

The SHARE Network

Part of the European Resettlement Network, the SHARE Network promotes partnerships for refugee inclusion in local communities across Europe.

Established in March 2012 and led by ICMC Europe, SHARE 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.

The 2018-19 SHARE Integration project, co-financed by the European Union, responds to Europe's expanded role in receiving refugees via refugee resettlement and complementary pathways. It expands the focus of the SHARE Network to include building the capacity of smaller municipalities and local actors involved in community-based and private sponsorship.



Co-financed by the European Union

SCALING UP RESETTLEMENT ACROSS TERRITORIES

Building refugee inclusion & integration in smaller towns and cities

European countries are making an increasingly significant contribution to addressing global resettlement needs receiving **50,000 resettled refugees during 2017-19**. This is the largest joint European resettlement effort to date, and European cities and towns have played a central role in its success.

The **Global Compact on Refugees** and accompanying draft **3-year Strategy** present an ambitious international vision to grow global resettlement and other protection pathways for refugees.

Delivering on this vision requires contributions from all actors - including **cities, towns and local citizens**. For Europe, it means formalising a **new EU resettlement programme for 2020-2022**.



THE SHARE EXPERIENCE

Since 2012, **SHARE has engaged more than 3,000 stakeholders in 27 European countries**, and promoted **exchange with key global resettlement countries (Canada, the US and Australia)** to ensure all relevant experience and expertise supports the growth of resettlement and complementary pathways in Europe:

ACROSS EUROPE...

- Advocacy for expanded resettlement and complementary pathways of admission for refugees
- Partnerships with European institutions
- **'Taking stock of achievements under the 50,000 programme'** (SHARE Skills Day, October 2019)

ENGAGING NEW COUNTRIES...

- Mobilising European expertise to provide tailor-made best practice solutions for new resettlement countries
- Preparing for arrivals (defining settlement plans and partnerships)
- **SHARE Integration Roster** (Estonia, Croatia, Slovenia)

ACROSS NATIONAL TERRITORIES...

- Multi-level planning for quota implementation and arrivals
- Sensitive refugee placement: mapping best practice in matching refugees to municipalities
- Supporting multistakeholder platforms and coordination
- Combining placement with regional approaches for language learning, education and labour market integration
- Strengthening integration capacity in smaller municipalities: **SHARE Preparing Welcoming Communities Training Curriculum**

AWARENESS RAISING...

- **'Raising awareness to promote refugee inclusion'** (June 2019 SHARE Conference, Bucharest)

ENGAGING REFUGEES...

- Refugee participation throughout SHARE activities
- SHARE Resettlement Ambassador programme
- Cultural mediation mainstreamed into SHARE settlement planning and capacity building

PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP...

- **'Taking stock'**: mapping private sponsorship in Europe and what it means for local inclusion
- **'Fostering community sponsorship across Europe'** (ICMC-Caritas publication, forthcoming September 2019)
- Look and Learn Visit (Germany)

SUCCESS BREEDS SUCCESS...

More quality resettlement supported by local communities

European cities and towns play an essential role in the growth of refugee protection in Europe, both by receiving refugees via organised programmes and through the involvement of local citizens in private sponsorship.

Smaller cities and towns and rural areas have made a particularly important contribution to recently expanded European efforts in these areas, many expressing their solidarity by welcoming and supporting refugees for the first time. To ensure the continued growth of European and global resettlement, it is crucial that smaller communities continue to expand their role in welcoming refugees, and receive the support and resources necessary to build their capacity to do so.

INTEGRATION IN SMALLER COMMUNITIES

A forthcoming SHARE publication, produced in partnership with the *Institut français des relations internationales* (IFRI), identifies a range of specific opportunities for refugee integration and inclusion provided by smaller communities:

- **A 'soft landing'**, in smaller environments in which local services are easier to navigate and local social networks more accessible.
- **Smoother and closer cooperation between citizens and stakeholders**, by mobilising existing frameworks for collaboration and cooperation in support of receiving refugees.
- **Stronger engagement of local citizens**, mobilised through close-knit local networks and community institutions to welcome refugees and support their settlement and integration.
- **A diverse and accessible labour market**, with vacancies in sectors matching the skills and experience of some refugees, and access to employment opportunities through local networks.

WHAT IS A 'SMALLER' CITY OR TOWN?

What is considered to be a 'smaller' city or town varies across European countries.

In general, smaller cities and towns are not 'big cities', which are generally at the centre of administration, transport, business and cultural networks. In the context of the SHARE, smaller cities and towns are defined as those with a maximum population of around 150,000, also including villages and rural areas.

REGIONAL FRAMEWORKS TO COORDINATE PLACEMENT AND INTEGRATION

It is essential that programmes and initiatives to receive refugees in smaller communities are implemented in a way that maximises the opportunities for integration and inclusion.

Drawing on its experience in implementing capacity-building, research and peer exchange activities in and for smaller communities across Europe, SHARE has identified the need to develop and/or strengthen **territorial approaches to refugee integration** as a best practice model to guide the participation of smaller communities in receiving refugees. This approach centres on **effective multilevel governance cooperation and coordination**, and in particular on regional coordination of the participation of smaller communities, in order to:

- **Encourage municipalities to participate in receiving refugees**, through intensive engagement with local political actors and creating regional mentoring relationships.
- **Facilitate refugee placement that supports long-term integration and inclusion**. Regional coordination enables matching of refugees to receiving municipalities that can best meet their needs and aspirations. In the long-term, sensitive placement can build resilient refugee communities.
- **Support fulfillment and reliability of national resettlement commitments**, by negotiating regional quotas with municipalities and ensuring sensitive distribution of refugees within a region.
- **Identify local challenges and develop regional responses**, including training for local actors and commissioning region-wide services.
- **Drive innovation in integration**, as in several European smaller municipalities' efforts to address mobility challenges by supporting refugees to access driving licences.
- **Streamline national programmes** by providing national authorities with a single point of contact for multiple municipalities receiving refugees.
- **Provide a voice for local actors** in national level discussions on resettlement and integration.

For more information on the **SHARE Network** please visit www.resettlement.eu or contact Magdalena Boehm, ICMC Programme Manager at boehm@icmc.net