02,800 --> 01:24:06,560

and I want to end this panel

by giving Iris and Costanza

1263

01:24:06,640 --> 01:24:11,920

the chance to give a final reflection

of the discussion that you've heard.

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01:24:12,000 --> 01:24:14,600

What are you taking away

from this discussion?

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01:24:14,680 --> 01:24:16,640

It was a very fruitful discussion.

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01:24:16,720 --> 01:24:20,840

I appreciate

that you actually read the report.

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01:24:20,920 --> 01:24:23,040

Sometimes you read the summary.

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01:24:23,120 --> 01:24:26,000

But just to give an answer...

1269

01:24:26,080 --> 01:24:30,640

We have a report of people

who had returned to Iraq and Afghanistan.

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01:24:30,720 --> 01:24:32,680

We interviewed a hundred.

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01:24:32,760 --> 01:24:35,640

Two of them

wanted to remain in the country.

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01:24:35,720 --> 01:24:39,600

All the others

were already planning to remigrate.

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01:24:39,680 --> 01:24:43,560

Why? Because of safety

and because of poverty.

1274

01:24:43,640 --> 01:24:46,120

Because the poorest do migrate.

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01:24:46,200 --> 01:24:50,920

They cross the Mediterranean Sea,

they cross the Mexican border,

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01:24:51,000 --> 01:24:53,840

without the means, without shoes.

1277

01:24:53,920 --> 01:24:56,000

So, they do migrate.

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01:24:56,080 --> 01:25:03,680

So I do not fully agree with the perception

that aid is taken from the poorest there.

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01:25:03,760 --> 01:25:07,280

These reintegration grants

might have a huge impact

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01:25:07,360 --> 01:25:11,880

in countries that have

the infrastructure to provide reintegration.

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01:25:11,960 --> 01:25:17,760

But they might have no effect at all

if the country is politically unstable.

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01:25:17,840 --> 01:25:20,480

All this cooperation might work very well,

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01:25:20,560 --> 01:25:23,480

but if there is

a violent change of government,

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01:25:23,560 --> 01:25:25,560

everything disappears.

1285

01:25:25,640 --> 01:25:28,000

As the government probably knows:

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01:25:28,080 --> 01:25:31,840

You might have a situation in July

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01:25:31,920 --> 01:25:36,200

which changes completely in August,

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01:25:36,280 --> 01:25:40,360

and suddenly in September,

the same people might have right to asylum

1289

01:25:40,440 --> 01:25:42,760

and they are not going to return, so...

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01:25:42,840 --> 01:25:47,200

-It's a very difficult and complex area.

-Extremely complex.

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01:25:47,280 --> 01:25:49,440

I just want to invite Iris also...

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01:25:49,520 --> 01:25:53,040

What do you take with you

for further research from this discussion?

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01:25:53,120 --> 01:25:55,880

For further research,

there's a lot to be done.

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01:25:55,960 --> 01:25:59,240

But we've talked a lot

about capacity-building,

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01:25:59,320 --> 01:26:01,960

and we had our soft classification of cases.

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01:26:02,040 --> 01:26:05,880

What you see is that it's

the countries that have the capacity,

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01:26:05,960 --> 01:26:09,920

that have civic registration systems

and can process readmission requests,

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01:26:10,000 --> 01:26:12,960

but also have the possibility

to reintegrate citizens,

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01:26:13,040 --> 01:26:15,920

they cooperate more

on return and readmission.

1300

01:26:16,000 --> 01:26:17,600

That's a key takeaway:

1301

01:26:17,680 --> 01:26:21,360

You need capacity-building,

and you need to invest it wisely,

1302

01:26:21,440 --> 01:26:23,720

so you can have sustainable reintegration

1303

01:26:23,800 --> 01:26:26,400

and sustainable systems

to handle readmission.

1304

01:26:26,480 --> 01:26:28,440

On that note, thank you very much.

1305

01:26:28,520 --> 01:26:31,360

Thank you, Mr. Ambassador,

thank you, Mr. State Secretary.

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01:26:31,440 --> 01:26:33,200

Thank you, Elin Svensson.

1307

01:26:33,280 --> 01:26:37,960

Thank you to the authors.

Let's give them a big hand.

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01:26:41,200 --> 01:26:45,280

Now I give the floor to Agneta

to close the seminar.

1309

01:26:53,320 --> 01:26:57,080

So, these one and a half hours

are coming to an end.

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01:26:57,160 --> 01:26:59,240

Very interesting discussions.

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01:26:59,320 --> 01:27:02,880

And a big thank you,

first of all to the authors, of course,

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01:27:02,960 --> 01:27:04,760

to Constanza and Iris.

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01:27:04,840 --> 01:27:08,760

And also thank you to Annika

for perfect moderating,

1314

01:27:08,840 --> 01:27:11,720

and also a big thank you

to the panel, of course.

1315

01:27:11,800 --> 01:27:16,880

I would also like to extend a thank you

to Pinar Aslan Akay at the Delmi Secretariat

1316

01:27:16,960 --> 01:27:19,600

who's been coordinating

the work with this report,

1317

01:27:19,680 --> 01:27:22,560

and also the work with this seminar.

1318

01:27:22,640 --> 01:27:24,600

As we usually say about Delmi:

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01:27:24,680 --> 01:27:30,680

One of our major tasks is to bridge the gaps

between research, policy, and practice

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01:27:30,760 --> 01:27:33,320

within the area of migration and integration.

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01:27:33,400 --> 01:27:35,920

This is what we've definitely done today.

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01:27:36,000 --> 01:27:40,360

Another important task

is to bring different stakeholders together,

1323

01:27:40,440 --> 01:27:44,560

and to create arenas

for exchange of perspectives.

1324

01:27:44,640 --> 01:27:48,840

I do hope that we have encouraged

a continued exchange of perspectives

1325

01:27:48,920 --> 01:27:52,280

through this seminar

and through this report.

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01:27:52,360 --> 01:27:56,720

Now we would like to say goodbye

to all our online viewers

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01:27:56,800 --> 01:27:59,680

and also to those

who are leaving the seminar.

1328

01:27:59,760 --> 01:28:04,720

And welcome back, we hope that you

will continue to follow the work of Delmi.

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01:28:04,800 --> 01:28:10,400

For those of you who are staying here

for the roundtable discussion to follow,

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01:28:10,480 --> 01:28:13,080

special invitees, I should underline...

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01:28:13,160 --> 01:28:14,840

There will be a short break

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01:28:14,920 --> 01:28:18,360

before we reconvene at three o'clock,

just outside this room.

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01:28:18,440 --> 01:28:21,680

So get some fresh air

and we will meet soon again.

1334

01:28:21,760 --> 01:28:24,000

Thank you very much.