

Share Network



A Letter From The Director

JUNE 2022

Dear Share colleagues and supporters,

As we mark World Refugee Day this week, the Share Network continues to ensure safe pathways, dignified reception, community welcome, and integration support for all those seeking refuge in the European Union. The war in Ukraine has changed our world in many ways and will continue to do so in many years to come. Over the past months, we have seen heartwarming responses of solidarity, welcoming those fleeing Ukraine, with open arms. These massive responses – in both urban and rural settings – show again the vital role that local communities can and do play in welcoming and hosting refugees.

As of March, we connected and shared experiences with hundreds of Share Network members during meetings and conferences in France, Germany, Italy, and Spain. During these inspiring encounters, our Share members stressed that regional and local multi-stakeholder partnerships, planning, coordination, and clear division of roles among actors - are key when receiving newcomers. Not surprisingly, our communities that invested in such frameworks over time, now report that they can respond quickly and efficiently to new arrivals from Ukraine.

The Temporary Protection Directive allows Ukrainian refugees to have agency in determining the place they will settle. Many flexible procedures that put the needs of refugees first- have been introduced with unprecedented speed. Citizen housing and volunteering initiatives flourish and many new actors, particularly the private sector are turning empty offices into housing units for refugees and supporting language learning, education, training, and employment.

As Winston Churchill said: Never waste a good crisis. With more than 100 million people - forcibly displaced in 2022 -we should avoid creating parallel systems for different refugee groups. Instead, we should extend more flexible procedures and dignified reception to other refugee groups in Europe, offering them the same prospects of protection, reception, durable housing, language learning, and early employment counseling.

The future of Europe is now.

Petra Hueck

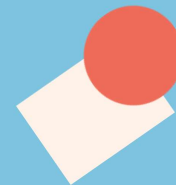
Director, ICMC Europe



Share Launched a Brand-New Website



CHECK IT OUT!



NEWS FROM THE NETWORK

- International Share conference in Bologna launches Manifesto to Mobilise Support for Higher Education Pathways
- Share New Advocacy Briefing Series: Our priorities & recommendations for EU action
- Joint statement on Ukraine refugee response: The EU and Member States Must Now Work Together to Put Commitments into Practice
- Joint statement on the arrival of refugees from Ukraine and the application of the Temporary Protection Directive
- Joint statement: The EU has a duty to revive and expand refugee resettlement

[Read more](#)

PROJECTS UPDATES

News on Inclusive Territories

Read our latest **Policy Brief on Building Inclusive Rural Territories!** It promotes our vision and approach for Inclusive Territories and provides a guiding framework for the participation of rural territories and communities as integration actors. Building on

News on Community Sponsorship

In June 2022 our new Policy Brief on First Lessons Learned from Monitoring and Evaluation of Community Sponsorship Programmes in Europe. In this brief we provide an overview of community sponsorship evaluations in different European countries and analyse the findings in a

be tailored to the territories and integration policymaking and programming to be driven by multistakeholder.

On 7-9 June we organised a [Look & Learn visit on migration and rural revitalisation in Sigüenza \(Castilla-La-Mancha, Spain\), together with the IOM Spain and Fundación Cepaim](#). The event brought together over 40 participants engaged in the reception and integration of newcomers in rural areas from France, Poland, Belgium and Spain. Partners, institutional and civil society exchanged good practices and reflected on how to translate them into their local, regional, and national contexts. Common advocacy strategies and operational frameworks were discussed, as well as possibilities for future cooperation. The report will be available on our website in July, stay tuned!

The Share Network attended this year's [Rural Pact conference on 15-16 June in Brussels, to ensure that the voices of local and regional actors committed to the integration of newcomers are heard](#), and to include the issue of migration in the rural development agenda. Our partner, Mr. Paton MONGE from the CEPAIM Foundation, presented the Share SIRA project and some of our recommendations during the parallel thematic on resilient and welcoming rural communities #5.6. The conference programme can be downloaded [here](#).

On 29 March, 37 experts from a diverse range of organisations and institutions came together for the [third meeting of the Share Network Expert Group on Orientation and Integration in Rural Areas](#). This meeting focused on *access to EU funding for migrant and refugee integration in rural areas*.

Representatives from the European Commission (DG HOME, DG REGIO, and DG EMPLO) gave an overview of the Commission's priorities in handling integration and the existing funds for integration in rural areas. First-hand reflections on the funding package launched by the Commission to respond to the emergency crisis in Ukraine were also provided. Read the report [here](#).

In our last Mayor in the Spotlight Story, we interview the Mayor of Notre-Dame-de-l'Osier

practices across the different sponsorship schemes, and provides recommendations on how to make the various programmes more resilient over time.

On 10-11 March, we co-hosted with Caritas Italiana/Consorzio Communitas and the University of Bologna the "Universities as Sponsors and Tertiary Education Pathways for Refugees" conference. Over 90 participants from Italy, Germany, Ireland, Portugal, the UK, and Canada, exchanged good practices and common strategies to expand tertiary education opportunities for refugees and migrants. The [conference report](#) includes many practices and experiences in higher education scholarship programmes. **Please sign [here](#) the Manifesto that was launched at this occasion to mobilise multi-stakeholder support for higher education pathways in Europe.**

On 24 May 2022, over 50 stakeholders from six European countries and diverse faiths and worldviews gathered in Cologne for a "Conference on Multifaith and Wider Community Engagement in Sponsorship". It was organised by ICMC Europe and partner [Caritas Cologne](#) on behalf of the Share Network. Participants exchanged on opportunities for **broader and more sustainable community engagement across different faith groups and secular actors**. Keep an eye on the report coming soon!

On 15 – 17 June we held in partnership with the Basque Government the "Regions and Cities as Sponsors conference in Bilbao". We were very honoured that the President of Basque Country, Íñigo Urkullu Renteria addressed the conference participants with an opening speech. Looking at the experience of the regional sponsorship programmes in Basque country, Valencia and Navarra, the conference focused on identifying best practices of regional and city involvement in sponsorship, welcome and integration. A dedicated panel looked at responses to host and welcome Ukrainians refugees using community sponsorship approaches. **The conference report will be available on our website in September, stay tuned!**

an innovative socio-professional integration project that benefits both refugees and local inhabitants. Read [here](#) about Brichet-Billet's insightful experience and how the project led the way to unforeseen positive outcomes.

We are very proud to release our regional fact files to expand and disseminate data on integration in the 10 rural regions in Greece, France, Poland and Spain where the Share SIRA project is being implemented. We advocate for policymaking guided by evidence gathered from and in collaboration with local communities to influence the development of better integration policies and practices at all levels of governance – we invite you to share the fact sheets largely with integration actors and decision makers at all governance levels working in the field of rural integration.

In the context of the emergency in Ukraine, our Regional Roundtables proved very useful in strengthening cooperation between local actors. The last roundtable in Polish Mazovia allowed 90 stakeholders, including many municipalities, to get first-hand information on the legal requirements for receiving refugees from Ukraine and to exchange about reception needs and capacities. We are now looking forward of the last round of best practices sharing in Lower Silesia (Poland), and Isère (France). **You can find the articles from each roundtable under each regions tab.**

News on Increasing Refugee Participation

On 25 January 2022 we organised a first workshop to define the Share Refugee Advisor Programme for Community Sponsorship that will be implemented during 2022-2023. More than 50 participants from across Europe, Canada, and the United States, exchanged and discussed best practices, and consulted refugees on setting up frameworks for meaningful participation of refugees. **Read [here](#) the key takeaways from the discussions.**

Following a call for applications, we identified 20 refugee advisors living in Bulgaria, France, Italy, Germany, the UK, Spain and Ireland, from Afghanistan, Eritrea, Syria, Cameroon and Turkey. They have arrived in Europe through sponsorship, resettlement and relocation or have a migration background and work closely with refugees. **The advisors will co-design and contribute to all of our upcoming activities.** Also, advisors will engage in four advocacy projects on housing, intercultural mediation, expectation management and higher education pathways.

What they have been up to so far: Three advisors participated at the Multifaith Conference. Masooma Torfa spoke on a panel about challenges and opportunities in multi-faith and wider community engagement drawing on her experience with **Female Fellows**. Micheline Helaleh spoke about the French successful multifaith and wider community engagement referring to her experience with the **Fédération d'Entraide Protestante (FEP)**. Mojib Rahman Atal moderated one of the parallel discussions on refugee participation and agency, drawing on his experience in advising the German government on the evacuation of Afghans to Germany.

News on EU-Passworld

The EU co-financed EU-PASSWORLD Project: Widening Complementary Pathways linked to Community Sponsorship in Europe led by Caritas Italiana, was launched in Venice on 9 and 10 March 2022. The project will develop activities in Italy, Belgium and Ireland, designing policies for Labour

matching in the context of complementary pathways.

News on SPRING

On 2 June 2022, the SPRING project, a webinar on entrepreneurship as a driver of economic inclusion, focussing on good practices, challenges, and opportunities for (female) beneficiaries of Temporary Protection from Ukraine. Read more about innovative tools and approaches highlighted during the webinar [here](#).

More SPRING news [here!](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Look & Learn visit in Grenoble, France - September

Share will organise a second Look & Learn visit as part of the Share SIRA project, this time in the Isère region, France, and in collaboration with Entraide Pierre Valdo. The transnational peer learning meeting will focus on urban-rural linkages and showcase best practices for socio-economic inclusion, as well as successful models of multi-level cooperation.

Refugee sponsorship mobilisation platform - September

Roundtable on Private sector outreach and philanthropy in Community sponsorship - October

Roundtable on pre-departure cultural orientation and matching in community sponsorship - November

Final Transnational Conference for the SIRA project - November

We will organise in November a transnational conference in Brussels to share with our stakeholders all the lessons learned and outcomes from our Share SIRA project coming to an end. The conference will bring together local actors from rural areas, our ambassadors and representatives of European institutions and will be the occasion to discuss about the future of rural areas as inclusive territories of integration. More information soon on the website [here](#).

RESOURCES FROM PARTNERS AND ALLIES

- ECRE, *Recommendations: The EU's Response to Displacement from Ukraine*, June 2022
- UNHCR, *2023 Projected Global Resettlement Needs*, June 2022
- ECRE, *Information Sheet: Measures in response to the arrival of displaced people fleeing the war in Ukraine*, May 2022
- UNHCR, *2023 Projected Global Resettlement Needs*, June 2022
- Irish Refugee Council *et al.*, *Migrations in Our Common Home. Responding with Care – Ireland's response to the Ukrainian crisis*, May 2022
- Irish Refugee Council, *Policy Paper on accommodation and housing of Ukrainian refugees*, April 2022
- University of Ottawa Refugee Hub, *Knowledge Brief Series* on topics related to community-based refugee sponsorship, March 2022
- Anvita, *Guidance for a Welcoming France – Inspiring Territorial Practices*, January 2022
- Fédération d'Entraide Protestante, *Citizen accommodation for foreign persons in France*, January 2022
- University of Ottawa Refugee Hub, *Outcomes of the 2021-2022 Research Colloquium on Refugee Sponsorship*, 2021-2022
- Désinfox-Migrations, *New sensibilisation platform to counter disinformation on migration issues*, 2022
- Tasha Stansbury, University of Ottawa Refugee Hub, *Global Literature Synthesis: Refugee Sponsorship and Integration Outcomes Report*, 2021

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