

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”

Led by ICMC and co-financed by the European Commission, the **SHARE Network** has since March 2012 built toward a network of European regional and local authorities and their civil society partners involved in and/or with a commitment to refugee resettlement, protection and integration. As an integral part of the [European Resettlement Network](#), **SHARE** facilitates the inclusion of local and regional actors in the wider network, and ensures the visibility of the local and regional dimension of resettlement in European and global resettlement discussions and developments.

1. Number and type of stakeholders:

Since its launch, SHARE I + II have engaged over **1.200 participants** from European and national NGOs, local authorities from various region, cities and municipalities, diaspora organisations, volunteers, parishes, universities, etc., in 28 European countries in a programme of structured dialogue, exchange of practice and networking between cities and regions in both experienced and emerging resettlement countries and those planning or considering resettlement. The SHARE Network in its third phase will raise the profile of- and engage with smaller cities and towns to strengthen reception and integration planning of resettled/relocated refugees through targeted trainings and European best practice exchange at visits and seminars in collaboration with project partners in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania and the UK.

2. Plans and objectives for 2018:

- **Networking and strengthening welcome and integration particularly in smaller municipalities.**

The SHARE project will strengthen the capacity of smaller municipalities and civil society actors to facilitate refugee integration and offer welcoming communities. Coordination and networks among resettlement and mainstream actors working on asylum and migration across Europe, as well as within respective national contexts, are essential to successful resettlement and relocation programmes.

- **Expanding local platforms of municipalities, civil society, churches, private citizens and business in offering welcome, housing, language learning and labour market integration, particularly via volunteering.**

Building on previous experience supporting integration and volunteerism efforts, this project will leverage the energy and resources of local communities to enable smaller cities and towns to receive and integrate resettled and relocated refugees. National and regional roundtable meetings will identify and engage relevant national, regional and local stakeholders from smaller communities in order to discuss mainstreaming of refugee relocation and resettlement within overall service provision, as well as the potential for citizen engagement and volunteering welcoming environments.

Roundtable meetings will aim to strengthen partnerships between all actors to ensure local preparedness to receive and successfully integrate vulnerable people.

- **Communication and awareness raising on role of municipalities and private actors in offering welcome and inclusion, including diaspora organisations and refugees themselves.**

The SHARE Network will raise the profile of- and engage with smaller cities and towns to strengthen reception and integration planning of resettled/relocated refugees. Several communication channels such as the SHARE Integration website, SHARE Magazines, SHARE Welcoming Communities video series will communicate about local integration programmes in smaller cities across Europe, upcoming events and project updates from the SHARE Network to relevant stakeholders.

- **Expanding SHARE Resettlement Ambassador Programme**

The inclusion of resettled and relocated refugees in SHARE events will enlarge the scope of the [SHARE Resettlement Ambassador scheme](#). The ambassadors can promote social cohesion as a basis for integration bringing the examples of their city's resettlement achievements and advocating for more and better resettlement at the local, national and European levels.

- **Research and exchange with institutional and private actors on best practices in national refugee placement and matching policies.**

Research within SHARE Integration will focus on 1) identifying best practices for small cities and towns in their efforts to welcome refugees, mainstream resettlement into overall integration efforts and offer relevant services to refugees with particular vulnerabilities and 2) the role of Christian organisations and churches in emerging private sponsorship models in Europe, highlight best practices and give concrete recommendations on how to build capacity of local communities who aim to set up similar programmes across Europe.

- **Expanding private sponsorship as an complementary legal pathway for refugees in Europe**

Since refugee can also be sponsored by private individuals, groups, corporations, and other entities, the overall goal of the SHARE Working Group on private sponsorship is to explore ways to increase capacity of potential new stakeholders who aim to set up private sponsorship programmes in other European countries though establishing the SHARE Working Group on Private Sponsorship (led by ICMC and Caritas Europe). ICMC Europe has recently published a Scoping Paper on "[Private Sponsorship in Europe: Expanding complementary pathways for refugee resettlement](#)".

3. List of activities:

Area	Activity
Linking pre-departure and post-arrival activities	Language Anchor toolkit to support volunteers with curriculum materials, intercultural communication tips and relevant tutoring techniques
	Multi-stakeholder workshop "Multi-level governance & placement of refugees" co-organized by the Dutch 'Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers' (COA) and "Multi-level governance &

	<p>Placement of Refugees” infographics in collaboration with the Council of European Municipalities and Regions</p> <p>SHARE Welcoming Communities video series: creation of a video series to be included in pre-departure cultural orientation and early reception activities</p> <p>SHARE Integration Pre-departure CO Seminar (Istanbul, Turkey): 'Building the basis for integration: innovative new practices and successful approaches in pre-departure Cultural Orientation (CO)'. Hosted by ICMC Europe, COA in cooperation with ICMC Turkey</p>
Preparing smaller communities	<p>Working group & Training curriculum ‘mainstreaming and preparing welcoming communities’: engaging experienced CSO actors in trainings to initiate and strengthen partnerships with public employment bodies, local authorities, mainstream service providers i.e. actors</p> <p>National and regional roundtable meetings to identify and engage relevant national, regional and local stakeholders from smaller communities to discuss mainstreaming of refugee relocation and resettlement within overall service provision, citizen engagement and volunteering welcoming environments</p> <p>ICMC – Caritas Working Group: Private Sponsorship and publication “Preparing communities to sponsor and integrate refugees”: To increase capacity of local communities in offering protection to refugees in need – in collaboration with Caritas Europa and partners Caritas in Italy, the UK, Belgium, France and Austria</p> <p>‘Soft Landing’ comparative research: led by the French research institute, IFRI, the comparative research study will explore the integration of resettled and relocated refugees in small-size communities across Europe</p>
Capacity building of emerging resettlement countries	<p>SHARE City Curriculum: templates and guidance on reception, integration and casework translated into six different Central-Eastern European languages</p> <p>SHARE Settlement & Integration Roster and Trainings: Up to 15 1.5-day training workshops coordinated by ICMC and Caritas International and tailored to the participating country’s specific context and learning needs identified through an individual assessment</p> <p>Regional Resettlement Conferences in Bucharest and Vienna: “Housing and reception for resettled refugees” (Vienna) and “Awareness-raising on refugee protection and welcoming communities” (Bucharest)</p>
Strengthening the SHARE Integration Network and facilitating European best practice exchange	<p>SHARE Integration Website: a multi-purpose website to become a reference website for European actors that wish to exchange local practices in reception and integration of resettled/relocated refugees</p> <p>SHARE Integration Look & Learn Exchange Visits: to Germany and Sweden for mixed delegations of local actors (local authorities, civil society)</p> <p>3 issues of the SHARE Integration magazine will be distributed to partners and stakeholders throughout the project period</p> <p>Integration Skills Share Day final conference, gathering 80 resettlement and integration stakeholders in Brussels</p>

ICMC Europe is looking for donors to support the SHARE network during the period 2018- 2020.

For further information about the SHARE Network, please visit

www.resettlement.eu/page/welcome-share-network

or contact:

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