

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: 30,000 for 2020

Building refugee inclusion & integration in smaller towns and cities

As the EU programme to receive **50,000 resettled refugees during 2017-19** draws to a close, it is clear that European countries are making an increasingly significant contribution to addressing global resettlement needs. The 50,000 programme 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 to receive 30,000 refugees in 2020**.



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 the 50,000 programme (SHARE Conference, 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
- Engaging employers in placement and matching
- Supporting multistakeholder cooperation
- 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)
- SHARE **'Small Places, Great Hearts'** video series
- Strategies to counter negative migration discourses

ENGAGING REFUGEES...

- Refugee participation throughout SHARE
- 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)

PREPARING REFUGEES & LOCAL COMMUNITIES

- Linking pre-departure and post-arrival cultural and social orientation for resettled refugees
- Preparing local communities to receive refugees
- Innovative methodologies for pre-departure cultural orientation
- Peer exchange and capacity-building (SHARE seminar **'Pre-departure processing and cultural orientation'**, May 2019, Istanbul)

30,000 EU RESETTLEMENT PLACES FOR 2020

While resettlement to the EU has increased in recent years, **EU resettlement places represent just 1.6% of global resettlement needs** - far below the capacity of the EU as a wealthy region and major international humanitarian actor. Recent years have also seen a vast increase in tangible commitments made by European citizens and faith-based organisations receiving refugees via private and community sponsorship.

The current momentum and the many successes of EU initiatives to receive refugees must not be lost. Inaction is not an option if the EU is to make a serious contribution to the global goals of creating one million resettlement places and admitting two million refugees by 2028.

The SHARE Network calls on EU Member States, led by the Finnish Council Presidency and supported by the European Commission, to make a **collective Global Resettlement Forum pledge of at least 30,000 resettlement places and a substantial number of refugees to be admitted through complementary pathways in 2020.**

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

The 2019 SHARE-IFRI publication *Another Story from the 'Refugee Crisis: Resettlement in small towns and rural areas in France* identifies a range of opportunities for refugee integration and inclusion in 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?

This 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. SHARE has identified **territorial approaches to refugee integration** as a best practice 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**, thus supporting the realisation of national resettlement commitments
- **Use regional knowledge to facilitate refugee placement that supports long-term integration and inclusion**
- **Identify local challenges and develop regional responses**, including by driving innovation in integration
- **Streamline national programmes** by providing national authorities with a single, regional point of contact
- **Provide a voice for local actors** in national level discussions on resettlement and integration