SHARE

Cities that Care, Cities that SHARE
a European Resettlement Network for Cities and Regions

Europe icmc
International Catholic Migration Commission

Civil Society Experiences at the Local Level

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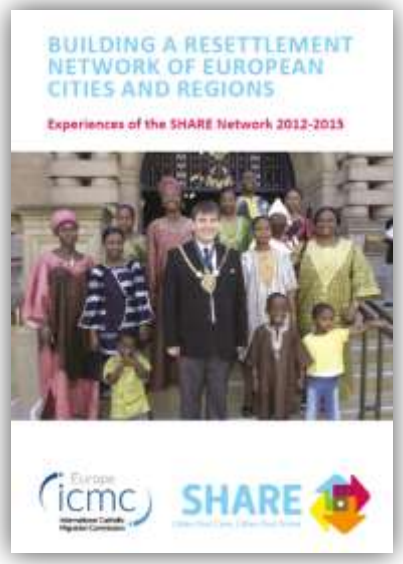
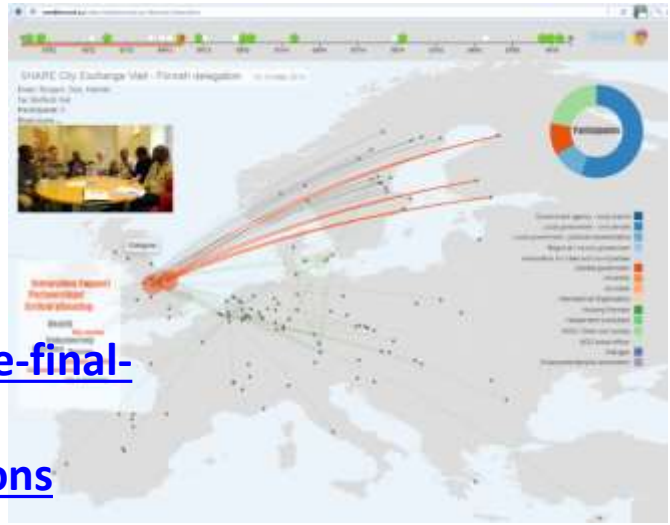
Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre
Rebuilding Lives, Enabling Integration

City of Sanctuary

Why SHARE?

- Success of national resettlement programmes dependent on the commitment and ability of local actors to provide reception, integration and welcome.
- Multi-level governance challenges in resettlement: national > regional > local
- Contextualised peer exchange through tailor made visits (Sheffield and Sittard Geleen).
- SHARE launched March 2012 and finished in December 2015, led by ICMC Europe in the context of a rapidly changing asylum context.
- SHARE Final Publication launched in March 2016





http://resettlement.eu/page/share-final-publication-building-resettlement-network-european-cities-and-regions

SHARE Network Composition

1,200 regional and local actors

Broad approach to outreach:

regions, cities and municipalities; universities; migrant and refugee organisations; other CSOs; faith-based organisations; housing associations; private business; mainstream service providers; employment agencies; local media; and volunteers. **60% civil society actors!**

27 European countries:

Austria, Belgium, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Luxembourg, Latvia, The Netherlands, Norway, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Romania and the United Kingdom.

Areas of cooperation:

Planning for arrivals; pre-departure cultural orientation; housing; providing welcome & volunteering; employment; advocacy & campaigning; and research.

SHARE Project Partners 2012-2015

Sheffield City Council

ecre
European Council on Refugees and Exiles

cec ccme

PRO ASYL
Förderverein PRO ASYL e.V.
DER EINZELFALL ZÄHLT.

refugee action

REFUGEE COUNCIL

EUROPEAN RESETTLEMENT NETWORK

EURO CITIES

ACCEM
www.accem.es

horton housing

CITY OF SANCTUARY

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

IOM • OIM

ÖSTERREICHISCHES ROTES KREUZ
Aus Liebe zum Menschen.

caritas international

BURMA CENTER PRAGUE

Europe icmc

SHARE Activities & Outputs 2012-15

Placement of (Resettled) Refugees over the national territories

Approaches to refugee placement vary across European resettlement programmes and include:

- **Centralised reception facilities** + integration support for a limited period. After this initial period, the national authorities negotiates placement in a municipality where they receive additional local integration programmes. (**Czech Republic**);
- **Centralised reception facilities** + integration support for a limited period. After this initial period, resettled refugees can register in a municipality of their own choice. (**Spain**).
- Placement according to **obligatory national distribution systems**: **(Denmark, Germany, Netherlands , Sweden)** – considerations with respect to family reunification or other factors.
- **Voluntary placement**: national governments offer financial incentives to take in (resettled) refugees (**Finland**);
- The national governments **outsources housing and integration services** to municipalities and their (NGO) partners (**UK Gateway Programme**); Asylums seeker distributed according to dispersal system.

Refugee placement is a vital factor to consider when looking at reception and integration planning!

Governments are becoming more prescriptive in where refugees can go- within Europe (relocation, Dublin reform) and within national territory. Refugees can often not move to other location , when wanting to maintain social benefits and integration support.

Multi-stakeholder coordination frameworks

Multi stakeholder meetings between resettlement actors have increased involvement of new cities in receiving resettled refugees in Belgium and France.

Similar experiences to be used for relocation!

Portugal has introduced new spreading of refugees (resettlement and relocation) through active engagement and coordination.

New alliances with cities and civil society partners with little tradition in receiving refugees. Considerable need to build capacity and exchange practices:

° legal status

° benefits

° individual integration prgorammes

° language learning

° employment etc.

SHARE Policy Conclusions and Recommendations

Key policy recommendations from the SHARE project:

1) **Non-discrimination** among refugees of the same country in **granting of status** and service provision;

2) **Strengthen reception and integration services** in those regions and municipalities receiving larger number or specific (vulnerable) profiles of refugee;

3) Increased attention to refugee **placement decisions** - sensitive to refugees' special needs and potential;

4) Strengthening **multi-stakeholder cooperation** between regions, municipalities and civil society;

5) Including regional and local actors in **financial decision-making (AMIF)** and programming;

6) Promoting welcoming communities via **grassroots initiatives and volunteerism**; and

7) Prioritizing the use of **Personalized Integration Programs (PIPs)** and including employment as an important benchmark.

Providing Welcome to Refugees

Welcome is two fold in nature:

1. **'functional'** elements such as housing and (financial) assistance
2. the **'human factor'** of welcome and understanding extended to newcomers by local residents.

SHARE Network discussions, exchange, research and consultation produced a definition of a 'welcoming community' as one that:

- functions at **all levels of local society** – political authority, local civil society and individual citizens and residents.
- Builds **community support** for refugees (community consultations, awareness-raising /educational activities) stressing the benefits refugees can bring to the community.
- provides **adequate reception measures** and timely and appropriate housing;
- provides **integration services** at the local/municipal level;
- supports the work of **volunteers**;
- ensures **social institutions and opportunities** are open to refugees and asylum seekers;
- gives refugees a central role in **communal discussions and activities**, ensuring that their needs are truly met.
- Definition of welcome steered by earlier work of **City of Sanctuary** (project partner), **Save-me Campaign** "Eine Stadt sagt Ja!" and **Flemish Refugee Council** "Gastvrije Gemeente Award".

Link between Placement and Welcoming Community

- Developing **pre-departure information** and activities for refugees by local actors;
- Ensure pre-arrival planning and information sharing
- Supporting the work of local integration actors by promoting **regional and local consultation structures and partnerships** between local authorities, NGOs, mainstream service providers and refugees and migrant communities;
- Local **political representatives and central actors** in local communities (churches, sports clubs or local associations) are effective partners for sharing information about new arrivals, **building public awareness and support**; and
- **Engage citizens** and inform on possibilities to **engage in volunteering** and about global refugee needs and how their local programme contributes to wider European and global efforts.

Courtesy of Consorzio Communitas (2015)

Refugees in Cologne: Placement, welcome and supporting integration

21% of all refugees are distributed to North Rhine Westphalia, District Council of Arnsberg distributes to reception centers across NRW. Where services are provided by NGOs and service providers

Within NRW, a distribution key (Flüag) allocates to municipalities obligatory according new integration Law (certain exceptions) . Cologne receives 5.5 % of all NRW refugees but can negotiate moment of arrival. 2015; 300-400 a week arrived. End 2015 : no housing for 7.000 persons!!

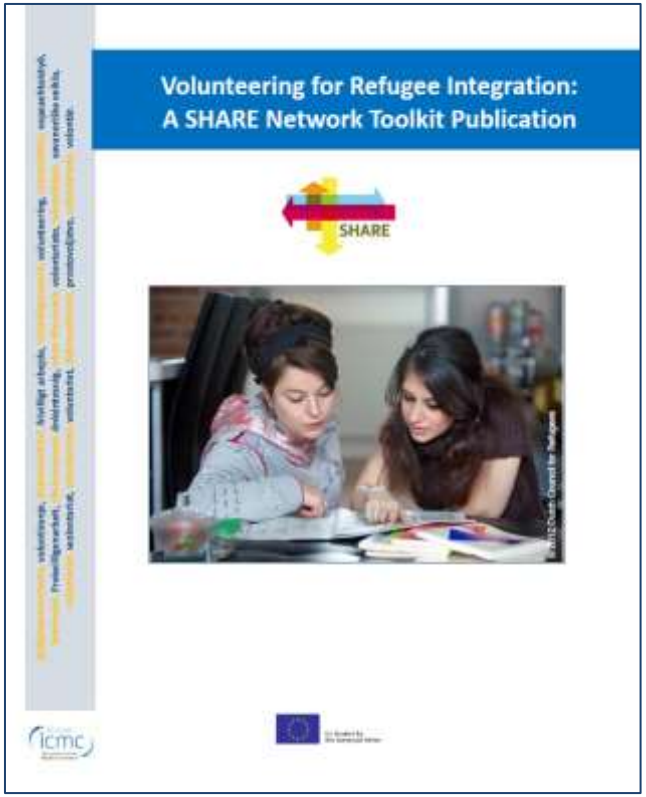
Civil society responses to welcome refugees , particularly 'Action New Neighbours' initiative Archdiocese of Cologne, 4.4 million grants to 'non bureaucratic' reception and welcome and integration initiatives by individual parishes.
Support a housing working group to find housing solutions for vulnerable cases -200 housing solutions found.

20.000 volunteers engaged in different initiatives. Paid coordinators in 60 out of 180 regional parishes
Training of volunteers. Also training + tools to act as language teachers (language anchor).
Cooperation between local authorities and volunteer groups is lacking.

Volunteering for Refugee Integration

- SHARE advocates local programmes based on strong municipality-civil society partnerships, with opportunities for citizens to engage as volunteers

- Volunteering also a key way of facilitating citizen involvement and expanding welcome



Key factors

1. Building a Culture of Volunteering
2. Partnerships & Coordination for Volunteering
3. Reception, Participation, Independence & Welcome
4. Supporting Volunteers
5. Who Volunteers?
6. Monitoring & Evaluation

Guide questions

Good practice examples

SHARE Resettlement Ambassador Programme and Refugee Voices

- **9 Ambassadors** from **7 European countries** - 8 countries of origin – 5 female, 4 male
- Occupations including student, activist, journalist, artist, engineer, interpreter….
- Online training programme (University of Sussex)
- Participation in SHARE events, activities and publications; advocacy at national and local level.
- Voices From the City: SHARE video series starring Sittard Geleen, Sheffield, Antwerp!

http://resettlement.eu/page/voices-city

City of Sanctuary

A national network of volunteers committed to building a culture of hospitality, welcome and belonging for people seeking sanctuary in the UK

Building a Culture of Welcome City by City

There are already over 50 cites and towns signed up to the Network with committed local groups:

- Medway Towns
- Doncaster
- Reading
- Bradford
- Bristol
- Cardiff
- Coventry
- Derry/Londonderry
- Exeter
- Hackney
- Hull
- Leeds
- Liverpool
- Nottingham
- Oxford
- Southampton
- Newcastle
- Tees Valley
- Stirling
- Malvern
- Hay,Brecon and Talgarth
- Barnsley
- Swansea
- Wakefield
- York
- Loughborough
- Belfast
- Brighton
- Birmingham
- Causeway
- Derby
- Dublin
- Glasgow
- Huddersfield
- Ipswich
- Leicester
- Manchester
- Sheffield
- Sunderland
- Wolverhampton
- East Hoatthley and Halland
- Lancaster
- Cambridge
- Waterford
- Wrexham

Revolution of Generosity

- Ordinary people standing up to defend the most vulnerable
- The City of Sanctuary movement within the UK exploded
- New groups in non-dispersal areas
- Creative ways to get people involved
- Refugees Welcome

Integration

- Soft vs hard outcomes
- Cohesion and sense of belonging
- Identity
- Managing expectations
- Women and Children

Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre

Rebuilding Lives, Enabling Integration

Social and Economic Mobility

Emotional Health: CRMC Volunteering

Mental Health: CRMC Therapy Services

Practical needs: CRMC core services

Integration

Sense of identity

Employment

Appreciation

Development

Sense of belonging

Sense of security and stability

Acceptance of own experiences

Respect of/ by others

Unexpressed internal conflicts

Social connections

Immigration status

Education

Physical health/ disability*

(by the Meridian Practice)

Income, benefits

Food

Shelter, accommodation

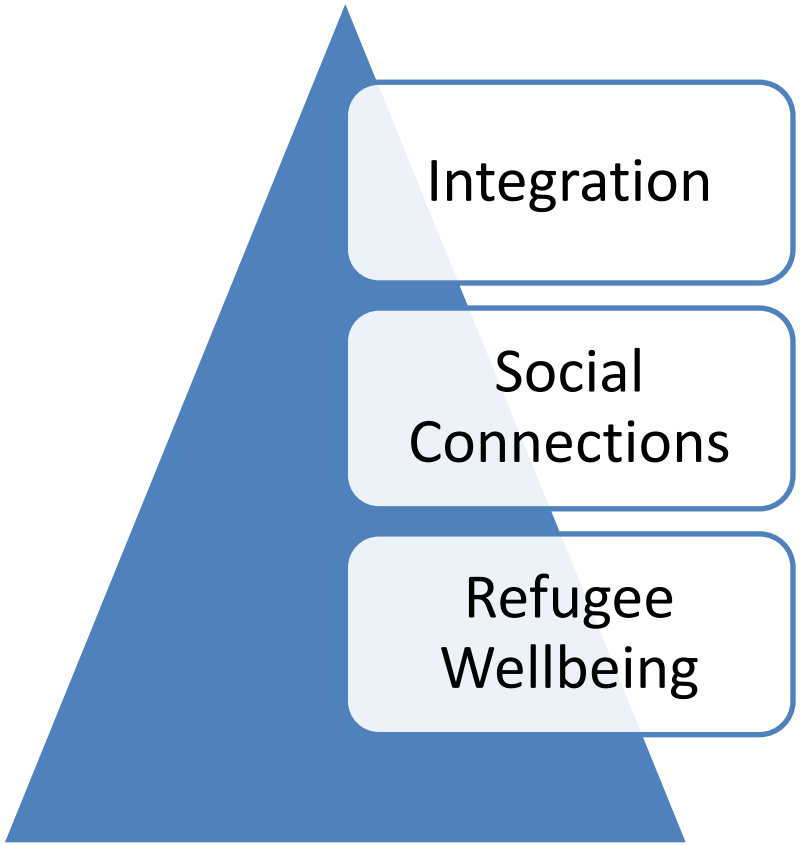
Inner wounds

Outer wounds

Integration – What it means to migrants

- **Health:** Physical ill health and reduced mobility can lead to social isolation and depression
- **Housing:** "Temporary accommodation has a big psychological effect. It stops you from emerging…"
- **Language:** "I can't support my family if I can't speak English"
- **Education:** "I can't risk failing."
- **Employment:** If you can't get a job that matches your skills and qualifications … "you don't feel good about yourself."
- **Benefits:** Advisers and tutors have shared concerns regarding impact on mental health caused not only by experiences of benefits sanctions but the fear of being sanctioned.
- **Social connections:** "I'm not used to being alone; I am used to being part of a big family"

Wellbeing first



What has worked in Coventry?

The policy impact

- **Dispersal**
- **Detention**
- **Destitution**
- **Accommodation Centres**
- **Reporting Centres**
- **Tighter immigration controls**