

The Role of Churches and Christian Organisations in Community-based Sponsorship Programmes of Refugees in Europe: Challenges, Opportunities and next Steps

Brussels, 18th and 19th September

Venue: Caritas International, Rue de la Charité 39

Monday 18 September

Stocktaking, Learning and Understanding

10:00	Registration of participants and welcome coffee
10:30	Words of Welcome by François Cornet and Anne Dussart , Caritas International Reflection on Churches' involvement in refugee protection by Msgr. Luc Van Looy , Bishop of Ghent, and Robert Innes , Bishop of the Church of England's Diocese in Europe.
11:00-11:20	Presentation of ERN Private Sponsorship research paper (Magdalena Boehm, ICMC Europe)
11:20-12:30	Panel 1: Experiences from Europe (moderated by Petra Hueck, ICMC Europe) Stocktaking: Community-based Sponsorship Programmes of Refugees Humanitarian Corridors in Italy: Advocacy, framework, implementation and next steps Cesare Zucconi , Comunità di Sant'Egidio; Paolo Naso , Italian Federation of Protestant Churches; Daniele Albanese , Caritas Biella; Humanitarian Corridors in France: A new Partnership and Framework for Sponsorship Vardouhie Alexanian , Fédération de l'entraide protestant; Juliette Delaplace , Secours Catholique, Xavier de Palmaert , Fench Bishop Conference Federal State programmes & Private Sponsorship of family members in Germany Patricia Reineck , Caritas Germany; Regine Nock-Azari Hamidian , Diakonie Community-based Sponsorship in the UK Mark Wiggin and Sean Ryan , Caritas Salford; Nadine Daniel , Church of England
12:30-13:45	Panel 2: Experiences from Canada (moderated by Petra Hueck, ICMC Europe) Private Sponsorship of Refugees and the role of Faith-based organisations and Churches Overview of the Canadian Sponsorship Programme (Brian Dyck , Chair of the Canadian Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAH) Council and National Migration and Resettlement Coordinator, Mennonite Central Committee, Edmonton, Alberta) The role of the Diocese of Montreal in engaging parishes in refugee sponsorships (Alessandra Santopadre , Coordinator for the Refugee Sponsorship Programme, Diocese

	<p>of Montreal, Québec)</p> <p>Receiving and volunteering for refugees in the Diocese of Niagara (Scott Mcleod, Associate Priest, St. George's Anglican Church in St. Catharines, Ontario and Coordinator of the Refugee Sponsorship Program, Diocese of Niagara, Ontario)</p> <p>Welcome and integration opportunities in smaller communities (Evelyn Jones, Coordinator of the Refugee Sponsorship at Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia)</p> <p>Ensuring quality sponsorships: offering training and support (Yosief Araya, Manager of the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program, Catholic Crosscultural Services, Toronto)</p>
13:45	Family Photo and Lunch

Discussing and Analysing

14:30-16.00	<p>Parallel Working Groups: Identifying common principles and defining benchmarks of community-based private sponsorship programmes (1st round)</p> <p>Group 1 – Advocacy and campaigning for private sponsorship <i>Rapporteur:</i> Shannon Pfohman, Caritas Europa</p> <p>Group 2 - Defining private sponsorships: Legal pathways and welcoming engagement <i>Rapporteur:</i> Claudia Bonamini, JRS Europe</p> <p>Group 3 – Identification of sponsored refugees <i>Rapporteur:</i> Giulia Gori, FCEI</p> <p>Group 4 – Who sponsors? Financial responsibilities, duration, and safety net <i>Rapporteur:</i> Anne Dussart, Caritas International</p> <p>Group 5 – Types of agreements: Division of roles among government and other actors <i>Rapporteur:</i> Matthieu Tardis, IFRI</p> <p>Group 6 - Community based responses : Welcome, housing, support and volunteering <i>Rapporteur:</i> Magdalena Boehm, ICMC Europe</p>
16.00-16.30	Coffee break
16.30-18:30	<p>Parallel Working Groups (2nd round)</p> <p>Group 1 – Advocacy and campaigning for private sponsorship</p> <p>Group 2 – Defining private sponsorships: Legal pathways and welcoming engagement</p> <p>Group 3 – Identification of sponsored refugees</p> <p>Group 4 - Who sponsors? Financial responsibilities, duration, and safety net</p> <p>Group 5 – Types of agreements: Division of roles among government and other actors</p> <p>Group 6 - Community based responses : Welcome, housing, support and volunteering</p>
19:30	Social event: Networking dinner at Madou's folie (Rue de la Presse 23)

Tuesday 19 September

Strategizing: standards, principles and future cooperation

08:30	Registration of participants and welcome coffee
09:00	Opening prayer and Inspirational message Msgr. Robert Vitillo (Secretary general, International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) and Brian Dyck (Mennonite Church of Canada)
09:15-10:15	Reports and conclusions from working groups: Shannon Pfohman , Caritas Europa; Claudia Bonamini , JRS Europe; Giulia Gori , Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy; Matthieu Tardis , IFRI; Anne Dussart , Caritas International, Magdalena Boehm , ICMC Europe Feedback from Participants
10:15-10:45	Participants Interactive Statement Game: Participants express their views and positions with respect to key principles of private sponsorship programmes facilitated by Anne Dussart , Caritas International
10:45-11:00	Towards common grounds and principles by Torsten Moritz (CCME) and Petra Hueck (ICMC Europe)
11:00-11:15	Presentation of the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative (GRSI): Building capacity on private sponsorships and launch of the “Guidebook on sponsorship” demo, Emad Aziz Sedrak (UNHCR Resettlement Services) and Julien Féret (Mission of Canada to the European Union)
11:15-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-12:30	Follow up: How to move forward in advancing and developing sponsorship initiatives? GROUP 1: Building a joint advocacy position of Church actors : looking forward to the Global Compact on Refugees and Migrants, with Robert Vitillo (ICMC), Yuriy Tykhovlis (Vatican Migrants & Refugee Section) and Petra Hueck (ICMC Europe) GROUP 2: SHARE Private Sponsorship Working Group and Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative (GRSI) Facilitating Peer exchange to strengthen and expand private sponsorship initiatives, with Magdalena Boehm (ICMC Europe), Leïla Bodeux (Caritas Europa) and Emad Aziz Sedrak (UNHCR) and Julien Féret (Mission of Canada to the EU)
12:30-13:00	Final remarks, upcoming ERN activities and follow-up Charlotte Hermans (IOM), Magdalena Boehm (ICMC Europe) David Watt (UNHCR)
13:00-15:00	Possibilities for networking, exchange and light lunch