

# Housing for Refugee Inclusion

## SHARE Regional Conference

March 6-8, 2019

C&S Rooftop in Vienna (Untere Viaduktgasse 16, 1030 Vienna)

### Concept Note

#### Subject

Within the frame of the [SHARE Network](#), the ARGE consortium, consisting of [Caritas Austria](#), [Rotes Kreuz Oberösterreich](#) and [Diakonie Flüchtlingsdienst](#), in partnership with the Brussels office of the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC Europe), organises a **regional conference “Housing for Refugee Inclusion”** at C&S Rooftop, Vienna, which will take place in March 2019.

Housing-related challenges remain a priority for many stakeholders in the integration sector. Municipalities, local communities and NGOs across Europe have different ways of providing housing for refugees as a means to promote their inclusion in society. While some countries provide access to social housing or reception centres, others provide financial assistance to support refugees in accessing the private market. Housing assistance is often time-limited or associated with conditions, resulting in challenges for both refugees and host communities during transition periods. While countries generally maintain national standards or regulations around housing provision for refugees, the competence often falls to local government authorities. This is because local governments – often in smaller-size municipalities and rural areas – are tasked with receiving refugees according to placement systems, which determine where refugees can live within the national territory. In addition, civil society often plays an important role by filling gaps in service delivery and helping refugees navigate complex welfare systems. The capacity to provide quality housing also enables governments to meet their commitments and demonstrate solidarity with refugee-hosting countries in Europe and beyond – rendering it a key area of debate.

This conference will look further into these issues, taking into consideration housing provision for beneficiaries of international protection as well as refugees who arrive by means of resettlement, sponsorship or other legal pathways.

#### Objectives

The conference aims to give an overview of the various housing models across Europe and provide a platform for exchange of best practices. Caritas Austria, together with Diakonie and Rotes Kreuz will present on the housing models in practice in Austria, while European partners will present a selected overview of their respective models, forming the basis for practice exchange and learning. The conference will present innovative models of housing for refugee inclusion, serving as a learning opportunity for practitioners and policy makers who are designing or managing housing programmes for refugees.

#### Participants

The two and a half day conference will be co-financed by the EU, in the framework of SHARE and will target around 30 participants selected upon expression of interest and relevant experience from: Austria, Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Slovenia, Romania and





possibly other countries. Participation will be open to mixed delegations of government officials, relevant civil societies and/or local authorities.

### Programme

The programme content will be tailored to address issues, challenges and opportunities identified by the participating countries, allowing for sufficient time for Q&A and exchange. The conference will include panel presentations of good practices, interactive working groups and a study visit to better understand strong approaches in practice. The agenda will allow for reflections on the topic of housing for refugees in the different stages of the asylum process. Participants will get the chance to either visit the housing project Zinnergasse in an urban Viennese setting or visit Haus Romero in Probstdorf, a housing project in a rural environment of Lower Austria. The discussions during the conference will seek to address the following questions:

- When tasked with providing housing for refugees, what are the respective advantages and challenges of private/market-based housing compared to social housing?
- How best to create housing for groups with special needs, such as refugees with disabilities, large families, single individuals and unaccompanied minors?
- What opportunities and challenges exist for housing in rural areas and smaller communities compared to larger, urban areas?
- How can practitioners support refugees to overcome barriers to accessing private housing?
- How can a resettlement programme counteract challenges for the state and refugees regarding the organisation of adequate housing in the receiving country?

### Registration

Participation is limited to 30 spots and will be open to mixed delegations of government and civil society. A detailed programme and logistical details will follow. In the meantime, please register your interest via [this online form](#) by **15 February 2019**. Support for travel and accommodation in Vienna will be provided to participants if needed. The conference will be held at Cards & Systems Rooftop, Untere Viaduktgasse 16, 1030 Vienna, right next to Wien-Mitte train station. Participants will be accommodated at [Magda's Hotel](#), a social business from Caritas Vienna that employs refugees.

### About the SHARE Project & ARGE consortium

Part of the [European Resettlement Network \(ERN\)](#), the SHARE Network promotes partnerships for refugee inclusion in local communities across Europe. Established in March 2012 and led by ICMC Europe, the SHARE Network provides a platform for mutual exchange and learning amongst local and regional actors working on or considering resettlement, and advocates for more and better resettlement in Europe. SHARE Integration strengthens the capacity of actors in the field of refugee housing by delivering tailored training, conducting research, developing and sharing innovative tools, and facilitating best practice exchange. See, for example, the 2014 SHARE Network publication, '[A Place to Live, A Place to Stay: A Good Practice Guide for Housing in Refugee Resettlement.](#)'

In Austria, the biggest humanitarian Organisations worked on the integration of resettled refugees. Caritas, Rotes Kreuz Oberösterreich and Diakonie Flüchtlingsdienst formed the ARGE consortium. Together they prepared, and until 2018, implemented the three [Austrian resettlement programmes HAP I-III](#). Today, they continue to share their knowledge and experiences through their advocacy work on resettlement.

### Contact

ICMC Europe

Magdalena Boehm: [boehm@icmc.net](mailto:boehm@icmc.net)

Caritas Austria

Mareike Trull: [mareike.trull@caritas-austria.at](mailto:mareike.trull@caritas-austria.at)



<sup>2</sup>  
This conference is co-financed by the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund