



REFINTEG BULLETIN

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REFINTEG PROJECT

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"The Canadian model of the public-private sponsorship for the integration of refugees: the case of Syrians and its possible application in EU countries" is a project led by the University of Genoa (Italy), in partnership with the Institut national de la recherche scientifique, INRS (Canada). This research, funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 835466, has as overall objective a comprehensive analysis of the Canadian private sponsorship model to integrate refugees, of its impact in providing to Syrian refugees a safe and legal way to resettlement and socio-economic integration, and an exploration of its possible modalities of application in some countries of the European Union.

PROJECT'S SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The overall objective will be achieved through three specific objectives:

- An analysis of government documents, of the Canada's private sponsorship of refugees program, available academic literature and data and a description of the program benefits, general impact and challenges;
- An analysis of the same program in the case of Syrian refugees and its comparison with other programs such as the federal government-assisted program (GAR) and the Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) program;
- An exploration of the possible application of the program in some specific EU countries such as Italy and Germany.

WHAT'S RESETTLEMENT

UNHCR defines resettlement as "the selection and transfer of refugees from a State in which they have sought protection to a third State that has agreed to admit them - as refugees - with permanent residence status". Relocation is "the transfer of persons who are in need of international protection from one EU Member State to another EU Member State". It is an intra-EU process.

In accordance with its Annual Immigration Levels Plan, Canada accepts refugees as permanent residents under its Refugee Resettlement Program. As a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, Canada accepts refugees for humanitarian reasons to align with its international obligations, protect those in need and reunite refugee families. A refugee is initially submitted for resettlement as an applicant for either the government-assisted refugee (GAR) program or for the privately-sponsored refugee (PSR) program.

LATEST PUBLICATIONS ON REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

The resettlement and integration of refugees is increasingly attracting the attention of researchers worldwide. Below is a non-exhaustive list of books and articles on the subject recently published.

- Agrawal, S. (2019). Canadian Refugee Sponsorship Programs: Experience of Syrian Refugees in Alberta, Canada. *Journal of International Migration and Integration* 20:941-962.
- Asgary, A. (2019). *Resettlement Challenges for Displaced Populations and Refugees*. Springer.
- Clark-Kazak, C. and Reynolds, J. (2019). Refugee Sponsorship: Lessons learned, ways forward. *Refugee: Canada's Journal on Refugees*, Vol 35 No 2.
- Fratzke, S., Beirens, H. (2020), The future of refugee resettlement: Made in Europe? Migration Policy Institute.
- Gowayed, H. (2020). Resettled and unsettled: Syrian refugees and the intersection of race and legal status in the United States. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 43:2, 275-293.
- Goździak, E., Main, I., Suter, B. (2020). *Europe and the Refugee Response. A Crisis of Values?* Routledge, London.

- Kaida, L., Stick, M., Hou, F. (2020). The Long-term Economic Outcomes of Refugee Private Sponsorship. Statistics Canada.
- Labman, S. (2019). *Crossing Law's Border. Canada's Refugee Resettlement Program*. UBC Press.
- Oudshoorn, A., Benbow, S., Meyer, M. (2020). Resettlement of Syrian Refugees in Canada. *Journal of International Migration and Integration* (2020) 21:893-908.
- Rose, D. (2019). *Creating home in Canada. Refugee housing challenges and potential policy options*. Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute
- Solano, G., Savazzi, V. (2019). Private Sponsorship Programmes and humanitarian visas: a viable policy framework for integration? Migration Policy Group.
- Stathopoulou, T., Eikemo, T. A. (2019). New Perspectives on the European Refugee Crisis. An Empirical Review. *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 32(1), i1-i252.
- Ilcan, S. Thomaz, D., Bueno, M., (2020). *Private Sponsorship in Canada: The Resettlement of Syrian Refugees in the Kitchener-Waterloo Region.. IMRC Policy Points, Issue XVII.*

WHAT'S HAPPENED IN THE LAST 6 MONTHS

Canada reaffirms its leadership in refugee protection

During the Global Refugee Forum which took place on December 17-18, 2019, in Geneva, Canada announced \$50.4 million multi-year funding for the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in order to respond to the humanitarian and protection needs of refugees worldwide.

EU. Member States pledge for further 30,000 resettlement places for 2020

The EU resettlement scheme was launched at the European Union level in 2005 and renewed in 2017. Since then, more than 65,000 refugees have been resettled in the EU. For 2020, EU member states committed to providing 30,000 places.

Global Refugee Forum

The Global Compact on Refugees, affirmed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2019, envisions more predictable and sustainable support to: ease pressures on countries hosting refugees; enhance opportunities for refugees to become self-reliant; expand refugees' access to third-country solutions such as resettlement and other pathways; support conditions in refugees' countries of origin so that they may be able to return in safety and dignity.

Canada's immigration levels for 2020-2022

Canada will welcome 341,000 new permanent residents in 2020, 351,000 in 2021, and 361,000 in 2022. While the target for privately sponsored refugees and BVOR remains unchanged over the next three years, 20,000 and 1,000 respectively, the level for government assisted refugees goes up by 250 in 2021 and 750 in 2022 (10,700 in 2020).

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