

'Building a European network  
municipalities, cities & regions'  
[www.resettlement.eu/page/  
share-project](http://www.resettlement.eu/page/share-project)

The SHARE Project is a  
programme to build a European  
resettlement network of  
municipalities, cities and  
regions.

SHARE is led by ICMC  
Europe, in partnership with  
the lead SHARE city of Sheffield  
in the UK, the UN Refugee  
Agency (UNHCR),  
the EUROCITIES network and  
a coalition of regions, cities,  
NGOs and networks in 10 EU  
Member States.

The SHARE Network facilitates  
structured dialogue and ex-  
change of expertise between  
experienced resettlement  
countries planning or consid-  
ering resettlement, building  
capacity, creating partnerships  
and strengthening commitments  
to protection amongst local  
and regional actors across  
Europe.



Co-financed by the  
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# SHARE

Cities that Care, Cities that Share



## Welcome...

...to the second edition of the **SHARE  
Network** magazine!

This second edition comes at an  
increasingly crucial time for European  
resettlement, as the Syrian refugee crisis  
continues to unfold and UNHCR calls  
on states around the world to make  
available resettlement and humanitarian  
admission places for an additional  
100,000 Syrian refugees during 2015-16.

Regions, cities and municipalities will  
play a crucial role in ensuring that Syrian  
refugees will finally be received in Europe.  
These arrivals will take place in a context  
of almost 2.5 million refugees being hosted  
by Syria's neighbouring countries, the  
majority in towns and cities experiencing  
acute challenges in housing, feeding and  
providing basic services to this refugee  
population. To highlight the contribution  
European actors can make to ensuring  
UNHCR's target becomes a reality, this  
edition of the **SHARE Network** Magazine  
focuses on resettlement, humanitarian  
admission and advocacy efforts for  
Syrian refugees at the local and regional  
level in Europe.

Work on SHARE I activities has continued  
throughout January and February 2014,  
and this edition also brings you a special  
feature on our expert seminar and visit  
programme on housing for refugee res-  
ettlement. Held in Brussels on February 20-21,  
the seminar brought together a selected  
expert group of practitioners and poli-  
cymakers to support the production of  
our SHARE good practice publication  
on housing. This edition also profiles  
several key partners in the new SHARE II,



*Rachel Westerby, City Coordinator at ICMC Europe*

namely UNHCR, the Belgian NGO Caritas  
International and the city of Tampere,  
and outlines the ongoing partnership  
between SHARE and the wider European  
Resettlement Network.

Last but not least, we are delighted to  
announce officially that the European  
Commission will continue its support  
for the **SHARE Network** during 2014-15.  
I would like to take this opportunity to  
thank the European Commission for  
their continued support, and our partners  
across Europe who lent their support,  
time and expertise to our SHARE II proposal.  
SHARE II will begin in March 2014 and  
run for an 18-month period until August  
2015, and the next edition of the **SHARE  
Network** Magazine will bring you full  
details of our plans for the continued  
development of the **SHARE Network**  
during this period.

On behalf of ICMC, I thank you for your  
contributions to the **SHARE Network** to  
date, and urge that you maintain your  
commitment both to SHARE and to refugee  
resettlement, protection and integration  
during the months ahead.

**Rachel Westerby**  
**City Coordinator, ICMC Europe**



A Syrian mother and her children arrive at the dilapidated basement where they are staying in the Jordanian capital, Amman.  
UNHCR/O.Laban-Mattei/December 2013

Europe responds to the Syrian refugee crisis....

March 15th 2014 marked the third anniversary of the beginning of the conflict in Syria.

During the subsequent 3 years, an estimated 9 million Syrians have fled their homes. Around 2.5 million of these are now living as refugees in countries neighbouring Syria - 984,000 in Lebanon, 650,000 in Turkey, 587,000 in Jordan, 227,000 in Iraq and 135,000 in Egypt<sup>1</sup> - over half of whom are children. Approximately 80% of Syrian refugees live in urban situations, creating new challenges for refugee registration and the delivery of aid and assistance by international organisations and NGOs.

In late February 2014, further to its earlier call for states around the world to provide places for 30,000 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees through resettlement or other forms of admission, [UNHCR called on states to make multi-annual commitments to provide places for an additional 100,000 Syrian refugees during 2015-16](#). In order to meet this target, UNHCR is also urging states to explore innovative approaches to facilitating the admission of Syrian refugees, including family reunification, individual sponsorship, expedited visa processes, medical evacuations and study visas. To coordinate global resettlement and humanitarian admission operations for Syrian refugees,

explore other forms of admission and pave the way for further state commitments and support, a Core Group on Syrian Resettlement - comprised of resettlement states, UNHCR and IOM and chaired by Sweden - has been established. The first meeting of the Core Group took place in December 2013 in Geneva, with subsequent meetings taking place during 2014 at the February Working Group on Resettlement in Copenhagen and later in the US. As more states pledge places for Syrian refugees, the Core Group membership continues to grow.

To date, 15 European countries<sup>2</sup> have offered 13,455 resettlement or humanitarian admission<sup>3</sup> places for Syrian refugees, the vast majority of which - 10,000 - have been offered by Germany. The European response has seen many countries not previously engaged in resettlement or similar activities offer places, a very positive and welcome development for resettlement in Europe. Many European countries have also offered and continue to explore other forms of admission for Syrian refugees, as recommended by UNHCR. We are grateful to our SHARE partners and stakeholders for their contributions to compiling the information on the European response and on arrivals of Syrian refugees to date, is detailed in the table.

More information on the crisis in Syria and the response by European countries can be found at [www.resettlement.eu/news/crisis-syria](#).

European resettlement, humanitarian admission & family reunification for Syrian refugees (March 2014)

Country	Places	Quota detail & arrivals (where available)
Austria	500 places: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 250 in partnership with the Syrian Orthodox Church</li><li>• 250 referred directly by UNHCR</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Permanent residence status on arrival</li><li>• 87 arrivals to date</li></ul>
Belgium	75 places within resettlement quota for 2014 (total 100 places)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No arrivals to date</li></ul>
Denmark	140 within resettlement quota for 2014 (total 500 places).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No arrivals to date</li></ul>
Finland	500 places: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 200 within resettlement quota for 2014 (total 750 places)</li><li>• 300 new resettlement places for 2014</li></ul>	
France	500 places: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 250 within resettlement quota for 2014 (100 dossier cases examined each year)</li><li>• 250 humanitarian admission</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Permanent residence status</li><li>• 30 arrivals in January 2014</li></ul> <a href="#">Click here to read a short article on the French programme for Syrian refugees by SHARE partner France Terre d'Asile</a>
Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10,000 humanitarian admission</li><li>• Individual federal state family reunification programmes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2-year residence status</li><li>• 10 arrival groups to date</li><li>• 2500 visas issued by 15 federal states</li></ul>
Hungary	10 resettlement places (no current resettlement programme)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No arrivals to date</li></ul>
Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 90 resettlement places within 2014 quota (up to 200 per year)</li><li>• Short-term family reunification programme (SHAP), announced March 2014</li></ul>	<a href="#">Click here for more information on the SHAP programme</a>
Luxembourg	60 resettlement places (no current resettlement programme)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No arrivals to date</li></ul>
Netherlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 250 resettlement places within resettlement quota for 2014 (total 500 places)</li></ul>	
Spain	130 resettlement places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No arrivals to date</li></ul>
Sweden	1200 resettlement places for 2013-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 450 arrivals by end 2013</li></ul>

Non-EU European countries

Liechtenstein	4 resettlement places (no current resettlement programme)	
Norway	1000 resettlement places	
Switzerland	150 resettlement (no current resettlement programme)	

<sup>1</sup> UNHCR Syria Regional Refugee Response: Inter-agency Information Sharing Portal, March 2014 [data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php](#)

<sup>2</sup> Total does not include the UK, which has established a Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation (VPR) scheme outside of the general European response. Numbers and arrival period are yet to be defined, first group arrived in March 2014.

<sup>3</sup> [Click here to learn more about humanitarian admission, what and who it involves and its similarities and difference to refugee resettlement.](#)



## SHARE II Partner in Focus - UNHCR

Vincent Cochetel, Director of the Bureau for Europe, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



Vincent Cochetel speaks at the SHARE Network Conference (Brussels, October 2014.)

**1. UNHCR recently called on States to provide 100,000 resettlement or other admission places for Syrian refugees in 2015 and 2016, while other refugee populations around the world remain in need of resettlement. How would you assess Europe's contribution both to the Syrian crisis and to global resettlement/admission needs?**

More than half (55 percent) of all refugees worldwide come from just five countries - Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic - four of which have had ongoing conflict for decades. Syria, as the most recent of these conflicts, has understandably garnered much attention, with some 2.5 million refugees now in the neighbouring countries of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, with projections of a possible 4 million refugees in the region by the year's end. These statistics merely illustrate the disproportionate burden shouldered by many countries far less well off than those in Europe.

UNHCR is grateful for the solidarity shown by European states in responding to our initial call for 30,000 places for resettlement and other forms of admission for Syrian refugees during 2014. Indeed, of the 20 countries who have pledged thus far through UNHCR, 16 of these countries are European. However, the needs in the region are exten-

sive, which is why UNHCR has issued a new call for the admission of 100,000 Syrian refugees in 2015-16. We anticipate that European countries will again respond to this appeal, and pledge places additional to their existing annual resettlement quotas and/or through alternative admission programmes.

For UNHCR, while the sheer scale of the Syrian crisis demands our attention, this does not detract from ongoing refugee situations in other regions of the world, all of which require our continued attention. Europe resettles approximately 8% of the annual total of refugees resettled around the world, so European countries can play a bigger role in providing durable solutions in this regard. While Europe moved forward in resettlement in 2013, much more is needed. The ['Resettlement Saves Lives' campaign](#), which advocates for Europe to provide 20,000 resettlement places on an annual basis by 2020, shows that the opportunity is there for Europe to express greater solidarity with those host countries that have so generously opened their borders to those in need of protection.

**2. IOM, ICMC and UNHCR jointly coordinate the European Resettlement Network. UNHCR has and will continue to be an important partner in SHARE. Why does UNHCR think local actors should be actively engaged in European resettlement?**

UNHCR believes that it is imperative that local actors including cities, local service providers and civil society organisations, are actively engaged in European resettlement, and are a vital component in achieving more sustainable resettlement in Europe. They can play an essential role not only in advocating for states to accept more resettled refugees, but also as pivotal actors in providing good quality reception and integration, and in building links between receiving communities and refugees.

Resettled refugees need to be afforded every opportunity to succeed in their new environment - receiving communities need to provide adequate support to refugees, while refugees themselves must embrace the opportunities available to them. Local actors can provide essential services that provide resettled refugees with the optimum

conditions to succeed in their new communities. Strong local leadership can bring commitment and support for integration, as we have seen in cities such as Aachen and Munich in Germany.

**3. SHARE promotes the involvement of new local and regional actors in refugee resettlement. How can local actors approach national governments to engage in resettlement? At a time of uncertain economic circumstances in Europe when many regional and local authorities are facing considerable challenges, what would your message be to European city and regional authorities newly considering establishing a refugee resettlement programme? Why should they get involved?**

At its core, resettlement is a humanitarian act that has provided millions of people with protection and the opportunity to build new lives for themselves and their families. In turn, these refugees have made important contributions to the countries that have received them, while active engagement with resettled refugees has also fostered awareness and support for refugees among local citizens in receiving communities.

The 27 States that have established annual resettlement programmes are not obliged to do so, and UNHCR is therefore very appreciative of their vital contribution. Nevertheless, the need for resettlement on an annual basis continues to vastly outstrip the number of available places. For 2014, global resettlement needs are estimated at approximately 691,000 persons, without taking into account the resettlement needs generated by the massive outflow of refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic. By contrast, some 80,000 resettlement places are available annually.

Resettlement is a durable solution that has brought about positive results that go well beyond those that are usually viewed as a resettlement outcome. For example, in the face of a continued influx of refugees, the use of resettlement has convinced countries of first asylum to

keep their borders open, thereby avoiding massive loss of life. In other situations, resettlement has played a key role in unlocking the impasse of protracted refugee situations and opening possibilities for other durable solutions.

Offering resettlement places to refugees in need is an active expression of responsibility sharing with the countries that host the bulk of the world's refugees. European cities and regional authorities are already contributing to this effort, and can continue to do so with the support of their national governments, the [\*\*SHARE Network\*\*](#) and UNHCR.

**4. Resettlement quotas are coordinated by UNHCR at the global level in partnership with national governments and with inputs from NGOs. Do you see a role for European regions, cities and municipalities in global discussions and coordination of refugee resettlement? How could they contribute to this process?**

As the main providers of housing and integration assistance, regions, cities and municipalities have a key role in ensuring the successful fulfilment of resettlement quotas offered by national governments. UNHCR therefore encourages national governments to involve cities, municipalities and regions in quota implementation planning from the earliest stages of the resettlement process. UNHCR has also encouraged the participation of representatives from municipalities and local communities in certain selection or fact-finding missions, as a way to increase awareness of specific refugee situations and of the necessity of resettlement. In addition, as has been the practice of the [\*\*SHARE Network\*\*](#) to date, continued and increased opportunities for sharing good practice and lessons learned between regional and local actors is extremely important. Through these means, regional and local actors can better influence resettlement discussions and the coordination of refugee resettlement.



# Building European resettlement capacity together - SHARE & the European Resettlement Network



Since 2007, ICMC Europe, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and UNHCR have worked in partnership to develop the European Resettlement Network (ERN), with the aim of building the capacity of actors in Europe to provide more and better resettlement.

The ERN brings together international organisations, national governments, civil society organisations, regional and local authorities and previously resettled refugees to exchange best practice, share expertise, gather data and promote cooperation with actors working on resettlement in the field.

The ERN was formally launched in the presence of European Commissioner for Home Affairs Cecilia Malmström at the EU Resettlement Skills Share Day in Brussels in May 2012, and now numbers 373 members in 45 countries. Members include a wide variety of actors in Europe and beyond active in refugee protection, resettlement and integration policy and practice, in all phases of the resettlement process both pre-departure and post-arrival.

The ERN website at [www.resettlement.eu](http://www.resettlement.eu) offers a wealth of resources and information, including on global refugee situations, European resettlement programmes, refugee arrivals into Europe and a 'Focus on Syria' section, in addition to a resource library listing resources both nationally and on a thematic basis. During 2013-14, the ERN continues to be developed under the 'Strengthening the Response to Emergency Resettlement Needs' project, led by UNHCR.

During the past year, the ERN has established National Network Focal Points in 14 European countries, who came together for the first ERN meeting in Brussels in November 2013 to discuss European resettlement strategies, practices and priorities for the Network. To promote partnerships and collaboration between national, local and civil society actors in different national contexts, the ERN has also co-organised national stakeholder meetings in the Netherlands and Spain, with further meetings in other European countries programmed for the remainder of 2014.



Website Resettlement

Given the specific focus on emergency resettlement for 2013-14, and UNHCR's call for places for an additional 100,000 refugees from Syria during 2015-16, the ERN continues to advocate for more resettlement in Europe and other forms of admission that will ensure protection. The ERN is increasingly providing a much-needed platform to facilitate collaboration and partnership amongst resettlement actors from across Europe and beyond.

The ERN has above all reached out to national actors engaged in resettlement. However, European regions, cities, municipalities and their civil society partners play a crucial role in facilitating national programmes, both by offering places for resettled refugees at the local level and providing reception and integration support once refugees have arrived. Responding to a pilot initiative developed by the European Parliament under the initiative of Rui Taveres MEP, ICMC Europe developed the SHARE Network, a separate resettlement networking initiative for local and regional resettlement and integration actors in Europe. SHARE provides a platform for structured dialogue, exchange of practice and networking between cities and regional actors and between experienced and emerging resettlement countries planning or considering resettlement.

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. SHARE and the ERN collaborate on a wide range of events, activities and initiatives, and share web discussion and information space at [www.resettlement.eu](http://www.resettlement.eu). Together with their national and international resettlement colleagues, SHARE partners and stakeholders can become ERN members, and the input and expertise of the wider ERN membership continues to support the growth and development of the SHARE Network.



# Offering shelter, support and welcome to refugees in European cities and communities.

Report from the 1.5-day expert seminar and visit programme to support the production of a SHARE Network publication on challenges, opportunities and partnerships in housing for resettled refugees.

## Why housing ?

The availability of housing for resettlement at the local and regional level is a primary concern for our SHARE partners and stakeholders, and a key determinant of how many resettled refugees can be received by European resettlement programmes.

Throughout SHARE I, ICMC has been engaged in a programme of intensive outreach to European regions, cities, municipalities and their civil society partners on existing practices and solutions in housing for refugees that could be used to increase resettlement capacity in Europe. Our experience has shown us that the location and type of housing offered for resettlement, and the presence of welcoming and supportive local communities, are crucial drivers of the integration experiences and prospects of resettled refugees and their families. We therefore hope that the practices we have gathered can be used by other actors around Europe, particularly by those considering receiving resettled refugees or in the process of establishing resettlement programmes.

## SHARE Housing Research

During 2012-13, ICMC Europe and our [SHARE Network](#) partners and stakeholders have been engaged in both desktop research and consultation with [SHARE Network](#) partners and stakeholders to support the production of a SHARE good practice publication on housing for refugee resettlement in Europe. Our research has helped us to identify a number of innovative and successful examples of housing for refugees - including resettled refugees - across Europe, and guided our subsequent programme of qualitative interviews with actors and practitioners working on them. To date we have conducted just under 40 interviews with individuals from national governments, regional organisations/ administrations, cities and municipalities, NGOs, welfare services, housing providers, and migrant organisations, plus private landlords, refugees and volunteers.



Old Almshouses refurbished to provide housing for refugees, city of Bradford, UK. Copyright Horton Housing Association.

## Expert Housing Seminar & Visit Programme

To discuss the good practices proposed for inclusion in the publication, and support the development of recommendations for the provision of housing for resettled refugees, ICMC convened a 1.5-day expert seminar and visit programme on February 20-21 2014 in Brussels. Co-organised with the Belgian NGOs Caritas International and Convivial, and hosted at the premises of Caritas International, the expert group was made up of 24 practitioners and policymakers from 11 European countries, drawn from international organisations, networks, cities, housing organisations and NGOs. The first half-day of the programme focused on facilitated discussion of the identified good practices and the development of recommendations in the 3 key thematic areas of 'Implementing Resettlement Quotas: Regional & Local Cooperation for Placement' and 'Finding Housing for Refugee Resettlement (including housing for specific refugee groups)' and 'Integration Support & Welcoming Communities'.

On the morning of Friday February 21, the expert group split into 2 delegations to attend site visits hosted by Caritas International and Convivial. Refugee clients of the Caritas integration programme, that includes assistance for refugees to find private rented housing, hosted the first delegation at their homes in the Schaerbeek area of Brussels, and the delegation also met with a local food

bank and Maison Medicale (medical centre) working with Caritas in the same neighbourhood. Convivial hosted a visit at their organisation's premises, where the delegation were introduced to their community furniture and goods donation facility, furniture workshop and advocacy display on refugees in Belgium, and had the opportunity to meet and exchange with a private landlord providing housing for refugees in partnership with Convivial.

The afternoon of Day 2 drew the expert group back together to reflect on learning from the site visits, further develop recommendations on housing for refugee resettlement and draw conclusions for the publication.

[Click here to access the event programme and background paper. A full seminar report will be published shortly, and the SHARE good practice publication on housing for refugee resettlement is due for publication in April 2014](#)

## SHARE II Partner In Focus: City of Tampere

Tuula Haapio, Social Services Manager at the city of Tampere in Finland



Tuula Haapio at the SHARE Network Conference (Brussels, October 2014)

### 1. For those who don't know much about Tampere, can you tell us a bit about the city and its resettlement programme?

Tampere is located in the south of Finland and, with approximately 220,000 inhabitants, is the country's third most populous city. Tampere has received resettled

refugees since 1989, and currently receives around 70 resettled refugees every year. In the summer of 2014 the city of Tampere will also receive up to 50 Syrian refugees as part of Finland's response to UNHCR's call for resettlement countries to provide places for the most vulnerable individuals caught up in the current crisis in the region.

### 2. The city of Tampere and your partners have participated in several SHARE Project activities since early 2012 – how did you get involved, what were the activities and how did you find them?

We in the city of Tampere first became aware of the SHARE Project through our city's involvement in the EUROcities network's Migration & Integration Working Group. Together with the city of Oulu and the Finnish Red Cross, in May 2013 we were able to form a delegation to attend a City Exchange Visit to the city of Sheffield in the UK. Our delegation of 5 participants from Tampere was particularly impressed by the work done by volunteers and civil society organisations in the resettlement programme in the UK. In Finland, the first phase of resettlement work is mainly carried out by local authorities, so this was a great source of inspiration and ideas for new approaches for us.

### 3. In SHARE II, Tampere will take part in a programme of exchange on volunteering in refugee resettlement. Why did you agree to get involved in this programme, and what do you hope it will bring to the resettlement programme in Tampere?

European regions, cities and their civil society partners working on refugee resettlement and integration have so much to share by way of good practice, and refugee resettlement programmes can benefit greatly from this type of exchange. From our experiences in SHARE, peer learning between city or regional partnerships seems to be a very effective way to do it. We hope that being involved in SHARE II will help us to develop our work with volunteers in refugee resettlement with our civil society partners here in Tampere, and that with more intensive help from volunteers resettled refugees in Tampere will build social networks and integrate more easily into everyday life here.

#### 4. And finally, what advice would you give to other European cities and regions, and their civil society partners, that are thinking about getting involved in the SHARE Network?

I would say get involved! If you want to find out about refugee resettlement, build on your existing skills and experience or share your expertise with others, then the [SHARE Network](#) is the way to do it.

### SHARE II Partner in Focus - Caritas International (Belgium)

Elisabeth Verniers, Integration Coach & Anne Dussart, Head of the Asylum & Migration Department, Caritas International



Elisabeth Verniers, Caritas International

#### 1. For those who don't know much about Caritas International, can you tell us a bit about your organisation and the work you do, including your involvement in resettlement?

Caritas International (Belgium) helps victims of war, natural disasters, migration and poverty, both in an international and a national context. In 2009, with support from the European Refugee Fund, we established the Integration Cell. The aim was to accompany refugees that had resided in detention centres during their asylum procedure, and were released after recognition without any knowledge of Belgian society or any governmental or NGO support. In 2009 and 2011, the 'coaches' of the Integration Cell supported resettled refugees from Belgium's 2 ad-hoc resettlement exercises. In 2012 Belgium established a regular resettlement quota of 100 refugees every year, and the Integration Cell supports half of this group after their arrival into Belgium.

#### 2. Together with your municipality and NGO partners, Caritas International has participated in several SHARE Project activities since early 2012 – how did you get involved, what were the activities and how did you find them?

SHARE offers us a great opportunity to learn about good practice in resettlement across Europe, and to exchange ideas about the integration of resettled refugees. ICMC has been a partner of Caritas for a long period, and so joining SHARE was an obvious way to continue our collaboration. We've been able to participate in several networking events and a half-day conference in Lyon, visit Sheffield and Manchester in a joint Dutch-Belgian delegation as part of the SHARE City Exchange Visit Programme and co-host with ICMC and Convivial an expert housing seminar and visit programme here in Brussels. We've been able to implement ideas from the good practice examples we've seen into our activities, so SHARE has added another dimension to our integration work with resettled refugees.

#### 3. In SHARE II, Caritas will organise several national multistakeholder meetings and conduct outreach for the SHARE Refugee Ambassadors programme. Why did you want to get involved in these activities, and what do you hope they will bring to your work and the wider resettlement programme in Belgium?

2012 was a test year for a new model of resettlement in Belgium, in which NGOs and local social welfare centres work together, coordinated by the Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (FEDASIL). This model is a good start, but we also believe that – like all new projects – it could benefit greatly from further mutual learning and exchange between both national and international stakeholders. We plan to organise SHARE multistakeholder meetings to address concrete challenges in the daily work with our target group covering, for example, topics such as psychological wellbeing, managing expectations, education challenges and culturally sensitive services.

#### 4. And finally, what advice would you give to other European cities and regions, and their civil society partners, that are thinking about getting involved in the SHARE Network?

We'd say that – as a stakeholder in resettlement – you can only benefit from the [SHARE Network](#). Take all the opportunities SHARE presents to meet others that have experience in the field who, although they may be working in very different national contexts, face similar challenges and can share their solutions with you.



Anne Dussart, Caritas International

## Cities that say Yes!

Grassroots campaigning for Syrian refugees in Europe...

*The 'Resettlement Saves Lives' campaign continues to advocate for Europe to provide 20,000 places for resettled refugees each year by 2020. In early March 2014, the 'Resettlement Saves Lives' coalition endorsed the newly launched 'Europe Act Now!' campaign ([www.helpsyriasrefugees.eu](http://www.helpsyriasrefugees.eu)). Led by the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), this four-month pan-European campaign is petitioning European leaders to act now to ensure refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria can access protection in the EU, including by Member States offering more resettlement and humanitarian admission places for Syrian refugees.*

The German 'Save Me!' movement, documented in the SHARE publication '[A City Says Yes! Reflections on the experiences of the Save Me campaign to promote refugee resettlement in Germany](#)', demonstrated the value of grassroots, city-based advocacy for engaging new cities in refugee resettlement and increasing resettlement numbers and capacity in Europe.

In this edition of the [SHARE Network](#) Magazine, we bring you one example of local advocacy for Syrian refugees currently ongoing in the UK city of Leeds, where a coalition of civil society organisations and individuals led by [One World Leeds](#) has launched a petition for the city to receive 100 Syrian refugees, stating:

'The humanitarian crisis in Syria is one of the most tragic and devastating in recent world history. We welcome the support the UK has already provided in humanitarian aid and the recent government announcement that the UK plans offer temporary resettlement in the UK to a few hundred of the most vulnerable refugees.

We would like Leeds City Council to put itself forward as a host for these Syrian refugees. Leeds is a diverse city, with a strong track record of welcoming refugees. Taking around 100 Syrian refugees would be well within our resources and abilities. We'd be able to use the experience built up over many years to provide a safe home for people fleeing persecution and violence.'





*Tiffany Allen speaks at the SHARE event 'A City Says Yes! Welcoming Resettled Refugees in Europe' (May 2013, Brussels)*

***'City of Sanctuary has been encouraged by the tremendous show of grassroots support for the campaign to welcome Syrian refugees to our cities. Several local groups are writing to councils and mayors to say 'we want to welcome Syrian refugees here, and to be involved in making sure they feel safe and at home in our city.'***

This local advocacy action is accompanied by many other local civil society initiatives in the city, including awareness-raising and educational programmes on Syria run by City of Sanctuary's Schools of Sanctuary programme. At the time of writing, 1132 individuals have signed the petition. For the latest information on the campaign, visit [www.oneworldleeds.org/syria/](http://www.oneworldleeds.org/syria/)

In Leeds this local support has led to a petition signed by hundreds of people from faith groups, theatres, schools, universities, local businesses and charities. Councillors and politicians are adding their voices to this initiative, and the day-to-day commitment that scores of volunteers already make to welcoming newcomers adds credibility and weight to what is becoming a fast growing and

popular campaign supported by all sectors of society.'

Tiffany Allen, City of Sanctuary National Coordinator

'I'm not too surprised that well over 1,000 people in Leeds have signed the petition calling for Leeds to put itself forward to provide sanctuary for vulnerable Syrian refugees. Caring and compassion are important values to us British people and Leeds has a history of providing support to those in need. Since 2000 Leeds has been a key dispersal city for asylum seekers and has therefore developed skills, resources and capacity to help integrate those coming to the UK.'

Peter Richardson, One World Leeds



***For more information or enquiries about the SHARE Network, please visit [www.resettlement.eu/page/welcome-SHARE-network](http://www.resettlement.eu/page/welcome-SHARE-network) or contact Rachel Westerby, City Coordinator at ICMC at [city.coordinator@icmc.net](mailto:city.coordinator@icmc.net).***



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