

Successes & Challenges in Integration Support for Resettled Refugees in Europe

Expert Panel

Resettlement 'look & learn' visit to Denmark June
12th 2012, Copenhagen

The International Catholic Migration Commission serves and protects uprooted people:
refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants, regardless of faith, race ethnicity or nationality.



SWEDEN



- Resettled refugees housed directly in municipalities
- **Pre-2011** - municipalities responsible for reception and introduction activities and support for all refugees, including resettled refugees
- **From Jan 2011:**
 - National integration responsibility transferred to Ministry of Employment
 - Responsibility for coordinating local introduction activities for refugees transferred from municipalities to the Swedish Public Employment Service (PES)
- **Introduction support – the process:**
 - All ‘new arrivals’ referred to their local Job Centre (PES)
 - Job Centre assesses skills and develops introduction plan
 - Standard financial introduction benefit (conditional on following introduction plan activities)
 - Job Centre may assist in finding housing in a municipality with more employment opportunities
- **Introduction plan activities**
 - 40 hours per week for a maximum of 24 months
 - Include as a minimum ‘Swedish for Immigrants’ language tuition, employment preparation (training or workplace experience) and civic and social orientation
 - Refugees can select an ‘establishment guide’ from a bank of organisations contracted by PES to support individuals into employment, education and/or training

CZECH REPUBLIC



- Centralised reception – up to 6 months residency in integration centre before move to housing in municipalities
- Integration centre provision - some Czech language training and orientation courses
- **State Integration Programme:** responsibility of Czech Ministry of Interior (with Ministry or Education for language-learning element)
- **Programme components:**
 - Language training: 400 hours Czech language training. ERF-funded, contracted delivery by language associations and NGOs
 - Housing: furnished accommodation in municipalities; ‘regulated rent’; 5-year rental contracts
 - Employment: assistance generally provided by NGOs via ERF-funded programmes; municipalities sometimes assist with finding initial employment – ad-hoc good practice rather than a standardised, funded programme
- **Municipalities** – receive a financial contribution toward local infrastructure development/upkeep based on number of resettled refugees received; no specific budget for municipalities to deliver integration activities for resettled refugees

UK



- Resettlement programmes delivered on a contractual basis – currently 3 x 3-year contracts for 2011-14, delivered by 2 local authority/NGO partnerships & 1 specialist housing and support association
- Resettled refugees housed directly in municipalities
- Housing – both local authority and private rented sector housing; resettled refugees receive mainstream assistance to meet housing costs
- Resettlement programme contracts include funding for 12 months specialist integration support – delivered by 2 NGO partners and specialist housing and support association
- **Integration support:**
 - Reception & initial orientation: housing; local area; systems, services and support
 - Personal Integration Plan (PIP): 12-month plan co-developed with refugees – integration needs and aspirations
 - Drop-in advice & information
 - Volunteering & employment: finding volunteer placements and referring to mainstream support
 - Community development: support to establish community associations, link to existing migrant and same-language organisations
 - Language support: referral to mainstream language-learning provision (no language-learning funded within resettlement programmes)