



Refugee Jackpot carousel at the resettlement marketplace at the EU Resettlement Skills Share Day, 14 & 15 May 2012, Brussels

RESETTLEMENT NEWS

➤ Belgium resettles in 2013

In the framework of the Joint EU Resettlement Programme adopted in March 2012 and through which the EU aims to strengthen its commitment to resettlement, Belgian State Secretary for Asylum and Migration Maggie De Block announced that Belgium will provide a new home for 100 refugees during 2013. The Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGRS) will be responsible for the selection of the refugees on the basis of a pre-selection made by UNHCR. It is not the first time Belgium resettles -they did so in 2009 (Iraqi refugees) and in 2011 (Eritrean and Congolese refugees) at the request of UNHCR. During the first 6 months after arrival Fedasil, the national reception agency for asylum seekers, will provide accommodation in their reception centres and work with NGOs to prepare the first steps for integration (language courses, finding a home and so on).

➤ 2020 Campaign

On the 14th of May, 6 leading organisations in the refugee field – Amnesty International, CCME, ECRE, ICMC, IOM and Save Me - launched a campaign for more and better resettlement in Europe. Launched at the recent EU Resettlement Skills Share Day, the “Resettlement Saves Lives -2020 Campaign” advocates for EU Member States to offer 20,000 resettlement places every year by 2020. All organisations and individuals are invited to pledge their support for the campaign by visiting [the website](#) or [Facebook](#) page.

EU RESETTLEMENT NETWORK

Developing and strengthening resettlement programmes throughout Europe requires exchange of knowledge and sharing of expertise between stakeholders at all stages of engaging in resettlement. The current joint IOM, UNHCR and ICMC Europe ‘Linking-In EU Resettlement’ project continues the network-building activities of the previous ‘Practical Cooperation’ project, culminating in the formal launch of the EU Resettlement Network at the recent EU Resettlement Skills Share Day in Brussels.

This new network provides a framework for actors from EU institutions, governments, NGOs, regions, cities, municipalities and resettled refugees themselves to develop resettlement capacity, knowledge and practice across Europe, in the context of the new Joint EU Resettlement Programme and the establishment of new programmes in Member States including Belgium, Germany and Bulgaria. We are delighted that a number of organizations in the EU Resettlement Network have established ‘Resettlement Saves Lives – 20,000 for 2020’, an NGO-led campaign advocating for an increase in the number of resettlement places provided by European countries. You can pledge your support for the campaign, download project resources and keep up-to-date with planned events and activities at our new EU Resettlement Network website at www.resettlement.eu.

We invite you – our network members – to join the ever-growing European resettlement family, and look forward to working with you develop a successful and sustainable EU Resettlement Network for the future.

Linking-In EU Resettlement is a project on reception and integration of refugees at the local level and the importance of linking the pre-departure and post-arrival phases in order to make resettlement more successful. The project began in September 2011 and runs until November 2012. It is run jointly by ICMC, IOM and UNHCR in cooperation with governments and civil society partners from 17 EU countries. The project also remains open to new participants.

On 14 and 15 May 2012, the first EU Resettlement Skills Share Day took place in Brussels. The EU Resettlement Skills Share Day marked a key moment in the development of the EU Resettlement Network, the development of which is one of the main aims of the second joint IOM, ICMC and UNHCR project “Linking-In EU Resettlement”.

The Skills Share Day brought together some 200 policy makers and practitioners in refugee resettlement from 26 countries, including the EU Commissioner and the Director General for Home Affairs, representatives from European governments, international organizations, regions, cities, municipalities and NGOs, as well as representatives from Australia, Japan, Thailand and the US. Refugees resettled from across the world to the EU played an important role in the conference, sharing their first-hand experience of this important protection tool and solution for tens of thousands of refugees every year. The EU Resettlement Skills Share Days provided a forum to share good practices and expertise, through both plenary sessions and smaller workshops. It also aimed to engage existing and new actors to contribute to the further development of the EU Resettlement Network.



Opening plenary session



The highlight of the Skills Share Day was the resettlement marketplace, an interactive event showcasing innovative resettlement practices from across the EU. Governments, municipalities, international organisations and NGOs presented good practices in thematic areas reflecting the different stages of the refugee journey, from identification and selection to reception and integration. Marketplace participants were invited to take part in activities including mock resettlement interviews in the UNHCR tent, using an assumed refugee identity outlined in the “travel document” given to each participant.

Participants also had the opportunity to take part in a resettlement interview via video-link with Dutch government officials in The Hague, who have been conducting resettlement interviews via videolink for several years. Short cultural orientation sessions by an IOM bi-cultural trainer from Burma and a Swedish municipality were also on offer. Representatives from NGOs and municipalities shared their good practices in the reception and integration of refugees at the local level and a Czech mayor offered a home-made drink to the public, as he had done when he welcomed a Burmese family resettled to his town last year.



The resettlement marketplace



“Excellent concept with the right mix of people and a good opportunity for networking. Inspired by many interesting local level good practices - Sage Greenfingers, individual integration plans, cultural mediators. Super thanks!”
– participant at the EU Skills Share Day



The market place was rounded off by a film screening event at which producers, directors and resettled refugees presented and discussed excerpts from different resettlement films. Films included “Moving to Mars”, which follows Burmese refugees resettled from a camp in Thailand to the city of Sheffield in the UK, ‘Refugees – Who Needs Them?’, a film by Miles Roston (see box) and “Life on Hold”, a film by Amnesty International about a Somali minor waiting for resettlement in Shousha refugee camp on the Libyan-Tunisian border.

Karen Katz and Htoo Wah on “Moving to Mars”

“COMING SOON: REFUGEES, WHO NEEDS THEM?” is a film about resettlement by Miles Roston, who presented excerpts at the EU Resettlement Skills Share Day together with Fasil Agegnehu, a resettled refugee and journalist from Ethiopia.

“As Europe continues to descend into fiscal crisis, in many countries, the hard line against refugees tightens. In the Netherlands, in 2011, in the grip of anti-immigration and anti-refugee rhetoric, a relatively unknown group of “invited” - or resettled refugees arrive: Fathi, an activist escaping death threats from Gaddafi, Fasil - a journalist from Ethiopia sentenced to life for condemning fraudulent elections, and Li Zhu - a Falun Gong Buddhist sentenced to prison and beatings for demonstrating. Following them for a year, the film depicts their struggles as they campaign for justice for their countries, face the difficulties of adapting to life in their new homes, studying a new language with the help of organisations such as UAF, and embarking on a quest to ask Europe to resettle and help more refugees.”



Fasil & Miles- “Coming soon: Refugees, Who needs them?”



On the second day of the event, expert workshops were held covering the essentials of resettlement, including creating welcoming communities for refugees, mobilising volunteers, preparing refugees for their new lives through cultural orientation training, good practices and challenges with regard to supporting refugees in their efforts to find employment, the role of higher education institutions and universities in supporting the integration of resettled refugees, community based organizations providing psychosocial support and rehabilitation for resettled refugees and EU resettlement policy and funding to support resettlement activities.

The European Commissioner for Home Affairs, Cecilia Malmström, expressed the EC’s support for the 2020 Resettlement Campaign and the importance of Europe joining in the effort of helping refugees worldwide. She was joined by Claus Folden from the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) who echoed the importance of the EU increasing the number of resettlement places it offers, emphasised that resettlement is not a ‘drop-in-the-ocean’ but an important protection tool.

For more info on the EU Skills Share Day please see: www.resettlement.eu



“I was inspired by the participants’ enthusiasm and their will to share their experiences. The film sessions were very good and a good way to raise awareness about refugees’ experiences.” Participant at EU Skills Share Day



During June 11-14 2012, ICMC Europe - together with the Danish Immigration Service, Danish Refugee Council and the municipalities of Faxe and Faaborg organised a 'look and learn' visit to Denmark for participants from new and emerging resettlement countries.

Assisted by the Danish experts and those from established resettlement countries including the UK, Iceland, the Netherlands and Sweden, the 4-day visit programme guided participants through the two main components that make up the 'internal cuisine' of the Danish resettlement programme – from resettlement quota modelling and management, through to the partnerships and innovative practice that shapes the implementation of resettlement programmes at the local level.

During our classroom learning time in Copenhagen, our expert partners in the Danish Immigration Service presented the Danish resettlement quota model, and described how responds to global resettlement needs by facilitating the arrival of resettled refugees via both dossier and mission selection. ICMC Europe provided the comparative European context for the Danish quota model, and facilitated participant discussion about the international, national, regional and local partnerships that can and will support successful resettlement programmes within their specific countries.

Classroom learning was followed by 2 days of site visits to Faxe and Faaborg municipalities, providing participants with opportunities to see first-hand how local resettlement programmes and practice are implemented, including by meeting with previously resettled refugees from Afghanistan, Burma and Bhutan.

To read more about the 'Look & Learn' visit, download presentations and view photos, please [click here](#).

MULTI STAKEHOLDER MEETING - 19 JUNE 2012 – Sofia, Bulgaria

On 19 June, the State Agency for Refugees at the Council of Ministers, the Bulgarian Red Cross and the UNHCR organised a stakeholder meeting on refugee resettlement in Sofia.

At the meeting, the Bulgarian government announced it will resettle a group of 20 refugees in 2014 and that the meeting was intended as the start of the planning process for the Bulgarian resettlement effort including the integration of the resettled refugees. The agenda specifically focused on the development of the Bulgarian integration plan that will not only cover resettlement but the integration of recognised asylum seekers as well.

[Read more](#)

WORLD REFUGEE DAY - 20 JUNE 2012 – Lunch event, Brussels, Belgium

For many years, European municipalities, cities and regions have provided the welcoming, safe and supportive communities in which resettled refugees can begin their new lives as European citizens. Many others are beginning their resettlement journey, or considering their participation in resettlement in the near future. On the occasion of World Refugee Day 2012, our lunchtime programme of speakers and short films introduced refugee resettlement in Europe, highlighted the successes of cities and regions in advocating for more and better resettlement in Europe and presented the opportunities for city and regional involvement in ICMC's SHARE city network and the wider EU Resettlement Network. To read more about the event and view photos, please [click here](#).

CONTACT: IOM Jo de Backer jdebacker@iom.int; ICMC: Ania Pokorska apokorska@icmc.net and Rachel Westerby city.coordinator@icmc.net ; UNHCR: Johannes van Gemund gemund@unhcr.org

Linking In Calendar 2012

- National stakeholders meeting in Spain – 18/ 19 July 2012 (TBC)
- National stakeholders meeting in Czech Republic –August/ September 2012
- National stakeholders meeting in Austria – September/ October 2012
- Local practitioners training on reception and integration in Germany – September- October 2012

A joint IOM, UNHCR and ICMC Project- LINKING IN EU RESETTLEMENT - Linking the resettlement phases and local resettlement practitioners

This project is partially funded by the European Commission under the European Refugee Fund 2010

