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Upcoming Events

The ERN+ Webinar Series

Wednesday 8 March 2017 - ERN+ Webinar on Higher Education Scholarship Opportunities for Refugees

The European Resettlement Network will hold the second webinar in its current series exploring complementary pathways of refugee admission to Europe. This webinar will focus on higher education scholarship opportunities for refugees as one such pathway.

Further information on the webinar and how to register is available [here](#).

More information on speakers and content will appear on www.resettlement.eu in the coming days.

Report on First ERN+ Webinar

Thursday 23 February 2017 - ERN+ Webinar on Private Sponsorship Programmes of Refugees

The first in the ERN+ Webinar series on complementary pathways of refugee admission '**Emerging Private Sponsorship Programmes in Europe: a new partnership between government and local communities**' took place on 23 February 2017 (15.00-17.00 CET). Over 60 participants from international organisations, national and regional authorities, faith-based and other civil society organisations in various European countries as well as Canada, the US and South America attended the webinar.

Please find a short report from the webinar, the video recording as well as the panellists' power point presentations [here](#).

Dates for the upcoming webinar in this series:

23 March 2017 - ERN+ Webinar on Humanitarian Admission Programmes

Global

Door knocks in the dark: The Canadian town on front line of Trump migrant crackdown

31 January 2017 - Grapevine

Hundreds of people, mainly from Africa but also the Middle East, are fleeing U.S. President Donald Trump's crackdown on illegal immigrants, migrants and refugee agencies say. Many asylum seekers say Trump's election and subsequent crackdown on illegal migrants spurred their plans to head north. Emerson, a Canadian town close to the border to the US, has become the front line of an emerging political crisis that is testing Canada's will to welcome asylum seekers.

[Read more](#)

For Syrian Refugees, There Is No Going Home

23 February 2017 - New York Times

In the makeshift tent settlements that dot fields and villages in the Bekaa Valley of Lebanon, Syrian refugees are digging in, pouring concrete floors, installing underground sewerage and electric wires, and starting businesses and families.

[Read more](#)

Vietnamese Refugee In Canada Now Helping Syrian Family Resettle

6 January 2017 - World Post

When Thuy Nguyen was just 12 years old, she found refuge in Canada after being forced to flee her native country of Vietnam. More than forty years later, Nguyen is paying it forward by taking care of others fleeing war in search of a stable home and a peaceful life, mentoring and supporting the Noumans, a family of nine from the embattled city of Homs, Syria...

Liberals unveil resettlement plan for 1,200 Yazidis and other victims of ISIS

21 February 2017 - CBC News

Canada plans to resettle 1,200 Yazidi refugees and other survivors of ISIS by the end of this year.

Immigration Minister Ahmed Hussen announced that nearly 400 survivors have already arrived in Canada in the last four months since the House of Commons unanimously supported a Conservative motion that called on the government to provide asylum to an unspecified number of Yazidi women and girls. Of those, about 74 per cent are Yazidi.

[Read more](#)

Refugees' Stories Told Through Their Smartphones

20 February 2017 - WIRED

For many of the 65 million refugees worldwide displaced by war or persecution, a cellphone is a lifeline. A smartphone provides a means of staying in touch with loved ones, of keeping up with the news, or navigating their way to safety. It carries pictures of those they've left behind, those they've lost, and those they hope to find. And each is as unique as the person carrying it...

[Read more](#)

Interview: making the global compacts on migrants and refugees worthwhile

20 February 2017 - Open Democracy

Achieving meaningful global compacts on migration and refugees by end-2018 won't be easy. Learn the challenges ahead from someone involved in the process.

[Read more](#)

Iceland's President Personally Welcomes Syrian Refugees

31 January 2017 - Grapevine

22 Syrian refugees arrived in Iceland yesterday, and President Guðni Th. Jóhannesson made it a point to invite them to the presidential residence at Bessastaðir and personally welcome them to Iceland. The President gave a brief speech on the occasion, wherein he cited former US President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

[Read more](#)

Europe

New document outlines measures to manage migration in

the Mediterranean

25 January 2017 - European Commission

Ahead of a meeting of EU heads of state and government in Malta on 3 February 2017, the European Commission has published a joint communication with the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy entitled "Migration on the Central Mediterranean route: Managing flows, saving lives".

[Read more](#)

Memories of Balkans war compel many to help new wave of refugees

24 February 2017 - Thomson Reuters Foundations News

"We went through this 25 years ago. (The migrants) were walking on the same streets that we were"

Every time Croatian aid worker Gordana Vucinic meets migrants who have fled poverty, war and oppression, the 42-year-old is thankful she is no longer a refugee and can help others as frightened as she once was. As part of her work for CARE International, Vucinic regularly crosses into Serbia from Croatia to inspect conditions in state-run migrant centres.

[Read more](#)

Europe's Child Refugee Crisis

27 February 2017 - The New Yorker

At an age when most kids need supervision to do their homework, hundreds of thousands of minors are crossing continents alone.

[Read more](#)

National

Syrian migrants are not always entitled to refugee status, says German court

21 February 2017 - Deutsche Welle

Syrians fleeing the still war-torn country are not automatically entitled to full refugee status under the Geneva Convention, a German administrative court in North Rhine Westphalia (NRW) ruled Tuesday...

[Read more](#)

Nearly 10,000 Refugees Have Received Asylum in Greece

27 February 2017 - News Deeply

Greece has granted asylum to nearly 10,000 people, including over 2,000 children, since 2013 according to data from the Greek asylum service. The figures include over 8,000 given refugee status and more than 1,000 granted subsidiary protection.

[Read more](#)

Belgian mayor wins world prize for work on integrating immigrants

16 February 2017 - The Guardian

World mayor project recognises leaders of three European cities for offering refugees safety, shelter and support. The world mayor prize is awarded every two years by the independent City Mayors Foundation. The 2016 prize,

announced on 14 February 2017, recognises mayors who have made an extra effort to provide immigrants with the facilities to contribute to their city's society, economy and culture.

[Read more](#)

A Catholic group in Italy receives more refugees than 15 EU countries

28 February 2017 - El País (in Spanish)

The Catholic community of Sant'Egidio has legally and safely transferred 700 refugees in Italy from the Middle East in a year, more than the sum of those received by 15 EU countries individually. And only six States have each received more refugees than San Egidio: France, Germany, Portugal, the Netherlands, Finland and Spain, which has received 744 people. The EU's commitment was distributed to 160,000 asylum seekers.

[Read more](#)

Cologne library opens its doors to refugees: 'You fill this room with life'

21 February 2017 - The Guardian

The Cologne Public Library is serving as a social and educational space for the city's refugees, as counterparts across Germany increasingly become places for community engagement.

[Read more](#)

Thousands call on Spain to welcome more refugees

20 February 2017 - Deutsche Welle

Tens of thousands of people joined a protest in Barcelona urging the Spanish government to increase its refugee intake. Only 1,100 migrants have been resettled under a plan to take in 17,000 people.

[Read more](#)

New Resources

Forced Migration Review - Issue 54 - Resettlement

February 2017 - University of Oxford Refugee Studies Centre

This issue of FMR looks at some of the modalities and challenges of resettlement in order to shed light on debates such as how - and how well - resettlement is managed, whether it is a good use of the funds and energy it uses, and whether it is a good solution for refugees. It contains 33 articles on Resettlement, plus a mini-feature on Post-deportation risks and monitoring and four articles on other forced migration topics.

[Read more](#)

Global compacts, detention centres, and safe passage: can the world change course on migration?

20 February 2017 - Open Democracy

The tragic spectacle of the past five years has pushed migration to the top of the global policy agenda, but it will take a lot of work to transform that opportunity into substantive change.

[Read more](#)

The news and opinions contained in this News Digest are provided for information purposes only and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Resettlement Network members UNHCR, ICMC or IOM. All information is taken from publicly available information provided by various media outlets, organisations and blogs. As such, the inclusion of any material should not be considered as endorsement of the content or as a verification of its accuracy. The Digest's aim is to share articles and information on resettlement and other legal pathways in a bite-size and easy-to-read format.

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