

## Annual General Conference 2023, 15 June, Torino

Europe and Displacement: What works?

Polo del '900

### Workshop 1: Sala del,900 (12h00 – 13h30)

**Title:** Safe routes to Europe: Good practices and Developments

**Lead organisation(s):** ECRE

Objectives:

- To present the findings of ECRE's paper on safe routes to Europe for those at risk
- To highlight good practices in the management of safe routes in Europe
- To explore recommendations for establishing and expanding safe routes to protection in Europe, including the role of the EU

**Presentation of findings of the ECRE study on safe routes**

- Claire Rimmer, Policy Officer, ECRE

Contribution and reflections from experts

Moderator: Reshad Jalali, Senior Policy Officer, ECRE

**Speakers:**

- Ana de Vega Diez, Senior Durable Solutions Officer, UNHCR
- Antonio Pietropolli, Migration Liaison Analyst, Mission of Canada to the EU
- Michael Wassouf, Mosaico, Italy (TBC)
- Caritas Italy (TBC)

Structure/method: Following input from the speakers, there will be a moderated discussion to which all participants are welcome to contribute.

**Description:**

ECRE has long argued that there should be an expansion in the availability of safe routes for people in need of international protection to enable them to arrive in Europe without having to undertake dangerous journeys. Despite the need for safe routes to Europe, there is little available information on current and planned routes and their implementation. This is partly because political priorities have been directed elsewhere, but also, there is some concern among those working to increase pathways to protection that publicising practices could have negative effects. There is also a risk that countries use any expansion of safe routes to justify restrictive practices at borders.

Navigating these risks, ECRE has embarked on a study commissioned by the Open Society Foundation to map the current situation in Europe, analyzing the types of safe routes available for people at risk and the number of beneficiaries.

The study shows that despite a political environment that is generally hostile towards asylum-seekers and in some cases, also to refugees, countries in Europe do continue to employ a variety of mechanisms for facilitating safe pathways to Europe for people in need of protection, including both those who have undergone status determination and those who will undergo it on arrival.

Safe pathways have also been an increasing focus at EU level, with crises such as the fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban in August 2021 and the evacuation of Kabul highlighting the urgent need for safe pathways the need for coordination at European and international level. To support ongoing programmes, the EU's convening and funding roles have proven useful.