



ERN+ Webinar Series on Complementary Pathways of Refugee Admission in Europe

Enhancing Humanitarian Admission in Europe

Webinar 23 March 2017



@ResettlementEU

Co-funded by
the European Union



www.resettlement.eu



The European Resettlement Network

- European Resettlement Network: www.resettlement.eu
- Supporting the development of resettlement in Europe since 2010 by connecting a variety of actors involved in refugee resettlement
- 3,000 stakeholders from national, regional, local government, international organisations, civil society, volunteers, academics, refugees, and others working in all stages of the resettlement process



@ResettlementEU

Co-funded by
the European Union



www.resettlement.eu



ERN+ Project

- Exploring complementary pathways of refugee admission to Europe
- Developing examples of models on complementary forms of admission in consultation with all relevant actors
- Identifying possibilities for the implementation of pilot projects in selected European countries



@ResettlementEU

Co-funded by
the European Union



www.resettlement.eu



Resettlement and the need for Complementary Pathways

- Record numbers of displaced persons worldwide
- 1.2 million refugees in need of resettlement in 2017, according to UNHCR's Projected Global Resettlement Needs
- Contribution of the European Union to global resettlement remains modest
 - Approximately 28,000 submissions to European resettlement countries in 2016 of a global total of 160,000



@ResettlementEU

www.resettlement.eu



Complementary Pathways

- Potential to develop alternative forms of admission to address the needs of refugees globally
- Pathways can include private sponsorship programmes, student scholarships as well as other forms of humanitarian admission programmes, such as enhanced family reunification
- Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative (GRSI)
 - Government of Canada, UNHCR, the University of Ottawa, the Radcliffe Foundation, and the Open Society Foundations



@ResettlementEU

www.resettlement.eu



Webinar Programme

PART I - An introduction to Humanitarian admission programmes

- **What are the core components of Humanitarian Admission Programmes?** by Jo De Backer, IOM RO Brussels Resettlement and Relocation Specialist
- **How can visas issued on humanitarian grounds for protection seeking purposes facilitate humanitarian admission?** by Kristiina Lilleorg, IOM RO Brussels Immigration and Border Management Specialist
- **The Austrian HAP programme**, by Barbara Kurz, Integration, Migration und Asyl expert at Caritas Austria; ARGE Consortium - Project Coordinator for HAP
- **Humanitarian admission programmes in Germany for beneficiaries of protection from Syria**, by Janne Grote, German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)



@ResettlementEU

PART II – Visas on humanitarian grounds as a tool for admission

- **Issuance of visas for asylum by French authorities**, by Séverine Origny Fleishman, Deputy Head of Department, Asylum and Protection Law, French Ministry of Interior, Directorate General for Foreign Nationals in France.
- **SRC Counseling Services on Humanitarian visa for entry to Switzerland** by Judith Huber, Migration Specialist, Swiss Red Cross, Department of Social Integration and Migration
- ***With further contributions from UNHCR on other relevant considerations to be taken into account***

www.resettlement.eu



Humanitarian admission schemes as a pathway

- Potential to offer a safe and legal pathway for those in need of international protection
- **Complement** - and not a replacement - to States' traditional resettlement programmes
- May be used for specific groups of refugees such as vulnerable persons, extended family members or individuals with medical needs
- Expedited mechanism granting (temporary) international protection depending upon a State's legislation



@ResettlementEU

www.resettlement.eu



Humanitarian admission schemes as a pathway

- Safeguards need to be in place to ensure clear legal status, protection needs - including psycho-social well-being of refugees - are met.
- Existing and past examples, with many recent initiatives focusing on Syrians
- Diverse in nature, eligibility criteria, length of residence granted, support provided etc.
- Within such programmes, visas issued on humanitarian grounds (for protection-seeking purposes) could facilitate refugee admission



@ResettlementEU

www.resettlement.eu



Core components of Humanitarian Admission Programmes

- Use of identification and referral sources other than UNHCR including through Churches, NGOs, family members in receiving countries and self-referral by Syrian refugees at embassies in countries of first asylum
- Consideration of cases other than those submitted on the basis of UNHCR submission categories, though on the basis of vulnerability criteria



@ResettlementEU

www.resettlement.eu



Core components of Humanitarian Admission Programmes (2)

- Family reunification (sub)places going beyond reuniting with nuclear family ; providing access to the territory through visa instruments, often having a sponsorship component; time-limited application period and few considerations for individual vulnerability
- **Need for protection-centered programmes, not substitute existing protection places**; and include a number of protection principles such as non-discrimination, family unity, do not harm and give access to rights, services and integration support



@ResettlementEU

www.resettlement.eu



Use of visas issued on humanitarian grounds for protection-seeking purposes

- EU legislation (LTV Visa 90 days) vs. National legislation (individual provisions)
- Persisting gap in regional & national legislation allows for inconsistent entitlement (individual discretion of MS, unclear definition “humanitarian grounds” and lack targeted procedures specifically for those in need of protection under EU law)
- Tool to access the EU MS border, not necessarily granting entry <-> protection programme
- Meant to complement existing schemes (including resettlement, humanitarian admission and others) to ensure safe, legal access
- Introduction to examples of MS using humanitarian visas for protection-seeking purposes



@ResettlementEU

www.resettlement.eu



PART II: Specific examples - visas issued on humanitarian grounds

“Issuance of visas for asylum by French authorities”

Presentation by **Séverine Origny Fleishman**,
Deputy Head of Department, Asylum and Protection Law, French Ministry of
Interior, Directorate General for Foreign Nationals in France.



@ResettlementEU

www.resettlement.eu



Other considerations to take into account

Concluding remarks by **David Watt**,
UNHCR Bureau for Europe



@ResettlementEU

www.resettlement.eu