

Refugee Resettlement - broadening the basis in Europe

The project "Resettlement - broadening the basis in Europe" enhances knowledge and political debate in EU member states to engage in refugee resettlement - as an additional instrument of refugee protection.

The project activities and aims between December 2006 and December 2007 are:

A) BROADENED POLICY DEBATES:

Bringing potential actors of resettlement, who have expressed an interest in resettlement (positively or negatively), into debate with one another: on selected issues on resettlement. Debates will take place in a number of EU countries, where key debates on resettlement are developing. These debate-events with a number of invited speakers will take place in:

- Germany on: resettlement and the difference to "camp solutions",
- in Italy, Belgium and Spain: on their role as emerging resettlement countries
- in the Czech Republic on new member states looking at new ways of refugee protection

B) BROADENED INFORMATION BASIS:

Continued updated information on resettlement will be provided to a non-specialised public interested in refugee protection amidst confusing debates: general information will be shared along with news on findings of seminars/studies and recent developments.

- A broader public will be kept up-to-date in the context of developing policy debate through the "resettlement newsletter": Among other things, the newsletter will underline the connection with and differences to e.g. various regional protection initiatives. This information will be complemented by examples of groups currently in need of protection through resettlement
- Targeted information sharing on implementation of resettlement will be organised with Brussels-based journalists.
- Fact-sheets on central elements of resettlement debates will be produced in a variety of languages, e.g. on the notion of "strategic use of resettlement" (resettlement complementing other protection options) or on civil society involvement in resettlement e.g. through sponsorship

C) BROADENED PARTNERSHIPS FOR RESETTLEMENT:

The project will provide a forum of discussion and exchange of civil society actors with UNHCR in order to:

- explore the roles of European NGOs and their potential for expanded involvement and collaboration with UNHCR,
- discuss the notion of "strategic use" in the context of the different durable solutions for refugee protection and
- coordinate efforts to promote an EU-wide resettlement scheme.

"Resettlement – broadening the basis" is carried out by CCME and ECRE as well as other church-related agencies and ECRE members, in connection with the respective European and global networks. Co-operation and exchange with and participation of other actors with an interest in refugee protection issues, UNHCR or national governments (e.g. governments in emerging resettlement countries), which has or is being developed, will be continued. A focus of the debates held in different member states will therefore also be to look how networks of different actors (e.g. national government, municipality, church, NGO) could contribute to resettlement.

"Resettlement broadening the basis" takes up the conclusions of the study process and consultation "making resettlement work" and "resettlement capacity building for action" which CCME organised 2003-2006 as well as ECRE's "Way forward" series of papers on Europe's role in the global refugee protection system, which includes a proposal for why and how a European Resettlement Programme should be established. It enlarges the network created between governmental institutions, UNHCR, Churches and other civil society actors in the field.



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The views expressed and information provided by the project and the partners involved do not necessarily reflect the point of view of the European Commission and do in no way fall under the responsibility of the European Commission.

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