



European  
Commission

# SUPPORTING REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT



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## Project name:

SHARE Integration – A network of (small-size) cities, towns and local actors committed to offering protection and welcome for resettled or relocated refugees in Europe

## Purpose:

Facilitating the resettlement process for both refugees and hosts

## AT A GLANCE

### Geographical coverage:

**9 countries:** Belgium, Austria, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania, Portugal and United Kingdom

As of January 2019, activities were conducted in 29 municipalities and towns in the partner countries and elsewhere.

### Project coordinator:

International Catholic Migration Commission Europe vzw – ICMC

### Estimated budget:

€ 802 637

### EU contribution:

90 % co-funded by the European Union

### Type of funding:

Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)

### Start date:

February 2018

### End date:

July 2019



## Refugee resettlement challenges

Resettlement and relocation schemes are meant to provide legal and safe pathways to Europe for people in need of international protection. In 2018-2019, European countries pledged to take in 50 000 resettled refugees. This means that governments, local authorities and civil society organisations across Europe need to prepare their communities for refugee arrivals by increasing their capacities.

States increasingly place refugees in smaller cities and municipalities where housing is more available, but many of these have no previous experience in resettlement. They may lack the expertise or capacity to meet the refugees' specific needs in terms of, for example, healthcare, psychosocial assistance or labour market integration.

The resettlement process itself presents challenges to even the most experienced authorities, because it involves several phases and different actors working at various levels. Improving the links between pre-departure and post-arrival processes will make resettlement more fluid.

## SHARE Integration

The SHARE Integration project aims to build the capacity of new, emerging and experienced resettlement countries in Europe so as to support the reception, early settlement and integration of resettled and relocated refugees.

Building on the [SHARE Network](#), the project strengthens the preparedness of small-sized cities and towns, and promotes multi-level coordination at every stage of the resettlement and relocation processes. It achieves this through targeted training, by facilitating peer exchange and multilateral stakeholder engagement, and by developing and sharing innovative tools.

## Results

To date, the project has held two successful EU exchange events, on [pre-departure cultural orientation](#) in Istanbul and on [refugee placement policies](#). Events on housing, regional coordination, awareness raising and other topics are planned, and the project cooperates with other networks and actors to disseminate tools and research.

The partners have developed a training curriculum 'Preparing Welcoming Communities' for small and medium-sized cities that host resettled and relocated refugees. It includes modules on legal protection, housing and reception, assessing vulnerability and resilience, working with volunteers, and on managing the expectations of refugees and host communities. More than 300 local actors have already been trained during 18 [pilots](#) in eight countries.

To engage different stakeholders on refugee resettlement and inclusion, the partners have so far held six national and regional roundtables with a focus on smaller cities, in France, [Germany](#), Italy and the Netherlands.

The SHARE Network has convened a Working Group on Private Sponsorship that brings together learning and research actors from civil society organisations in five countries.

A publication on practices on receiving refugees in smaller municipalities is to be launched at the Committee of the Regions in June 2019 when the SHARE film *Small Places, Great Hearts* will be screened, highlighting the experiences of refugee integration in small municipalities across Europe. The SHARE network will present its final results at a Skill Share conference in October 2019.

## MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ON REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AND INCLUSION

During 2018, roundtables and multi-stakeholder meetings were organised in the 9 target countries. For example, in October 2018, SHARE Integration partner [MigrAfrica](#) hosted a roundtable on labour market integration for refugees. The participants, from organisations active in refugee integration in smaller towns and municipalities, exchanged experiences and ideas, discussed best practices and identified successful approaches. They developed a set of objectives and a plan for reaching them. These are now being built on and have also been presented to a wider audience.

## SHARE SETTLEMENT & INTEGRATION ROSTER

Many EU countries now taking in resettled refugees have little or no former experience of the process. Other parts of Europe contain a wealth of resettlement experience and expertise but lack methodologies for transferring skills and adapting them to the specific needs and contexts of the countries starting resettlement. The project addresses this gap with a Settlement & Integration Roster, an innovative needs-based framework through which experienced actors address identified training needs in preparing for local integration in emerging resettlement countries on a peer-to-peer basis.

## MORE INFORMATION

**Project reference:** AMIF-2016-AG-INTE 776239

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**Other projects:** [LINK IT](#), [EU-FRANK](#)

**Resources:** [www.resettlement.eu/page/share-publications-resources](http://www.resettlement.eu/page/share-publications-resources)