

Coming Home Working Group

Finances

Members of the Working Group: Switzerland, France

Coming Home means:

- lost your social network in your home country (you lost your benchmarks with your home country and missed the economic, working and cultural change)
- lost your cultural GPS
- lost your role you had as an accompanying person in country you have been posted
- Lower family income : salary of your partner drops, no allocations for school, housing, etc.
- Difficulty to find a job for those who interrupted their professional career before leaving

Best Practices

What can your MFA do for you :

- To have apartment at your disposal where you can stay until you find an apartment/house (Austria)
- To organize courses on coming home for the whole family (children included)
- To continue to pay for your pension
- Help you to get started in a new professional career (helping you when you look for a job in the administration, giving you access to a relocation agency, etc..)
- Be eligible for unemployment benefits when coming back home (Finland)
- Same amount of allocations should be paid to each spouse instead of dependence of the salary of the employee (Germany)
- In this situation, we (Association) recommend to our members to invest, if possible, the spouse allowance given to the MFA officer when they are abroad, in a pension fund (Ireland)
- Reinstall the not too many nor costly measures to make coming home easier (Sweden) if they have been abolished
- Give the spouse a status and an official recognition of her/his work for his/her government abroad (Switzerland)

Conclusion :

Our suggestions

- Be aware of the coming change of situation (family, financial, professional, etc.) and take responsibility and measures before leaving your post and coming back
- Identify where you spend money (education, housing, hobbies, etc.) and decide what is essential for you and your family
- Think about the future: imagine what you want to achieve during your posting back to your home country?
- Set up a spending plan (pension, saving, etc..)
- Try to meet or stay in contact with people like you coming back, and
- Be an ACTIVE member in your national association and defend (y)our cause....