

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.

The 2018-19 SHARE Integration project, co-financed by the European Union under the AMIF, will respond to Europe's expanded role in receiving refugees via refugee resettlement and complementary pathways, particularly private sponsorship.

During 2018-19, European municipalities will welcome 50,000 resettled refugees from the Middle East and Africa, a tangible expression of solidarity and of offering welcome to those most in need.

To date, the SHARE Network has engaged 3,000 stakeholders in 27 EU countries in dialogue and advocacy. In the coming period, SHARE will expand its focus include smaller municipalities and local actors involved in community-based and private sponsorship.

SHARE Integration strengthens the capacity of these new actors by delivering tailored training, conducting research, developing and sharing innovative tools, and facilitating best practice exchange.

SHARE Integration will be implemented in parallel with the EU FRANK and Link-It projects, in which ICMC Europe is a partner.

In early 2019, we have seen a decline of solidarity in international and European efforts to provide solutions for refugees.

European countries continue to struggle to agree on a way forward to meet their legal obligations to rescue and admit those in danger at sea. But several have also stepped up their solidarity efforts in relation to receiving refugees.

At the international level, the adoption of the [Global Compact on Refugees](#) in December 2018 provides for the first time a global, strategic framework to coordinate actions and commitments in support of international refugee protection, including significant commitments to expanding resettlement and complementary pathways of admission. Check the article on page 9 to find out more about the Compact, and the SHARE Network's key considerations and recommendations for realising its objectives.



In Haarlem, a volunteer from the Dutch Council for Refugees welcomes a resettled person to her new home in The Netherlands.

continued...

Progress on [the European programme to receive 50,000 resettled refugees by October 2019](#) again demonstrates how the EU can offer much needed support to global refugee protection, in particular where actions are grounded in principles of solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility.

20 EU Member States have pledged just over 50,000 places for the programme since it was established in September 2017, and the pace of arrivals is quickening. **By March 2019, 24,000 persons had arrived in Europe**, and countries like Germany will see significant arrivals in the coming months.

Although a number of national governments have ceased their cooperation in receiving refugees, **cities and towns have continued to be vocal supporters of ongoing involvement, calling for a seat at the table when discussing refugee policy.**

The European Union continues to provide financial lump sums per refugee resettled to incentivise Member State involvement, and the recent decision to provide additional EU funding to Member States implementing solidarity measures offers new opportunities for those not yet engaged in receiving refugees to make their contributions.

We congratulate those countries responsible for initiating and scaling up emerging resettlement programmes. Check our article on page 6-7 on the 2019 Croatian resettlement programme, and note the progress in establishing a resettlement programme in Slovenia.

We particularly salute all the cities and towns across Europe that are welcoming new arrivals this year, many of whom are very small municipalities participating in receiving refugees for the first time.

Recognising the challenges they face, in the past 6 months SHARE partners have used the **SHARE Preparing Welcoming Communities Curriculum** to train local stakeholders preparing for upcoming arrivals in 25 small municipalities. Check page 3-4 to find out more about the SHARE Curriculum.

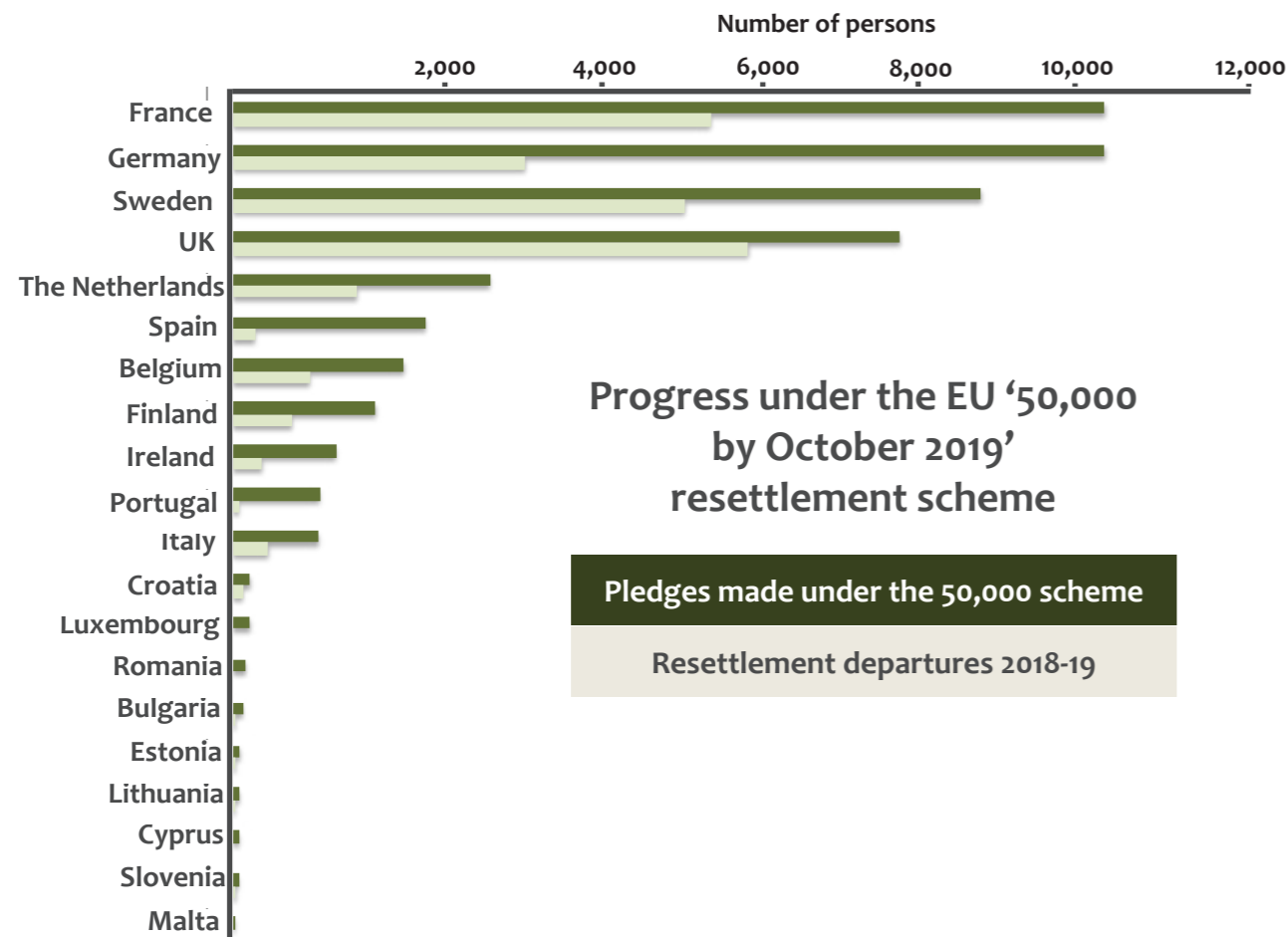
All these local initiatives demonstrate how **cities, towns and their partners are the foundation of ensuring local welcome and integrating refugees.** The success of local programmes can breed only success, encouraging municipalities to again engage in resettlement in the future and further expanding the basis of European resettlement. **We applaud the new 'Cities and Regions for Integration' initiative,** to be launched in early April by the Committee of the Regions and its partners, and urge local and regional authorities to [respond to the invitation get involved in this important platform.](#)

The 50,000 resettlement programme, and continuing European successes in expanding complementary pathways of admission for refugees, are solidifying the role of **the EU as an increasingly important global protection actor.**

While much remains to be done to receive the remainder of the 50,000 refugees planned to be resettled by October 2019, we must now ensure that we maintain the current international momentum on resettlement and complementary pathways, build on the implementation of the 50,000 programme, and take our experience forward by formalising commitments for **a new EU resettlement programme for 2020-2022.** 2019 therefore will be a challenging year for us all, but one full of ambition and possibility.

With full admiration for your commitment, and wishing you every success in your work.

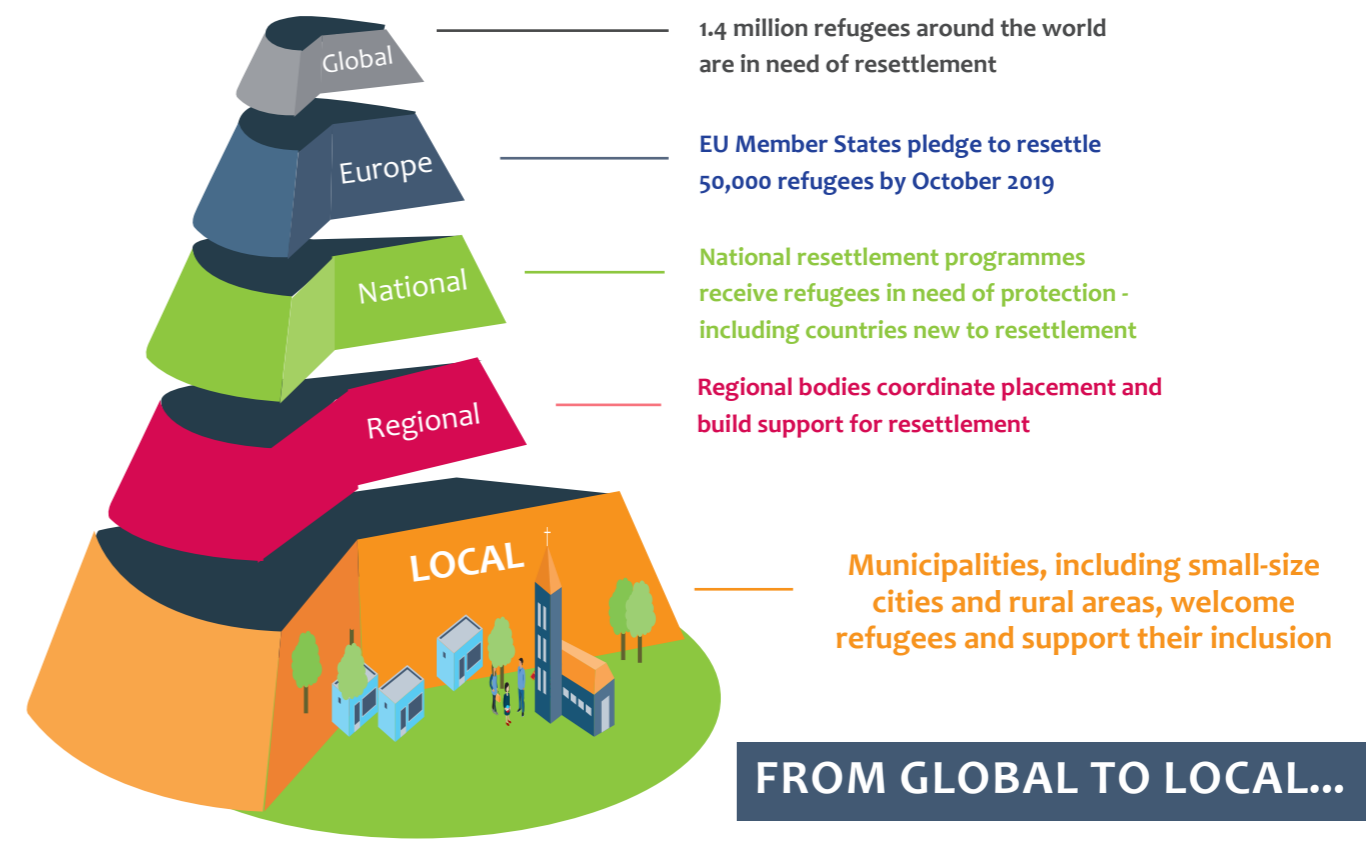
The ICMC Europe team



Progress under the EU '50,000 by October 2019' resettlement scheme

Pledges made under the 50,000 scheme
Resettlement departures 2018-19

THIS IS SHARE!



FROM GLOBAL TO LOCAL...

SHARE Preparing Welcoming Communities Training Curriculum

The **SHARE Preparing Welcoming Communities Training Curriculum** aims to strengthen the capacity of smaller municipalities and local actors to welcome refugees. The process of developing the curriculum began in April 2018, and pilot training events have been delivered in eight European countries during August 2018-January 2019, reaching 462 participants.

How does the SHARE Curriculum work?

The **SHARE Preparing Welcoming Communities Curriculum** provides resources to implement one-day training programmes for participants from a wide range of local stakeholders: local authorities, mainstream service providers, public employment bodies, political representatives, faith organisations, sports clubs, volunteer associations and others. It includes 13 thematic training modules, and provides presentation slides, participant classroom materials and trainers' guides for each. Each one-day **SHARE Curriculum** training day can address 2-4 curriculum modules, according to local needs and interests.

How was the SHARE Curriculum developed?

ICMC Europe and SHARE Integration partners came together in late April 2018 to identify learning priorities for the **SHARE Preparing Welcoming Communities Curriculum**. They agreed the 13 thematic topics, and individual partners selected thematic area(s) for which they would compile curriculum materials according to their experience and expertise. Curriculum materials were finalised in July 2018, ahead of the pilot implementation phase.

How were the SHARE Curriculum materials tested?

Each SHARE partner identified municipalities in which they would implement a pilot **SHARE Curriculum** training. Using needs assessment questionnaires to determine local learning priorities, they then selected relevant curriculum modules, translated materials into relevant language(s) and implemented the training.

15 training events in 8 countries, with 462 participants

CITY OF OOSTENDE (pop. 70,900)
18 September 2018, 13 participants

CITY OF LEUVEN (pop. 92,700)
13 September 2018, 32 participants

MUNICIPALITIES OF KIEZEGEM, PULDERBOS, ZOTTEGEM, HOOGLUDE, LESSINES, MEISE (pop. 1000-26,000)
22 December 2018, 43 participants

MUNICIPALITY OF AMPLEPUIS (pop. 4984)
22 November 2018, 74 participants
&
31 January 2019, 31 participants

MUNICIPALITY OF BELLEVILLE EN BEAUJOLAIS (pop. 8244)
25 September 2018, 44 participants

SHARE Preparing Welcoming Communities Training Curriculum THEMATIC TRAINING MODULES

- Legal Basis for Refugee Protection
- Housing and Reception
- Managing Expectations of Refugees
- Managing Expectations of Hosting Organisations
- Assessing Vulnerability
- Intercultural Mediation, Interpretation and Translation
- Labour Market Integration
- Intercultural Engagement
- Providing Psychosocial Support
- Working with Volunteers
- Setting up a Coordination Structure for Resettlement
- Syria: Geopolitical Context and Background
- Maintaining Professional Boundaries between Refugees and Volunteers

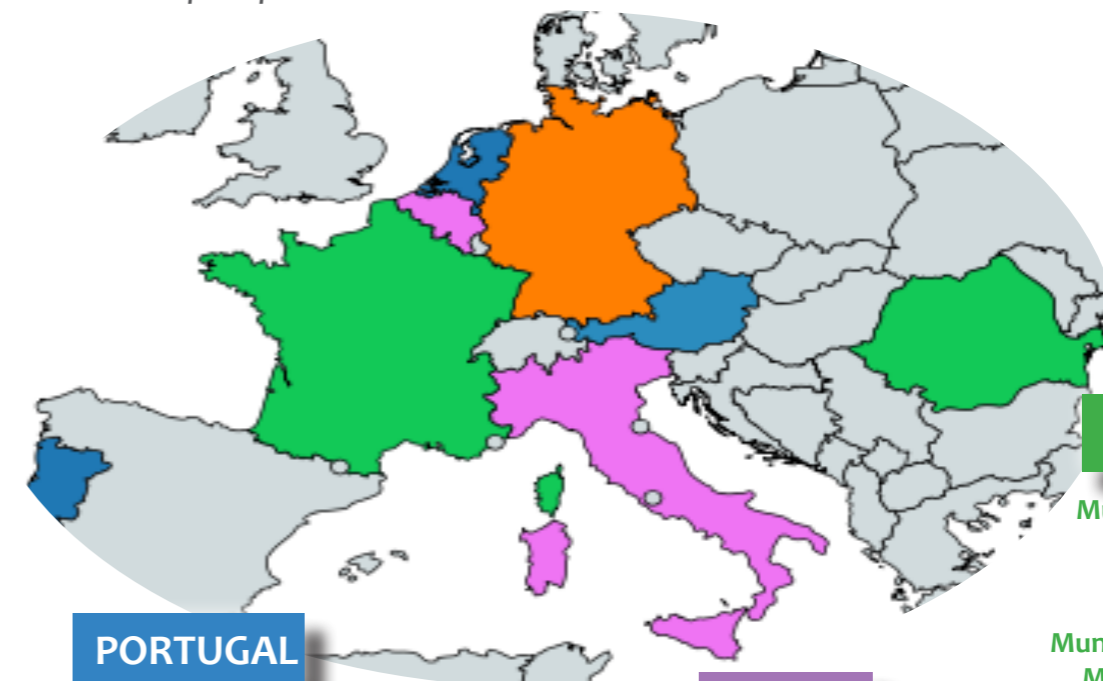
NETHERLANDS

City of Zaanstad (pop. 150,000)
30 August 2018, 12 participants

GERMANY

Municipality of Bergisch Gladbach (pop. 111,366)
26 October 2018, 34 participants

Municipality of Königswinter (pop. 40,771)
23 October 2018, 21 participants



AUSTRIA

City of Salzburg (pop. 154,820)
14 January 2019, 12 participants

ROMANIA

Municipality of Galati (pop. 303,205)
7 September 2018, 35 participants

Municipality of Somcuta Mare (pop. 80,600)
25 September 2018, 25 participants

PORTUGAL

Municipalities of Castelo Branco (pop. 56,000) and **Municipality of Leiria** (pop. 126,789)
12 October 2018, 24 participants

ITALY

Municipality of Celle Ligure (pop. 5200)
21 September 2018, 19 participants

Municipality of Varese (pop. 80,600)
17 October 2018, 31 participants

All participants submitted detailed evaluation feedback which, together with feedback from SHARE partners implementing the training, forms the basis for future curriculum development.

Key evaluation findings include the most common **challenges for work to support refugee integration at the local level** (employment, communicating with refugees, and finding appropriate language courses), and the **skills development and training areas that those working with refugees felt would most improve the quality of the support they could offer** (intercultural competence, legal issues related to refugees, and working with traumatised individuals).

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What happens now?

SHARE partners are planning additional training events during 2019, as well as revisions to the **SHARE Curriculum**. If you are interested in organising a Curriculum training event in your local community, or if you would like additional information, contact us!

Partnerships to make new resettlement efforts a reality: Spotlight on Croatia

Despite the record number of migrant arrivals in the EU during 2015-18, just 865 asylum claims were made in Croatia during this period, with 500 persons granted a protection status. The country acted mainly a point of transit for onward travel to other Member States, albeit with questions remaining about how far *non-refoulement* is fully observed at Croatia's external border.

As the youngest Member State of the EU, Croatia is also newly participating in EU solidarity efforts with regard to refugees. Whilst this new involvement is hugely positive, it is crucial that legal pathways to admit refugees should not replace or be considered a substitute for access to protection at the border.

A first decision for Croatia to participate in resettlement was taken in July 2015, and Croatia subsequently received 152 Syrian refugees from Turkey. Croatia has additionally received 82 persons from Greece and Italy under the now concluded EU relocation scheme, and in October 2017, a second national decision to receive a further 100 Syrians from Turkey was taken in the framework of the resettlement commitments set out in the [EU-Turkey Statement](#).

This first programme was substantially

IDENTIFICATION & REFERRAL



- UNHCR identifies Syrian refugees in need of resettlement, and refers cases to the Croatian government for consideration for resettlement.



SELECTION

- Croatian Ministry of the Interior conducts selection interviews at the ICMC Resettlement Support Center in Istanbul
- 141 persons are interviewed, and 103 selected.
- ICMC coordinate travel, accommodation and interpretation.



PRE-DEPARTURE

- JRS, ICMC and the Croatian Ministry of the Interior develop a 3-day pre-departure cultural orientation programme (implemented April 2019, ICMC Resettlement Support Center in Istanbul).
- ICMC coordinates medical checks.



TRAVEL

- IOM arrange travel to Croatia, in close collaboration with the Croatian national authorities, JRS and ICMC.

RECEPTION



- Resettled refugees spend 6-8 weeks at a central reception centre before moving onto independent housing.
- Croatian authorities find housing for resettled refugees.
- Programme of informal cultural orientation and 70 hours language tuition.



INTEGRATION & INCLUSION



- JRS prepares local communities for arrivals, engaging local partners and building support.
- JRS leads a 2-year integration programme, including specialised casework support, individual integration plans and 210hrs language tuition.
- A JRS volunteer is assigned to each family to support their integration.
- JRS works with key integration partners and stakeholders, including the Croatian Red Cross



impacted by secondary movements of resettled persons from Croatia to other Member States, an experience that has prompted additional planning and investment with regard to reception and integration for 2019.

The [ICMC Refugee Support Center for Turkey and the Middle East \(RSC\)](#) in Istanbul has over 50 years experience of processing applications of refugees referred by UNHCR for resettlement to the United States. As programmes to receive refugees by EU Member States become an increasingly important part of global protection, the RSC has worked with European governments (for example The Netherlands) to ensure European commitments to receive refugees from the region are realised.

In January 2019, the Croatian government and the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) signed an agreement for the RSC to provide expertise and services for the resettlement of 103 Syrian refugees from Turkey to Croatia. Expert staff at the ICMC RSC:

- Coordinate travel and accommodation for refugees coming to Istanbul for resettlement interviews, medical screenings and cultural orientation.
- Assist Croatian government officials to interview resettlement candidates in Istanbul.
- Provide interpretation services and organise medical screenings.
- Work with the [Jesuit Refugee Service \(JRS\) Croatia](#) to develop and implement a three-day, interactive pre-departure cultural orientation programme.

A first selection mission took place in February 2019, during which 141 Syrian refugees identified by UNHCR were interviewed and 103 selected for resettlement. The first pre-departure cultural orientation programme will take place at the

RSC in April 2019, with resettled refugees planned to arrive in two groups in April and July 2019.

Facilitating integration throughout the resettlement process: a new role for civil society
Resettled refugees arriving into Croatia will spend an initial 6-8 weeks at a small central reception facility in the city of Kutina in the central region of Croatia, before moving onto independent accommodation.

The national government is responsible for securing housing for the programme, which it sources from a mixture of both private and state-owned housing located in medium-sized cities close to Zagreb.

Whilst not finally confirmed, this independent housing is likely to be located in the cities of Karlovac and Sisak, and work to inform and prepare local communities about the upcoming arrivals has already begun.



Refugees are eligible to receive state financial assistance (including housing assistance) for a period of two years after arrival. The state language programme provides 280 hours of free language tuition for resettled refugees, 70 hours of which are completed at the centralised reception facility. At the time of writing, however, it is unclear how resettled refugees will be able to access the 210 hours of remaining tuition after leaving the reception facility.

In 2019, integration support for resettled refugees in Croatia will be coordinated by a partnership of the Croatian Ministry of the Interior and Jesuit Refugee Service Croatia. JRS is contracted to provide both pre-departure and post-integration support for the 103 Syrian refugees, marking a new and welcome involvement for civil society in Croatian resettlement activities.

Building local capacity to support refugee integration: SHARE Network activities in Croatia



lection of specific topics according to the needs and interests of participants.

During the Zagreb programme, ICMC Europe presented key concepts for integration included in the toolkit for caseworkers and approaches to training for local communities, based on pilot implementations of the curriculum materials during 2018-19. ICMC also led a collaborative decision-making process to select elements of the curriculum to be translated for use with Croatian participants.

- **Training and best practice exchange on areas of integration relevant to the current Croatian context (led by the Dutch Council for Refugees)**

The SHARE Settlement & Integration Roster supports the latter stages of the resettlement process: preparing for arrivals, supporting refugees during the first weeks of arrivals, strengthening local multi-stakeholder cooperation and planning for longer-term integration.

The Dutch Council for Refugees led a series of interactive, practice-based training sessions on aspects of integration selected as priority topics for Croatia, covering communication, volunteering and responding to trauma.

The SHARE Settlement & Integration Roster is available to support your work during 2018-19!

Contact us or go to www.resettlement.eu to find out more about the Roster and how you can request training support.

To support planning for integration for resettled refugees in Croatia, the **SHARE Settlement & Integration Roster** on 26-29 March in Zagreb brought together Croatian resettlement actors, such as the [Jesuit Refugee Service \(JRS\) Croatia](#) and the [Croatian Red Cross](#), and experienced resettlement practitioners from the [Dutch Council for Refugees](#).

The **SHARE Settlement & Integration Roster** deploys resettlement experts, community stakeholders and public officials to act as **SHARE Settlement & Integration Trainers**. Coordinated by ICMC Europe and the Dutch Council for Refugees, the roster facilitates training to support practitioners in emerging resettlement countries, tailor-made to meet their specific needs.

The four-day **SHARE Settlement & Integration Roster** training programme in Zagreb focused on:

- **Building the capacity of Croatian national actors to use the SHARE Preparing Welcoming Communities Training Curriculum and the Local Inclusion Toolkit for Refugee Resettlement**

The **SHARE Preparing Welcoming Communities Training Curriculum** and **Local Inclusion Toolkit for Refugee Resettlement** aim to build the capacity of local communities to welcome refugees and effectively support their integration. Training events, tools and materials draw on the expertise of experienced resettlement actors around Europe, and a modular approach enables the se-

A new framework for solidarity? The Global Compact on Refugees

In late 2015, as the number of people on the move reached record global levels, the UN Secretary General called a high-level plenary to globally address large scale movements of refugees and migrants.

On 19 September 2016, 193 UN Member States endorsed the **New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants**, calling for:

- International cooperation and responsibility-sharing to ‘manage large-scale movements of refugees and migrants in a humane, sensitive, compassionate and people-centred manner’.
- The adoption of two new Compacts on refugees and migrants to take this cooperation forward.

In December 2018, the UN General Assembly adopted both the **Global Compact on Refugees** and the **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**.

Both are non-binding instruments that set out a common political vision and strategic framework for state actions in relation to migration and refugees.

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The Global Compact on Refugees identifies resettlement and complementary pathways of admission as key solutions for global protection needs, and concrete expressions of solidarity with countries hosting refugees.

What are the priorities for resettlement?

The focus is on expanding the number of participating countries, and improving the predictability and flexibility of resettlement as a protection solution. States are asked to:

- Start new &/or expand existing resettlement programmes.
- Improve the quality of resettlement programmes and practice.
- Strengthen good practice in resettlement.

And for complementary pathways?

Complementary pathways of admission for refugees are ‘safe and regulated avenues’ that provide refugees with a lawful stay in a third country in which their protection needs are met. They operate alongside resettlement, providing additional capacity and flexibility.

Complementary pathways of admission for refugees include:

- Humanitarian admission.
- Community sponsorship.
- Humanitarian visas.
- Family reunification.
- Education/employment opportunities.
- Other entry/stay options.

The **Global Compact on Refugees** aims to increase the predictability and availability of these pathways for refugees, and ensure they are systematic, sustainable and protection-centred.

States are asked to:

- Establish new &/or expand existing complementary pathway initiatives.
- Share good practices and lessons learned, and contribute to capacity-building for states considering new schemes.

Do the Compacts set targets for the number of places offered for refugees by third countries?

No. Although the New York Declaration aimed ‘to provide resettlement places and other legal pathways for admission on a scale that would enable the annual resettlement needs identified by (UNHCR) to be met’ (estimated for 2019 as 1.4 million people), the **Global Compact on Refugees** does not set any numerical targets.



The SHARE Network...

- **Welcomes** the opportunity to grow and improve international cooperation on resettlement and complementary pathways of admission for refugees presented by the Global Compact on Refugees.
- **Supports** the vision of partnership set out in the Global Compact on Refugees and particularly recommends that the three year strategy currently being prepared by UNHCR include specific benchmarks and targets to increase the quantity and quality of resettlement and complementary pathways.
- **Urges** that the central role of civil society actors in global resettlement planning and processes is maintained, and recommends the inclusion of regional and local authorities and other local actors as core global partners.
- **Calls** on the EU and its Member States to maximise their potential contributions to achieving the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees, particularly as they related to resettlement and complementary pathways.
- **Urges** the EU to open consultations on a new, more ambitious joint European resettlement effort to follow the 50,000 scheme concluding in October 2019, in order to develop resettlement pledges at the first Global Refugee Forum in December 2019.
- **Calls** on international partners, EU Member States, NGOs and other non-state actors as well as local authorities, whether big or small, to SHARE the examples of their successful local resettlement programmes, as a basis for renewing and expanding their solidarity commitments for 2020-2022.

How will the priorities for resettlement and complementary pathways be achieved?

State contributions to the **Global Compact on Refugees** will be made in the form of voluntary pledges. Pledges can be made individually or jointly with other actors, in the form of:

- Financial, material, and technical assistance
- Resettlement places and complementary pathways of admission
- Other national actions of states' choosing.

A **Global Refugee Forum**, meeting once every four years, will receive states' pledges and monitor progress against the Compact's objectives. The first December 2019 meeting will be dedicated to collecting pledges from states.

Additionally, **UNHCR must develop a three-year strategy (2019-21) to take forward the Compact's objectives on resettlement and complementary pathways**, to align with the existing Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement process. UNHCR is currently consulting on the strategy's priorities and objectives.

What about partnership? Is it all about states?

No. The **Global Compact on Refugees** is clear that partnership is central to achieving its core aim of *'predictable and equitable burden and responsibility sharing among all (UN) Member States'*.

It identifies a wide range of partners, including humanitarian and development actors, international and civil society organisations, regional and local authorities, the private sector, local citizens and refugees themselves.

What about integration for refugees?

While the **Global Compact for Migration** addresses migrant integration in areas such as basic services, eliminating discrimination, ensuring decent work and facilitating long-term inclusion, the **Global Compact on Refugees** does not include refugee integration in third countries within its scope.

Housing for Refugee Inclusion

SHARE Network Conference
March 6-8 2019, Vienna



Access to adequate, secure and affordable housing is an essential part of successful integration. Housing availability also plays a central role in determining how many refugees can be received by third countries offering resettlement and other legal pathways to protection for refugees.

Although states generally maintain national standards for housing for refugees, competence for organising housing most often rests with regional and local authorities. Across Europe, these authorities together with NGOs, housing companies and private landlords, use a wide variety of approaches to housing for refugees.

How can we improve housing availability for programmes to receive refugees in third countries? How can approaches to housing for refugees better facilitate integration and inclusion? What good practice can we identify in this area and how can it be expanded?

These questions formed the basis for the recent **SHARE Network Conference on Housing for Refugee Inclusion**, held on March 6-8 2019 in Vienna in the framework of **SHARE Integration**.

Facilitated by ICMC Europe in collaboration with the **Austrian ARGE Consortium** (consisting of [Caritas Austria](#), [Rotes Kreuz Oberösterreich](#) and [Diakonie Flüchtlingsdienst](#)), the 2.5-day conference brought together **45 expert practitioners working on housing and integration for resettled refugees in 16 European countries.**

The conference opened with an overview of the

housing situation in Europe and a case study of housing for refugees in Austria.

A subsequent panel explored two examples of European practice: in France, where national authorities have mainstreamed housing for refugees into a cross-government initiative addressing housing for vulnerable groups; and at the city level in Madrid, where the municipality provides temporary emergency shelters for asylum seekers.

A series of breakout groups enabled conference participants to map housing approaches in their national contexts, reflecting on good practice and ways of multiplying it.

The morning of day two of the conference programme was dedicated to presenting examples of **successful approaches to housing for refugees in urban and rural areas.**

Panel presenters emphasised the critical role of civil society organisations in partnerships to organise integration, and the importance of effective multilevel coordination. Day two concluded with **two study visits to housing projects, hosted by Diakonie and Caritas.**



The final morning of the conference programme focused on **lessons learned from successful European resettlement programmes in Austria, the UK and Belgium.**

The final panel brought together discussions from the preceding 3.5 days and formulated the key conclusions of the conference:

- **Rural areas and smaller cities offer many advantages and opportunities for refugee resettlement**, including better housing options, a 'soft landing' for integration and

‘Small Places, Great Hearts’ The SHARE Welcoming Communities video series is here!

‘Small Places, Great Hearts’ is a series of films highlighting refugee resettlement and integration in smaller municipalities across Europe.

SHARE partners Caritas Austria, Caritas International, Consorzio Communitas, MigrAfrica, JRS Portugal and JRS Romania are leading on the creation of videos in consultation with municipalities, local NGOs, refugees and volunteers.

The videos portray daily life and refugee service delivery in small communities, highlighting the successes of local actors and refugees themselves. The videos provide communities with a voice to directly present themselves to soon-to-arrive and newly arrived refugees, and to other stakeholders involved in refugee resettlement.

[Click here](#) to view the first ‘Small Places, Great Hearts’ video, produced by Caritas Austria in collaboration with the municipality of Gänserndorf.



opportunities to connect with activities and opportunities in nearby bigger cities.

- **Refugee residents are housing stakeholders** and their input can greatly benefit the design and implementation of new housing initiatives.
- **Private landlords** can be constructively engaged in housing for refugee resettlement, most usefully by via a dedicated focal point to provide information and build trust.
- **Engaging local citizens in housing for refugee resettlement** expands housing options for refugees, and builds awareness of and support for programmes to receive refugees.



UPCOMING SHARE NETWORK EVENTS!

14-15 May 2019

SHARE Settlement & Integration training (Slovenia)

12-14 June 2019

‘Awareness-raising on refugee protection and welcoming communities’ conference (Bucharest)

26-28 June 2019

Diaspora and citizen engagement ‘look & learn’ knowledge exchange & visits (North Rhine Westphalia, Germany)