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Resettlement, Humanitarian Admission and Sponsorship Schemes

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Explanatory note

This inform was prepared on the basis of national contributions from 25 EMN NCPs (AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LV, LT, LU, MT, NL, PL, PT, SK, SI, SE) collected via an EMN Ad Hoc Query developed by the EMN NCPs to ensure, to the extent possible, comparability. The listing of the EMN Member and Observer Countries in the inform following the presentation of synthesised information indicates the availability of relevant information provided by those EMN Members and Observers Countries in the inform following the presentation of synthesised information indicates the availability of relevant information provided by those EMN Members and Observer Countries.

It is important to note that the information contained in this inform refers to the situation in the abovementioned EMN Members and Observer Countries up to August 2022 and specifically the contributions from their EMN National Contact Points.

EMN NCPs from other Member States could not, for various reasons, participate on this occasion in this inform, but have done so for other EMN activities and reports.

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1. KEY POINTS

- Resettlement, humanitarian admission and sponsorship schemes are becoming increasingly important tools that offer protection and a durable solution to displaced persons, while also alleviating pressure in countries of first asylum.
- At European Union (EU) level, since 2015, five EU-funded resettlement and humanitarian admission schemes, involving a significant number of EU Member States, have helped more than 110 000 of the most vulnerable people in need of protection to find shelter in the EU.
- The majority of European Migration Network (EMN) Member Countries reported implementing resettlement programmes in the period 2016-2022. The experiences of EMN Member Countries with implementing resettlement programmes differ significantly. Whilst some countries, such as Finland, Sweden and the Netherlands, have more long-standing and established national programmes, the experience of most Member Countries with resettlement started with their contribution to EU-funded Resettlement schemes.
- National resettlement programmes in most EMN Member Countries include a quota set at national level, which is a commitment for the planned number of refugees to be received. Quotas are typically determined on an annual or multi-annual basis. EMN Member Countries contributing to EU Resettlement schemes, communicate their pledges to the European Commission according to the timeline of the pledging exercise as well as identify geographical priorities in response to the indication from the Commission. In response to pledging exercises in the context of the EU Resettlement Programme, EMN Member Countries have also set certain numbers of refugees that they are willing to receive.
- About half of the responding EMN Member Countries have implemented humanitarian admission schemes, with a majority of the reported admission schemes linked to the EU's response to evacuate Afghan nationals and their families following the fall of the Afghan government in 2021. Other humanitarian admission programmes carried out were diverse in geographical focus and design of the programmes.
- Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland and Spain currently run sponsorship schemes, some still in pilot phases. Such schemes offer the opportunity to local community sponsor groups to support resettling refugees.
- Key challenges encountered in implementing resettlement, humanitarian admission and sponsorship schemes include pre-arrival challenges, such as the fragile security situation in some countries of first asylum; a lack of housing; high drop-out rates from resettlement programmes in some countries (where refugees leave for other countries) and COVID-19.



2. INTRODUCTION

Conflicts in different world regions have contributed to an increase in migratory movements to neighbouring countries all around the world. In fact, approximately 72% of all refugees and forcibly displaced persons in 2021 were hosted in developing countries. This has resulted in a large imbalance between developed and developing countries in taking responsibility for refugees.¹ Due to these large imbalances, people in need of protection might not always have access to durable solutions or adequate protection measures in countries of first asylum and might opt to seek alternative places of refuge through risky and irregular routes.² During their journeys, they may be exposed to exploitative and arbitrary mistreatment.³

In light of these developments, resettlement and admission on humanitarian or international protection grounds are considered important tools for national and international actors. Resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes aim to offer protection and a durable solution to displaced persons,⁴ while also supporting countries of first asylum in their efforts to host and support displaced people and the associated strain on

their countries' infrastructure and resources. As such, they represent an acknowledgement of shared global responsibility and offer a safe and legal way to grant protection to persons in need.

“Resettlement” refers to the selection and transfer of refugees from a state in which they have sought protection to a third state which has agreed to admit them as refugees with permanent residence status.⁵ The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is mandated to identify and refer refugees for resettlement in accordance with established submission categories based on heightened protection risks, after determining their eligibility for international protection.⁶ In the EU context and also the context of this EMN inform, resettlement⁷ refers to the transfer, on referral from UNHCR and based on their need for international protection, of a third-country national or stateless person, from a third country to an EU Member State, where they are permitted to reside with one of the following statuses: (i) refugee status within the meaning of Art. 2(d) of Directive 2011/95/EU (Recast Qualification Directive); or (ii) a status which offers the

1 UNHCR, 'Global Trends Report 2021', available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/62a9d1494/global-trends-report-2021>, last accessed on 4 April 2023.

2 The Inter-Parliamentary Union and UNHCR, 'A guide to international refugee protection and building state asylum systems, Handbook for Parliamentarians N° 27', 2017, available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/3d4aba564.pdf> (p.7), last accessed on 4 April 2023.

3 UNHCR, 'Projected Global Resettlement Needs', 2021, available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/protection/resettlement/5ef34bf7/projected-global-resettlement-needs-2021-pdf.html>, last accessed on 4 April 2023.

4 Source: EMN Asylum and Migration Glossary (Version 8.0), available at: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/pages/glossary/resettlement_en, last accessed on 4 April 2023.

5 Derived from the UNHCR Glossary: <https://www.unhcr.org/glossary/#r>, last accessed on 4 April 2023.

6 UNHCR, 'Refugee Resettlement', available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/5fe06e8b4>, last accessed on 4 April 2023.

7 See Art 2 of AMIF Regulation EU 1147/2021 on resettlement and humanitarian admission. Please see EMN Glossary (Version 8.0), available at: https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/european-migration-network-emn/emn-asylum-and-migration-glossary/glossary/resettlement_en, last accessed on 4 April 2023.

equivalent rights and benefits under national and EU law as refugee status.

There is no commonly agreed definition for “**humanitarian admission schemes**”, which is often used as an umbrella term for different types of programmes, including those using diverse referral mechanisms.⁸ As of 2021, the European Commission also supports Member States’ humanitarian admission efforts. At the EU level, “humanitarian admission” means the admission following, where requested by a EU Member State, a referral from the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), the UNHCR, or another relevant international body, of third-country nationals or stateless persons from a third country to which they have been forcibly displaced to the territory of the EU Member States, and who are granted international protection or a humanitarian status under national law that provides for rights and obligations equivalent to those of Articles 20 to 34 of Directive 2011/95/EU for beneficiaries of subsidiary protection.⁹

For the purpose of this inform, “**humanitarian admission schemes**” refers to a variety of schemes, which are similar to resettlement but for varying reasons do not fully match the definition of resettlement.¹⁰

The main differences between resettlement and humanitarian admission schemes predominantly relate to the status granted and the preconditions for eligibility.¹¹ Resettlement requires a person to be referred by the UNHCR and prior to their arrival, the Member State determines that that person can be entitled to international protection status. On the other hand, for humanitarian admission schemes, persons can be referred also by other entities, and either upon arrival or after a procedure, persons are entitled to international protection status or a national status which offers an equivalent protection as subsidiary status.

Finally, “**sponsorship**” refers to community or private initiatives that allow a person, a group, or an organisation, to assume responsibility for providing financial, social and emotional support to a resettled person or family, for a predetermined period of time.¹² In line with the recommendation of September 2020 on legal pathways to protection in the EU¹³, the Commission stresses that

community sponsorship is a way to underpin resettlement, humanitarian admission or complementary. Sponsorship can be part of an overarching resettlement programme, creating additional resettlement capacity. Schemes often focus on supporting the integration of resettled persons, and offer the opportunity for non-governmental actors to engage in resettlement efforts, alongside the government’s efforts. Sponsorship programmes may involve a transfer of responsibility from government agencies to private actors for some elements of the identification, pre-departure, reception, or integration processes of refugees.¹⁴

In order to capture possible variations, this inform analyses resettlement schemes, humanitarian admission and sponsorship schemes separately. Since the last EMN Study on Resettlement was carried out in 2016,¹⁵ a considerable number of developments have arisen that impact EU Member States’ programmes, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan. The COVID-19 pandemic, among other things, reduced arrivals, postponed transfers and selection missions, and have resulted in 2021 in a decrease in the total number of resettled persons in the EU.¹⁶ However, these challenges have also helped to create new, potentially durable tools, such as conducting remote interviews with refugees. Although outside of the scope of this inform, the war in Ukraine is expected to pose new challenges due to increased pressure on migration management systems.

Within this context, this EMN inform aims to provide policy makers with up-to-date and comparative information on resettlement, humanitarian admission schemes and sponsorship schemes, including an overview of recent developments in EMN Member Countries from 2016 until 2022. Furthermore, this inform offers EMN Member Countries that are starting a new programme the opportunity to learn from other countries with well-established programmes for admission on humanitarian and international protection grounds. Finally, the document aims to complement and inform other knowledge-sharing initiatives, e.g. the EUAA Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Network meetings. Intra-EU relocation¹⁷ is beyond the scope of this inform.

8 IOM, “Humanitarian Admission Programmes in Europe” (2018), available at: <https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1486/files/documents/ERN%2Bscoping-paper-Humanitarian-Admission-Programmes-in-Europe.pdf>, last accessed on 4 April 2023.

9 Art.2 of REGULATION (EU) 2021/1147 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 7 July 2021 establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.

10 The term “admission” is defined as “the lawful entry of an alien onto the territory of a State after inspection and authorisation by an immigration officer”. (see EMN Glossary (Version 8.0), available at: https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/pages/glossary/admission-territory_en, last accessed on 4 April 2023.

11 See Decision No 573/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 May 2007 establishing the European Refugee Fund for the period 2008 to 2013 as part of the General programme Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows and repealing Council Decision 2004/904/EC; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32007D0573>, last accessed on 4 April 2023.

12 MPI Europe, ‘Welcoming engagement: How private sponsorship can strengthen refugee resettlement in the European Union’, available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/neu/about-our-work-community-sponsorship-programmes>, last accessed on 4 April 2023.

13 Commission Recommendation (EU) 2020/1364 of 23 September 2020 on legal pathways to protection in the EU: promoting resettlement, humanitarian admission and other complementary pathways, available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32020H1364>, last accessed on 24 April 2023.

14 European Commission, Study on the feasibility and added value of sponsorship schemes as a possible pathway to safe channels for admission to the EU, including resettlement, https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/pages/document/study-feasibility-and-added-value-sponsorship-schemes-possible-pathway-safe-channels-admission-eu_en, last accessed on 4 April 2023.

15 EMN study ‘Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Programmes in Europe – what works?’, available at: https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/pages/page/emn-publish-es-eu-report-resettlement-and-humanitarian-admission-programmes-europe-what-works_en, last accessed on 4 April 2023.

16 EUAA, Asylum Report 2021, available at: <https://euaa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/EASO-Asylum-Report-2021.pdf>, last accessed on 4 April 2023.

17 Source: EMN Asylum and Migration Glossary (Version 8.0), available at: https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/pages/glossary/relocation_en, last accessed on 4 April 2023.



3. EU AND INTERNATIONAL POLICY CONTEXT

Since 2015, five successful EU-funded resettlement and humanitarian admission schemes, involving a significant number of EU Member States, have helped more than 110,000 of the most vulnerable people in need of protection to find shelter in the EU.¹⁸

Resettlement and humanitarian admission are also a demonstration of European solidarity towards third countries hosting large numbers of displaced persons in need of protection. For example, resettlement is also an important element of the EU-Türkiye Statement¹⁹ and since March 2016, more than 37,000 Syrians have been admitted to EU Member States.²⁰

Overall, resettlement is a key element of the Union's comprehensive asylum and migration policy.

In 2016, the European Commission submitted a proposal for a Regulation establishing a Union Resettlement Framework.²¹ This proposal, on which the European Parliament and the Council found an agreement in December 2022,²² has yet to be formally adopted but aims to provide a stable and predictable framework for EU efforts complementing already existing national measures.

The Commission Recommendation of September 2020 on legal pathways to protection²³ emphasised that resettlement is an important tool for offering safe and legal pathways to protection to those in need of protection. The Recommendation, a component of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum²⁴, called on EU Member States to join collective efforts and ensure continuity and scale

up resettlement programmes in the years to come, with financial and operational support from the EU. The New Pact further called for promoting humanitarian admission and other complementary pathways for people in need of protection, in addition to resettlement.

Due to the humanitarian emergency in Afghanistan in 2021, the European Commission restated its commitment to providing 'protection pathways' for people in need of international protection. In December 2021, the European Commission indicated that 15 EU Member States had pledged to provide protection to a total of around 64,500 refugees in 2022 through resettlement and humanitarian admission, including around 37,000 Afghans at risk.²⁵ In November 2022, Commissioner Johansson announced that 17 Member States pledged almost 29,000 places for humanitarian admission and resettlement combined to be implemented in 2023.²⁶

The efforts undertaken at the EU-level contribute to the global resettlement needs. The UNHCR projects that global resettlement needs will rise from 1.47 million in 2022 to more than 2 million for 2023.²⁷ This number represents an increase of 36%. The UN agency attributes this rise to the "humanitarian impacts of the pandemic, the multitude of various protracted refugee situations, and the emergence of new displacement situations over the past year". In light of these developments, the UNHCR urges EU Member States "to maintain their commitments to refugees and provide solutions to those most at risk [...]".²⁸



4. RESETTLEMENT

The majority of EMN Member Countries²⁹ reported having implemented resettlement programmes in the period 2016-2022, whilst a few other EMN Member Countries³⁰ did not implement any resettlement programmes during this time. Annex 1 provides a detailed overview of the resettlement programmes carried out, the quotas set, the number and nationalities of refugees resettled, countries of resettlement and stakeholders responsible for programme implementation.

The experiences of EMN Member Countries in implementing resettlement programmes differ significantly. Whilst some countries, such as Sweden, Finland and the Netherlands have more long-standing programmes pre-dating the EU Resettlement Programme that started in 2015, the experience of other Member Countries³¹ with resettlement started with their contribution to EU Resettlement schemes.

EMN Member Countries, which had resettlement programmes pre-dating the EU Resettlement Programme

18 European Commission, Resettlement and other pathways to protection, available at: https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/legal-migration-and-integration/resettlement-and-other-pathways-protection_en, last accessed 17 January 2023. Justice and Home Affairs Council 20 July 2015, available at: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/jha/2015/07/20/>, last accessed 9 January 2023.

19 EU-Turkey Statement, 18 March 2016, available at: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/03/18/eu-turkey-statement/>, last accessed 9 January 2023.

20 European Commission, Resettlement and other pathways to protection, available at: https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/legal-migration-and-integration/resettlement-and-other-pathways-protection_en, last accessed 9 January 2023.

21 Proposal for a Regulation establishing a Union Resettlement Framework, available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=COM\(2016\)468&lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=COM(2016)468&lang=en), last accessed on 9 January 2023.

22 European Parliament, Press News (2022), Asylum and migration: deal reached on new EU resettlement framework, available at: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20221214PR64717/asylum-and-migration-deal-reached-on-new-eu-resettlement-framework>, last accessed on 24 April 2023.

23 Commission Recommendation (EU) 2020/1364 of 23 September 2020 on legal pathways to protection in the EU: promoting resettlement, humanitarian admission and other complementary pathways.

24 European Commission, Pact on Migration and Asylum, 23 September 2020, available at: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1706, last accessed 3 January 2023.

25 European Commission, Press release: "Afghanistan: Commission announces €1 billion Afghan support package", available at: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_5208, last accessed on 9 January 2023.

26 High-level Forum on legal pathways (europa.eu), available at: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_7248, last accessed 24 April 2023.

27 UNHCR, 'Global Refugee Resettlement Needs Rise Steeply Next Year', available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/news/briefing/2022/6/62b18a714/unhcr-global-refugee-resettlement-needs-rise-steeply-next-year.html>, last accessed on 21 August 2022.

28 Reliefweb, 'Summary of UNHCR Recommendations to the European Union: UNHCR resettlement needs, complementary pathways, and key priorities for 2023 (June 2022)', available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/summary-unhcr-recommendations-european-union-unhcr-resettlement-needs-complementary-pathways-and-key-priorities-2023-june-2022>, last accessed on 21 August 2022.

29 BE, BG, CZ, DE, EE, ES, FI, FR, HR, IE, IT, LT, LU, MT, NL, PT, SE, SI.

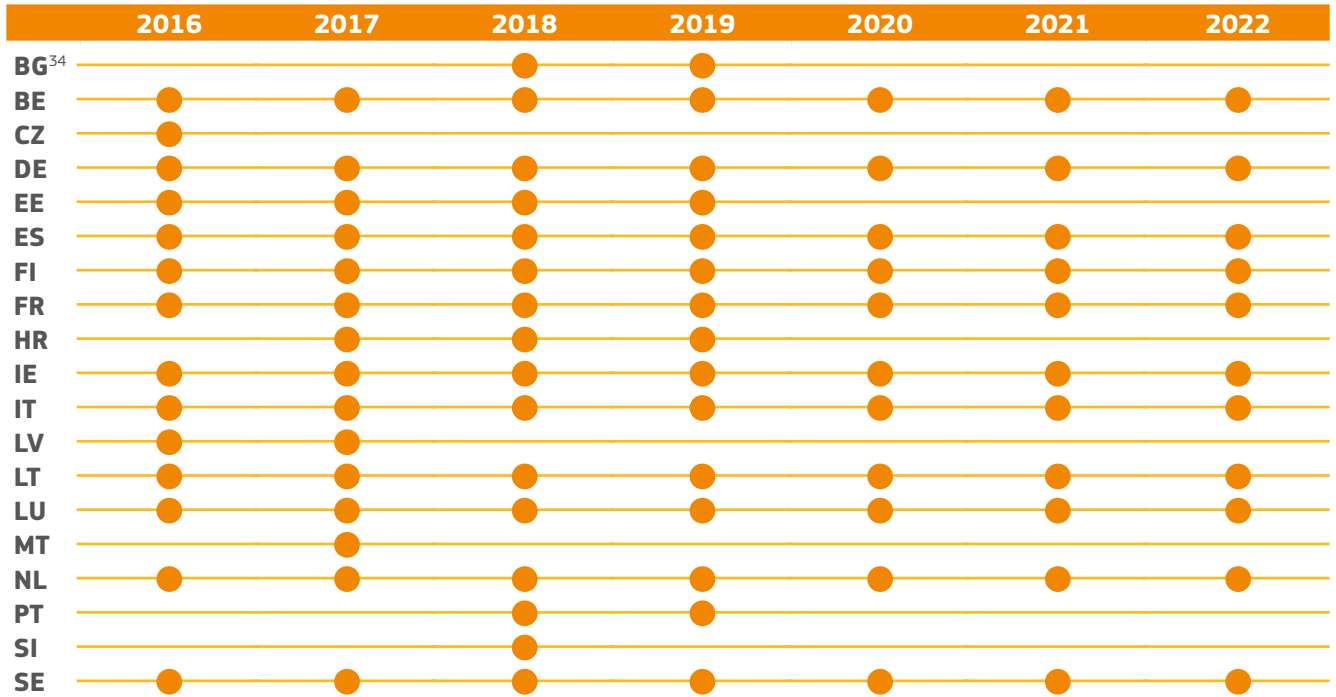
30 AT, CY, EL, HU, PL, SK.

31 BG, CZ, EE, HR, LV, LU, MT, PT, SI.

include Sweden (since the 1950s), the Netherlands (1977), Finland (1979), Ireland (2000), France (2008), Belgium (2009)³² and Germany (2012). Other countries³³ launched their resettlement programmes following the recommendation of 8 June 2015 of the European

Commission, and the JHA Council conclusions of 20 July 2015 (please see Section 3). Figure 1 provides an overview of the EMN Member Countries that reported a resettlement arrivals for the time period between 2016 and 2022.

Figure 1: MS that reported resettlement arrivals 2016-2022



Setting resettlement quotas

Resettlement programmes in most EMN Member Countries³⁵ include a quota set at national level (i.e. a commitment for the planned number of refugees to be received). Resettlement quotas are determined at national level, either by the national parliament or the government. Furthermore, as part of the EU Resettlement Programme, resettlement can be determined based on pledges

submitted to the European Commission, which coordinates and provides operational and financial support to underpin EU Member States' efforts.

Table 1 provides an overview of the quotas set for the period from 2016 to 2022. It shows that from 2016 to 2022, four countries³⁶ indicated an increase in their quotas. In other countries, such as France and the Netherlands, quotas remained steady over the same time period.

Table 1: Resettlement quotas by EMN Member Countries 2016 - 2022

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
BE	550	1 150			2 758		1 250
DE		1 600		10 200		8 000	6 000
ES	725	1 000	1 200		1 200	1 200	1 200
FI	750	750	750	750	850	1 050	1 500
FR³⁷	5 000	5 000	5 000	5 000	5 000	5 000	5 000
LU	210						
NL³⁸	500	500	750	500	500	500	500
SE	1 900	3 400	5 000	5 000	5 000	5 000	5 000

³² Pilot project since 2009, structural programme with annual quota started in 2012/2013.

³³ BG, CZ, EE, IT, LV, LT, LU, PT, SI.

³⁴ In 2016, a Framework of a national mechanism for implementation of the commitments of the Republic of Bulgaria with regard to resettlement was approved by the Council of Ministers. The Programme was updated in 2017. The implementation period was two years - from April 2018 to December 2019.

³⁵ BE, BG, CZ, DE, EE, ES, FI, FR, HR, IE, IT, LU, LT, NL, PT, SE, SI.

³⁶ BE, DE, ES, FI

³⁷ France committed to resettle nearly 10 000 refugees on a two-year basis

³⁸ As of 2017 resettlement in the framework of the EU-Turkey Statement is disconnected from the multi-annual resettlement policy framework (national quota) and as per 2018 the Netherlands introduced a resettlement effort related to (EU) migration cooperation with third countries, which harbours the resettlement efforts in the framework of the EU-Turkey Statement of 18 March 2016. The magnitude of this resettlement effort is determined for the duration of each EU Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Program and the execution is conditional to the mutual implementation of the cooperation and the spontaneous asylum influx.

Quotas are typically determined on an annual basis. In the Netherlands, resettlement has been implemented in the context of a multi-annual policy framework since 1999 with an annual national quota of 500 resettled refugees. In some EMN Member Countries³⁹, geographical priorities are identified in line with the indications of the

European Commission in the context of the EU Resettlement Programme. In Italy, for example, the commitment (pledge) is decided and quotas are defined on the basis of the geographical priorities indicated by the European Commission. France usually applies a two-year commitment with an average pledge of 5 000 refugees each year in agreement with the UNHCR and in compliance with the priority countries identified by the European Commission. Ireland's commitment was for 2 900 resettled refugees between 2020 and 2023.

In Finland and Sweden, annual quotas are determined by national parliaments. In Sweden, every year, the Swedish Parliament decides on the budget to be allocated for resettling refugees to Sweden. Following the Parliament's decision, the Swedish Migration Agency is instructed by the government to select and transfer refugees to be resettled, based on referrals by the UNHCR. As of 2023, the annual quota of 5 000 refugees has been reduced by the new government to 900. In Finland, the refugee quota is decided when the Parliament approves the annual budget.

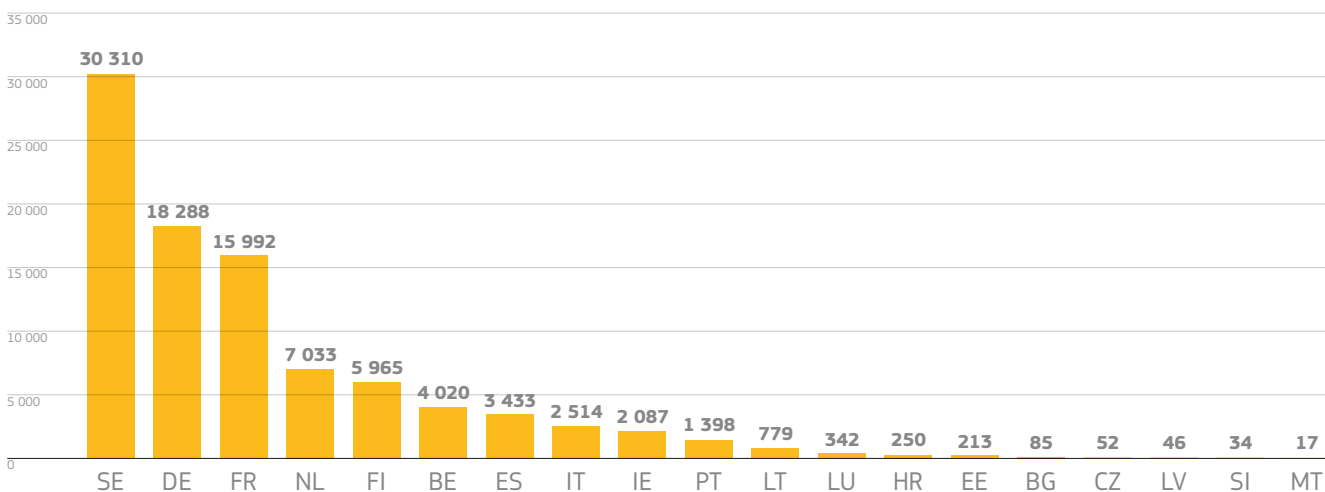
In several countries,⁴⁰ quotas are determined by the government, typically in consultation with other relevant national and international stakeholders, such as UNHCR. In Germany, for example, the quota is set as a result of intergovernmental negotiations taking into account the

viewpoints of the federal states. In Luxembourg, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs determines resettlement quotas. In Estonia, the government decides on participation in resettlement programmes, in coordination with the Parliament's (Riigikogu) European Union Affairs Committee. In the Netherlands, resettlement efforts are determined by the Dutch cabinet and the Minister for Migration. Under the bilateral framework agreement concluded with the UNHCR, France undertakes to examine each year around one hundred refugee cases identified by the UNHCR as being in need of resettlement, in addition to the 5000 annual resettlement quotas.

In some countries,⁴¹ available capacities for housing as well as care and reception services are factors that are considered in determining the level of quotas. In France, for example, reception and care capacities of different departments are taken into account, in addition to the needs and priorities expressed by UNHCR and the European Commission. In Germany, in addition to the numerical quota, there is also a quota in the admission of particularly serious medical cases (a maximum 5% of all resettlement cases and 3% of cases in the humanitarian admission programme from Turkey). Although there is no specific numerical limit on the admission of unaccompanied minors in need of protection, these admissions take place in close coordination with the federal states as well as UNHCR.

Figure 2 below provides an overview of the total number of persons resettled in the period 2016-2022, whilst Figure 4 presents the proportion of resettled people out of the total national population.

Figure 2: Total number of persons resettled for the years 2016-2022



Source: Data provided by EMN NCPs

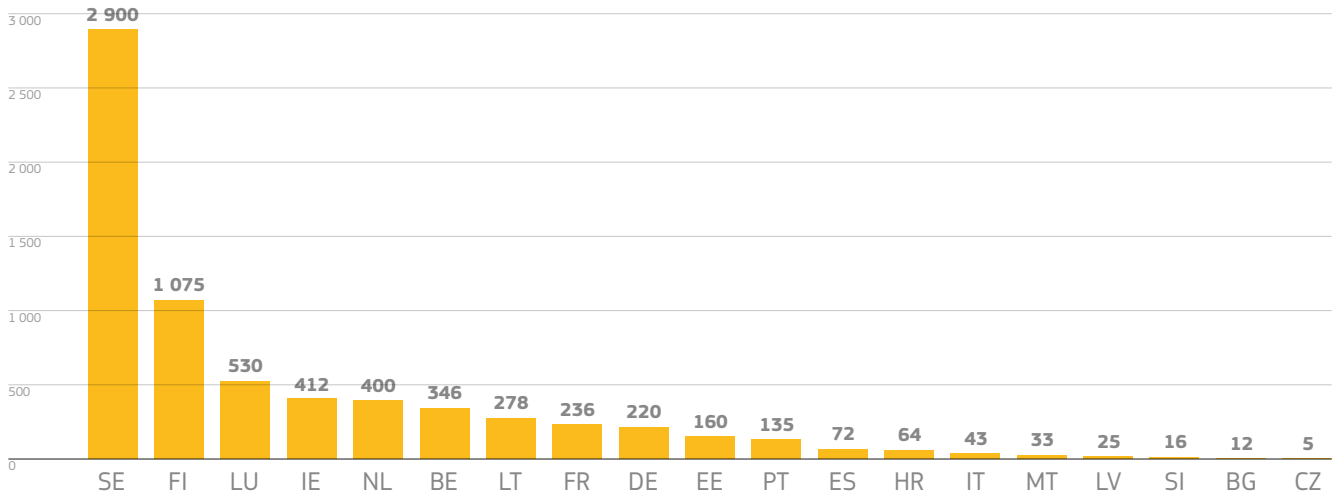
*Please note figures for the Netherlands are up to 2021.

39 BE, EE, IE, IT, LT, LU.

40 BG, EE, FI, FR, HR, IE, LT, LU, NL.

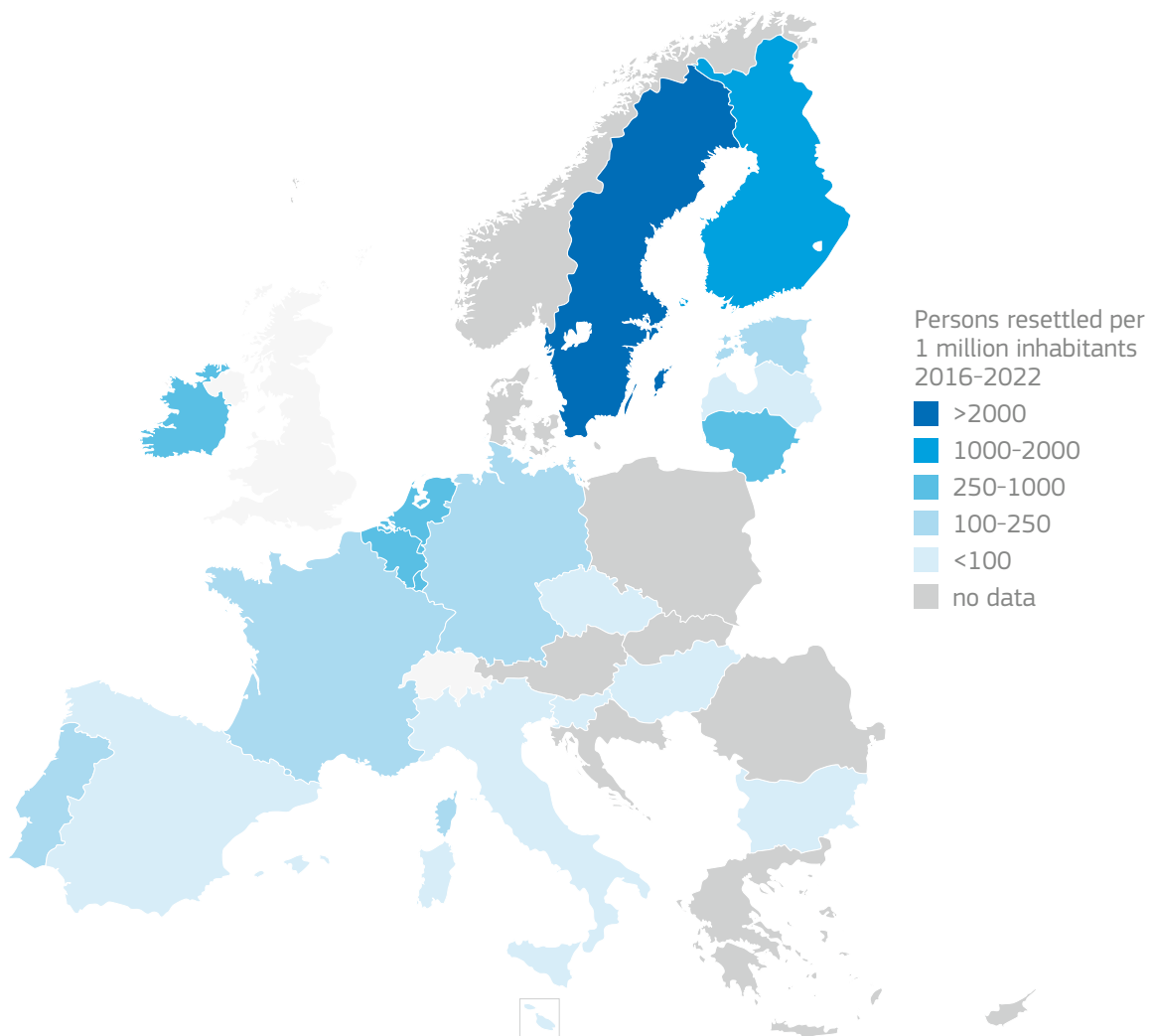
41 BE, BG, ES, IT, FR, PT.

Figure 3: Persons resettled per 1 million inhabitants (2016-2022)



* The figures for Bulgaria are from 2018 to 2019

Figure 4: Proportion of resettled people out of total population (2016 -2022)



*Using population of each country in 2022 according to Eurostat dataset [t_demo_pl]

Eligibility or exclusion criteria

The selection procedure and resettlement process are typically carried out in close co-operation with UNHCR. To be eligible for resettlement, individuals or families must meet the preconditions for resettlement consideration and fall under one or more of the UNHCR resettlement submission categories (please see box below). Where a person or family is determined by UNHCR to be eligible for resettlement, UNHCR then refers the cases to the national authorities (here EMN Member Countries) for consideration. The need for protection is the key criterion for resettlement.

Box 1: UNHCR Resettlement Submission Categories⁴²

UNHCR, in co-operation with partner organisations at a local level, identifies the most vulnerable persons for resettlement purposes, regardless of their race, religion, nationality or ethnicity. For a person to be eligible for resettlement as a programme refugee, they must be determined by UNHCR to be a refugee in the country of refuge. In addition, resettlement must be identified by UNHCR to be the most appropriate durable solution for the person or family. Persons or families are identified as having a resettlement need if they are at risk in the country of refuge or

have particular needs that correspond with different UNHCR resettlement categories, including:

- legal and/or physical protection needs,
- survivors of torture and/or violence,
- medical needs,
- women and girls at risk,
- family reunification,
- children and adolescents at risk, and
- a lack of a foreseeable alternative durable solution.

In addition, national authorities (here EMN Member Countries) may have specific eligibility and/or exclusion criteria that are subject to quotas, as seen in the previous section. Most EMN Member Countries set out eligibility criteria for refugees to be admitted through resettlement. Moreover, the potential for integration into the host society is assessed when refugees are selected in several countries.⁴³ Furthermore, security checks can be carried out and a person may be refused admission if they are thought to pose a threat to public order and security, public health, or the country's international relations. Table 2 below provides an overview of specific eligibility or exclusion criteria for resettlement in some EMN Member Countries for which information was available.

Table 2: Specific eligibility or exclusion criteria for resettlement

Member State	Eligibility criteria	Exclusion criteria
BE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The submitted caseload should be balanced, with a focus on vulnerable families. ■ Other more specific vulnerability criteria might be specified. ■ Priority for persons with family ties in Belgium. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Child marriages: girls/women who got married before they turned 16, unless at the time of submission the marriage had been concluded more than 15 years after the woman had turned 18. ■ Large families: No families with more than six family members, due to a lack of available housing for large families. (Exceptions are allowed) ■ Threat to public safety and order.
BG	Vulnerable persons, persons with medical needs, children at risk, families with minor children, older and sick persons.	The exclusion clauses of Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection, and for the content of the protection granted (recast)
DE	Eligibility criteria such as the “degree of vulnerability”, “preservation of family unity”, “family or other integration-promoting ties to Germany” and the “ability to integrate” are examined.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Individuals convicted of criminal offenses; ■ Individuals links to criminal organizations or terrorist groups; ■ Persons perceived in any way as a threat to public safety and order.

⁴² UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/46f7c0ee2.pdf>, last on 4 April 2023.

⁴³ DE, EE, ES, FI.

Member State	Eligibility criteria	Exclusion criteria
EE	Full families (parents with their minor children), single parent families, unaccompanied minors, orphans were the main preference. Also, presence of family members in our country (family reunification), which was also one of the priorities.	
ES	Families should consist of a maximum of 6 members and have any of the following qualifications: 9 years of education, experience in construction, as electricians, carpenters, plumbers or people working in the industry, families who speak Spanish, who have lived in Spain or who have family or social ties in the country and families linked to others who have been previously resettled in Spain and who have shown an interest in being resettled together.	Selection priorities aim to facilitate the integration of families into the community and autonomous living and the following categories are excluded: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Families with two illiterate adult members; ■ Families with more than 10% of their members with special needs; ■ People with serious mobility problems or mental illnesses who require institutional care or caregivers.
FI	Resettlement of the most vulnerable groups, such as families with children and women in a difficult position (widows, single parents and single women). About 10% of the annual quota is reserved for refugees resettled on an emergency or urgent basis.	
FR	Resettlement applicants are eligible according to criteria “centred on their psychological, physical and socio-economic vulnerability”, which deprive them of any prospect of integration in their first country of refuge. These include survivors of violence and torture, women, children or adolescents at risk, or people with medical needs.	Problems related to family composition (unresolved child custody, marriage to a minor): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Individuals who have been involved in armed or private security activities, intelligence activities; members of paramilitary or militant groups (also a UNHCR exclusion criterion); ■ Member of law enforcement agencies (also a UNHCR exclusion criterion); ■ Individuals who have committed crimes in their country of origin (also a UNHCR exclusion criterion); ■ People with family members directly involved in armed struggle (also a UNHCR exclusion criterion).
LV	Families with children was the main preference.	
PT	The presence of family members in Portugal is taken into consideration.	
NL	The eligibility is assessed on the basis of the Dutch country based and general asylum policies and the resettlement profile of individual refugees (including integration related considerations, compiled by the reception authority (COA)).	The exclusion clauses mentioned in Directive 2011/95/EU.

Several EMN Member Countries⁴⁴ also have geographical priorities for resettlement. Germany, for example, currently focuses its resettlement missions on countries in the Middle East and Africa, with an expansion to Pakistan planned. France mainly focuses on Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Niger, Egypt and Chad. In Finland and Sweden, the annual resettlement quota includes flexibility components,

which means that different geographical priorities can be set each year, according to where the need to offer protection to refugees is greatest. A number of places are reserved for emergency cases. In Italy, the choice of countries from where resettlement can be performed is linked to the geographical priorities indicated by the European Commission.

⁴⁴ BE, BG, CZ, DE, IE, IT, FR, NL, SE. The Netherlands determines its geographical focus on the basis of the UNHCR Projected Global Resettlement Needs (PGRN), relevant developments and priorities in the EU and the European Agenda on Migration as well as national asylum and return policies. The Netherlands also reserves a number of places for unallocated emergency/urgent dossier cases

Selection process

As part of the selection process, several EMN Member Countries⁴⁵ carry out selection missions in the first countries of asylum. Sweden, for example, carries out resettlement through selection missions, which means that potential beneficiaries of resettlement are interviewed in the country where they have found (preliminary) refuge, and by dossier selection in Sweden. Dossier selection entails that the Migration Agency examines individual files submitted by the UNHCR and that interviews are not conducted.

Security interviews are also carried out in some countries.⁴⁶ In Ireland, for example, selection missions are carried out by Irish refugee resettlement teams, comprised of officials of the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) unit and An Garda Síochána (the Irish police). The Health Service Executive (HSE) is consulted in advance on the quota of medical cases and the types of conditions that can or cannot be treated effectively in Ireland. In Malta, the International Protection Agency (IPA), carried out remote interviews in Turkey to identify cases for resettlement.



5. HUMANITARIAN ADMISSION

About half of the responding EMN Member Countries⁴⁷ have carried out humanitarian admission schemes in the period 2016-2022. Table 3 below provides a more detailed overview of these admission programmes.

A majority of the reported admission schemes referred to the EU's response to evacuate Afghan nationals and their families following the fall of the Afghan government in 2021.⁴⁸ According to the European Commission, the EU and its Member States moved swiftly, with a total of 22 000 Afghans evacuated from the country in August the same year.⁴⁹

Other humanitarian admission programmes were carried out in a few EMN Member Countries,⁵⁰ which were diverse in the geographical focus and design of the programme. In Belgium, for example, a Memorandum of Understanding with Sant'Egidio established a humanitarian corridor for 250 individuals in need of international protection, in the period 2022-2024. The target group for this humanitarian corridor is 250 vulnerable persons residing in Lebanon, Syria, Libya, and Afghanistan who are eligible for an international protection status and with a focus on vulnerable refugees 'with a possible link with Belgium'.

In Ireland, the Irish Humanitarian Admission Programme (IHAP) was announced in November 2017.

This programme allowed international protection status holders in Ireland and naturalised Irish citizens to make a proposal to bring their family members who are nationals of one of the top ten major countries of origin of refugees to Ireland (Syria, Eritrea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Lebanon and Myanmar).

In recent years, France has implemented various specific humanitarian programmes dedicated to specific vulnerable refugees. Specific programmes targeted Yezidi families or special reception operations for Afghan nationals. In 2022, France also implemented the UNIV'R project, supported by the UNHCR and the *Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie*, to set up a university corridor, a legal and safe admission route allowing French-speaking students who are currently refugees in a first country of asylum (in the Middle East, or in North, Central or West Africa) to pursue Master's studies of two years in France.

In addition, France is issuing visas for asylum. The granting of these visas to people under threat, in particular because of their commitment to freedom, allows them to enter French territory in order to apply for asylum. Since 2012, the French authorities have issued nearly 16 000 asylum visas, mainly to Syrian and Iraqi nationals.

Table 3: Overview of humanitarian admission programmes

MS	Name of Programme	Period of implementation	Number of admitted persons/nationalities
AT	Humanitarian Action Syria	2013-2017	1902 refugees from Syria
BE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Memorandum of Understanding between State Secretary for Migration and Asylum and Sant'Egidio ■ Evacuation from Afghanistan 	2022-2024	The target group for this humanitarian corridor consists of 250 vulnerable persons, mainly Syrian refugees in Lebanon and possibly persons of another nationality with a special risk profile, who are eligible for an international protection status.

45 BE, BG, DE, EE, FI, FR, HR, IE, LU, MT, NL, PT.

46 DE, EE, FI, FR, IE, SE.

47 AT, BE, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, IE, IT, LU, LT, NL, PT.

48 Justice and Home Affairs Council 31 August 2021, available at: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/jha/2021/08/31/>, last accessed on 4 April 2023.

49 European Parliament Briefing, available at: [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/698776/EPRS_BRI\(2021\)698776_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/698776/EPRS_BRI(2021)698776_EN.pdf), last accessed on 4 April 2023.

50 AT, BE, CZ, DE, FR, IE, IT, LT.

MS	Name of Programme	Period of implementation	Number of admitted persons/nationalities
CZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ National humanitarian scheme for internally displaced persons in Iraqi Kurdistan ■ National humanitarian scheme for persecuted and vulnerable persons from Belarus 	2016 2020-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 55 Iraqi IDPs ■ 90 Belarusians
DE	Admission of former local forces and vulnerable persons from Afghanistan.	Since May 2021	19 185 former Afghan local staff and their family members as well as 10 544 Afghans at particular risk (e.g. journalists, human rights defenders) were admitted.
EE	Afghans who had cooperated with Estonia and allies	2021-2022	24 individuals evacuated from Afghanistan.
EL	Emergency humanitarian admission	Since 2021	817 Afghan nationals were evacuated from Afghanistan.
ES	Operation Antigone evacuation from Afghanistan	Since 2021	2 404 Afghan nationals were evacuated from Afghanistan.
FI	Evacuation of former locally employed staff of the Embassy of Finland in Kabul and their family members.	2021	413 Afghan nationals (former locally employed Afghan staff members of the Embassy of Finland in Kabul and their family members).
FR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Operation “500 Syrians” ■ Four humanitarian missions in Erbil in December 2018, April 2019, June 2019, and September 2019 for the benefit of Yazidi women and their children ■ Special reception operation for Afghan local staff working for French interests ■ Evacuation operation from Afghanistan (operation APAGAN) ■ The UNIV’R project 	2016-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 236 Syrian refugees were resettled in France⁵¹; ■ Yazidi families who have been victims of the exactions of the Islamic State group. Hundred women and their children; ■ 623 people were welcomed between May and July 2021 from Afghanistan; ■ Between May and 16 December 2022, 6 022 Afghans at risk were evacuated; ■ 21 refugee students have thus joined France for the start of the 2022 academic year. ■ Between 2016 and 2022, 5 921 visas for asylum were issued for Syrian nationals, and 4 378 for Iraqi nationals.⁵² Between the 15th of August 2021 and the 31st of December 2022, 468 visas for asylum were issued for Afghan nationals. v
HR	Emergency humanitarian admission	Since 2021	41 Afghan nationals were evacuated from Afghanistan.
IE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Irish Humanitarian Admission Programme (IHAP) ■ Afghan Admission Programme (AAP) 	IHAP: 2018 AAP: 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ IHAP: 826 beneficiaries from one of the top ten major source countries of refugees to Ireland (Syria, Eritrea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Lebanon, and Myanmar). ■ AAP: Up to 500 places were available under the programme for Afghan nationals (numbers admitted unknown to date).
IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Public/private partnerships “Humanitarian Corridors” ■ Evacuation from Afghanistan 	Since 2015 Since 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 4 231 refugees have been admitted through Humanitarian Corridors; ■ 479 Iran and Pakistan under the umbrella of the hybrid “Protocol Human Corridors/Evacuations from Afghanistan”; ■ 5 696 Afghan nationals were evacuated through Ministry of Defence-led evacuations.
LU	Evacuations from Afghanistan	Since 2021	60 Afghan nationals were evacuated from Afghanistan.

51 The Operation “500 Syrians” only targeted displaced Syrian nationals from neighbouring countries of Syria.

52 Regarding Iraqi nationals, a special framework has been implemented, aiming to protect religious minorities present in Iraq, through the visa-asylum procedure.

MS	Name of Programme	Period of implementation	Number of admitted persons/nationalities
LT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Resettlement of persons from Venezuela ■ Evacuation from Afghanistan ■ Resettlement of persons from Ukraine (not related to TPD) 	2019-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 118 people from Venezuela; ■ 179 Afghan nationals were evacuated from Afghanistan. ■ 70 people resettled from Ukraine.
NL	Evacuation and (post-evacuation) transfer from Afghanistan, as part of EU Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR) arrangements	2021 – March 2023	4540 persons ⁵³
PT	Evacuation from Afghanistan	2021	450 Afghan nationals were evacuated from Afghanistan.



6. SPONSORSHIP SCHEMES

In the EU context, community sponsorship schemes are seen as a way to further support beneficiaries, and thus, they are not a separate pathway but part of resettlement or humanitarian admission programmes.

Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, and Spain reported carrying out sponsorship schemes during the period 2016-2022. In Belgium and Spain, the programmes are at the pilot stage. In Ireland, following a pilot project in 2018, a national community sponsorship scheme was launched in 2019. In Germany, the pilot ended at the end of 2022 and became a regular programme of up to 200 additional resettlement spaces in 2023, with plans to increase the number of admissions.

In those countries, beneficiaries of the sponsorship schemes are selected from those who take part in the resettlement programmes. They must be identified and proposed by UNHCR, according to their vulnerability criteria for resettlement. In Germany, for example, only those individuals who have successfully completed the resettlement process can be considered.

The programmes offer an opportunity for local community sponsor groups to support resettled refugees. In Germany, the programme's main goal is not only to actively involve

civil society, such as civil society organisations and church actors, in the humanitarian admission of refugees, but also to increase the admission capacity of the German resettlement programme. In Belgium, host groups consist of a minimum of five persons and are responsible for at least one family. Caritas Belgium and Soutien Belge (SB Overseas), as umbrella organisations, support host groups. In France, a protocol was signed in 2017 relating to the implementation of humanitarian corridors for Syrian and Iraqi refugees from Lebanon by the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs and five faith-based associations.⁵⁴

In Ireland, the scheme sought to enable interested groups within a community to come together to support arriving refugees, as a Community Sponsorship Group (CSG). The local group provides support around access to housing and to different state services. There are four designated Regional Support Organisations (RSOs) in different areas in Ireland who support CSGs: Nasc, Doras, the Irish Refugee Council and the Irish Red Cross. In Spain, different Autonomous Communities (Basque Country, Valencian Community, and Navarre) as well as social entities with experience in the field of solidarity and social justice are involved in the sponsorship scheme.

Table 4: Overview of Sponsorship Schemes

MS	Sponsorship scheme	Years of implementation	Number of admitted persons/nationalities
BE	Community Sponsorship programme	Since 2020	2022: 4 Ethiopian nationals, 3 stateless persons and 48 Syrian nationals resettled from Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt

⁵³ Rounded to tens. Concerns the number of Afghans to be reported as humanitarian admission under the EU 2021-2022 programme who were transferred between 1 January 2021 to March 2023 and have been issued an asylum permit in the Netherlands (not counting Afghans who travelled to other countries).

⁵⁴ The Community of Sant'Egidio, the Protestant Federation of France, the Federation of Protestant Mutual Aid, the Conference of Bishops of France and Secours catholique-Caritas France.

MS	Sponsorship scheme	Years of implementation	Number of admitted persons/nationalities
DE	Community Sponsorship Programme "NesT – New Start in a Team"	2019–2022 – pilot From 2023 regular programme with up to 200 resettlement spaces per year	143 persons from Syria, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, DR Congo and Eritrea (resettled from Ethiopia, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya and Kenya.)
ES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pilot Project with the Basque Country ■ Pilot project with the Generalitat Valenciana ■ Pilot project with the Autonomous Community of Navarre 	Since 2019	79 Syrian refugees resettled in Spain.
FR	Protocol relating to the implementation of humanitarian corridors for Syrian and Iraqi refugees from Lebanon	Since 2017	Between 2017 and the end of 2021, 531 agreements were issued.
IE	Community sponsorship	Since 2018	A total of 123 persons, made up of 33 families have been resettled in different rural and urban communities.

In Germany, resettled refugees with close ties to Germany are not considered for the programme as they are considered to already have sufficient prospects for integration. Also, individuals with special medical needs, unaccompanied minors or severely traumatized individuals have not been considered to date due to their high needs and the possibility to be better supported via the state-led resettlement support measures. During the matching process between sponsor group and refugees, special attention is paid to the following criteria: apartment size in relation to the family of refugees; location of the apartment (e.g. close to kindergarten, university etc.); and language skills. Besides these matching criteria, other criteria are relevant depending on the sponsor group and their offers (e.g. special skills), so this process may vary from matching to matching. In Belgium, Fedasil organises a matching with the host groups, which is done on the basis of several criteria, including information collected during the social screening.

Box 2: Social screening in Belgium

A social screening is an open conversation between a Fedasil (Federal Reception Agency) resettlement officer and a refugee submitted for resettlement to Belgium. This exchange provides an opportunity for persons in the resettlement process to ask questions and express concerns, and for Fedasil to share basic information and provide clarifications. The interview is preceded by a video explaining the resettlement process and the life of resettled persons in Belgium. Personal information like educational background, work experience, specific needs, family links is collected. This information helps Fedasil to determine a suitable reception place and the reception partner to prepare the arrival of the resettled persons.

Finland is planning to launch a community sponsorship scheme in 2023 for resettled refugees. The programme aims at enhancing refugees' integration in Finland.



7. RESIDENCE PERMITS GRANTED TO BENEFICIARIES AND RIGHTS

The type and duration of residence permits granted differ across EMN Member Countries and typically depends on the national legal framework and the status granted (e.g. refugee, subsidiary protection or humanitarian grounds). In Latvia, for example, a permanent residence permit is issued to persons who receive refugee status with a duration of five years, whilst temporary residence permit is issued to persons who receive a subsidiary form of protection with a duration of one year

(renewable for two years). The rights granted depend on the type of residence permit received and the national framework of rights granted. In those countries where permanent residence is granted on the basis of a refugee status, this status gives the person the same rights and obligations as any other person granted permanent residence.

For details on the type of residence permit granted and its duration, please see Table 4 below.

Table 5: Types of residence permit granted to beneficiaries of resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes

MS	Type of status / residence permit	Duration of permit /renewable
AT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asylum status or subsidiary protection status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asylum status: 3 years (extendable for an indefinite period). Subsidiary protection status: 1 year (renewable for 2 years)
BE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resettlement: In principle Refugee status Humanitarian admission: Follow the regular procedures for application for international protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For refugee status: 5 years (after which an electronic B card is issued which is valid indefinitely) Subsidiary protection status: a residence permit that is valid for one year (renewable twice for 2 years after which permanent residence)
BG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refugee status or subsidiary protection (called humanitarian status in national legislation): a refugee card and or card of a foreigner with humanitarian status. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> refugee's card – issued by the Ministry of Interior authorities to any person with refugee status with term of validity of up to 5 years; card of a foreigner with humanitarian status - issued by the Ministry of Interior authorities to any foreigner with humanitarian status with term of validity of up to three years
CZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refugee status Subsidiary protection 	
DE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refugee status: residence permit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 years after which they can apply for permanent residence
EE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under resettlement program: Refugee status: Temporary residence permit Subsidiary protection: Temporary residence permit Under humanitarian admission: Refugee status: Temporary residence permit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 years (renewable) 1 year(renewable)
ES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refugee status: Permanent residence permit Subsidiary protection: permanent residence permit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 years (renewable)
FI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refugee status: Residence permit Humanitarian admission: Residence permit on special humanitarian grounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 years (when the person with a refugee status has resided in Finland continuously for four years, s/ he may apply for a permanent residence permit or Finnish citizenship). 4 years (when the holder of a residence permit issued on special humanitarian grounds has resided in Finland continuously for four years, s/he may apply for a permanent residence permit).
FR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refugee status: residence permit Subsidiary protection: residence permit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 years 4 years
HR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refugee status: Residence permit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 years
IE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Refugees (including persons admitted through the 2017-2018 Irish Humanitarian Admission Programme): residence permission Afghan Admission Programme: temporary immigration permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally, 2-3 years initially (can be renewed and a programme refugee can apply for citizenship after 3 years) 2 years (can be renewed subject to conditions)
IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refugee status: permit on the grounds of 'political asylum' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 years
LV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refugee status: Permanent residence permit Subsidiary protection: Temporary residence permit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refugee status: 5 years (renewable every 5 years) Subsidiary protection status: 1 year (upon re-submission the status is granted for 2 years)
LU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refugee status: Residence permit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 to 5 years (renewable) In practice, issued for 5 years

MS	Type of status / residence permit	Duration of permit /renewable
LT	Refugee status (depends on individual circumstances): Permanent residence permit	5 years
NL	Refugee status, subsidiary protection, and family reunification with a beneficiary of international protection: Temporary asylum residence permit	5 years
PT	Refugee status Subsidiary protection	5 years 3 years
SI	Refugee status: Residence permit	10 years
SE	Refugee status	

8. CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTING RESETTLEMENT, HUMANITARIAN AID AND SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMMES

Several EMN Member Countries⁵⁵ reported challenges with implementing resettlement, humanitarian admission and sponsorship programmes.

On pre-arrival challenges, Belgium, France and Germany reported issues related to the fragile security situation in some countries of first asylum and the related need to adapt plans or postpone missions. Germany also noted that the challenging climatic conditions in some countries of first asylum during selection missions required to adapt plans (e.g. Kenya). Germany observed that the timely provision of dossiers and information by the UNHCR on people eligible for resettlement can be an obstacle. The Netherlands reported that obtaining adequate quality biometric data needed for issuing residence permits is an issue, as it delays the follow-up process (e.g. resettled refugees' ability to open a bank account, which is required to enter a rental or health insurance contract).

Several countries⁵⁶ reported difficulties in meeting the expectations of beneficiaries of resettlement and/or humanitarian admission programmes when they arrive in the host country. France commented that the dissemination of information to those selected for resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes through cultural orientation training or information guides does not always provide enough specific or individualised information about travel and reception conditions. This can sometimes be a source of misunderstanding or frustration for the families. Germany also commented on the importance of expectation management prior to admission, as refugees often had (falsely) high expectations about life, accommodation, and income in Germany. The Netherlands highlighted that some beneficiaries of resettlement programmes have a significant distance from Dutch society and bridging the gap can require considerable effort and resources from municipalities and local civil society organisations.

High drop-out rates from resettlement programmes and refugees leaving for other countries has been highlighted as a challenge in Bulgaria, Lithuania and Portugal. A lack of available reception places due to high demand was a particular issue in Belgium, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, and Portugal. In recent years, Belgium has struggled to find sufficient reception places for resettled

individuals because of the high influx of asylum seekers. This has resulted in delays in the programme and in the quota not being (fully) filled. In August 2019, the lack of reception capacity led to a year-long suspension of the resettlement programme.

COVID-19 presented a major obstacle to resettlement and humanitarian aid programmes in many countries,⁵⁷ with temporary suspensions of programmes (or operations) or reductions in the number of arrivals.

Evaluation of resettlement, humanitarian aid and sponsorship schemes

Several countries evaluated their resettlement, humanitarian aid or sponsorship schemes. In Germany, the Research Centre of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees is carrying out a formative evaluation of the NesT programme, focusing on the recruitment and training of sponsors, matching refugees and sponsoring teams, and the first two years after arrival in Germany. Full results are due in the first half of 2023, but preliminary results stress the engagement of faith-based communities in the programme, the challenges for the sponsors to find and finance accommodation, and the quality of the personal support provided to refugees.

In Italy, periodic audits form part of the resettlement programme, carried out by a specific Audit Authority under the AMIF. Monitoring systems have been gradually introduced for humanitarian admissions.

In the Netherlands, the progress of the multiannual policy framework is monitored, and Parliament is informed at the end of each framework. There is an ongoing evaluation of the humanitarian admission scheme and evacuation operation from Afghanistan. In July 2019, France launched a follow-up study on a sample of 3 229 people to collect information on the situation of refugees resettled under the 2018-2019 programme. This quantitative study provided information on the integration pathways of the refugees monitored (access to housing, children's schooling, learning French, employment, financial autonomy).

⁵⁵ BG, BE, CZ, DE, EE, ES, FR, IE, IT, LT, LU, NL, PT, SE, SK.

⁵⁶ BE, BG, CZ, DE, FR, LT, NL, PT.

⁵⁷ BE, DE, FR, IE, IT, LU, SE.

ANNEX 1 OVERVIEW OF RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMMES CARRIED OUT IN THE PERIOD 2016-2022

Table 1: Overview of Resettlement programmes carried out (2016-2022)

MS	Type of programme	Period of implementation	Resettlement quotas	Number of resettled persons/nationalities	Countries from which they were resettled	Stakeholders responsible for implementation
BG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU Resettlement Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 2018 - December 2019 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 85 Syrian nationals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turkey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Agency for Refugees
BE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Resettlement Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2016: 550 2017: 1 150 2018 – 2021: 2 758 2022: 1 250 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2016: 452 (Syria, Democratic Republic of the Congo) 2017: 1 309 (Syria, Democratic Republic of the Congo) 2018: 880 (Syria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Somalia, Iraq) 2019: 239 (Syria) 2020: 176 (Syria) 2021: 964 (Syria, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia, Turkey) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2016: Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Burundi 2017: Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Uganda 2018: Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Uganda, Niger 2019: Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan 2020: Turkey, Lebanon 2021: Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Rwanda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGRS) and the Federal Agency for the reception of asylum seekers (Fedasil)
CZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU Resettlement Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2015-2016 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 Syrian refugees from Jordan (2015) 32 Iraqi refugees from Lebanon (2016) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jordan, Lebanon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of the Interior
DE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU Resettlement Programme Federal states' programmes (part of the German pledge within the EU-Resettlement-Programme) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 2016 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2016 – 2017: 1 600 2018 – 2019: 10 200 2020 – 2021: 8 000 2022: 6 000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2016: 1 239 (Syria, Ethiopia, Eritrea, stateless) 2017: 3 015 (Sudan, Syria, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Iran, Iraq, Zimbabwe, Chad, Jordan, Lebanon, stateless) 2018: 3 200 (Syria, Eritrea, Somalia, Iraq, stateless) 2019: 4 872 (Syria, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia, Iraq, Yemen, Lebanon, stateless) 2020: 1 378 (Syria, Somalia, stateless) 2021: 4 584 (Syria, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Yemen, Ethiopia, Iraq, Burundi) 2022: 4 439 (Syria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia, Iraq, Yemen, Burundi, Congo, Jordan, stateless) 1 118 persons were resettled between 2016 and 2022 through resettlement programmes of the federal states 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2016: Turkey, Sudan, Lebanon 2017: Turkey, Lebanon, Egypt 2018: Turkey, Egypt, Niger 2019: Turkey, Lebanon, Niger, Egypt, Ethiopia, Jordan 2020: Turkey, Lebanon, Ethiopia 2021: Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Kenya, Libya (through UNHCR evacuation mechanisms in Niger) 2022: Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Kenya, Libya (through UNHCR evacuation mechanisms in Niger) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (BMI), the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) and the Federal Foreign Office (AA) The interior ministries of the federal states and the local authorities are responsible to assist and support the resettled refugees.
EE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU Resettlement programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2016-2019 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International protection granted to 213 persons, of whom 86 with refugee status and 127 with subsidiary protection status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turkey 	

MS	Type of programme	Period of implementation	Resettlement quotas	Number of resettled persons/nationalities	Countries from which they were resettled	Stakeholders responsible for implementation
ES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Resettlement Programme (Programa Nacional de Reasentamiento (PNR)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 2016 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2016: 725 2017: 1 000 2018: 1 200 2019 – 2020: 1 200 2021: 1 200 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2016: 584 2017: 825 2018: 361 2019 – 2020: 526 2021: 1137 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lebanon, Israel, Morocco, and Turkey 	
FI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Resettlement Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 1979. In 2001, the quota was fixed at 750 persons a year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2001 – 2019: 750 quota refugees per year 2020: 850 2021: 1 050 2022: 1 500 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2016: 759 (Syria and other nationalities) 2017: 750 (Syria, Democratic Republic of the Congo and other nationalities) 2018: 750 (Syria, Democratic Republic of the Congo and other nationalities) 2019: 750 (Syria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan and other nationalities) 2020: 730 (Syria, Democratic Republic of the Congo and other nationalities) 2021: 1091 (Syria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan and other nationalities) 2022: 1145 (Syria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan, Afghanistan and other nationalities) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2016: Turkey, Lebanon 2017: Turkey, Zimbabwe 2018: Turkey, Zambia 2019: Turkey, Zambia, Niger 2020: Turkey, Lebanon, Zambia 2021: Turkey, Lebanon, Rwanda, Zambia 2022: Niger, Rwanda, Lebanon, Zambia, Turkey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finnish Immigration Service, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry for Foreign Affairs & Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment
FR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU Resettlement Programme Bilateral framework agreement with the UNHCR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 2015 Since 2008 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bilateral framework agreement with the UNHCR: 100 refugees per year Between July 2015 and July 2017, France committed to resettle nearly 10 000 refugees under the protection of UNHCR and located in regions considered as priorities by EU. In the autumn of 2017, France committed to welcome 10 000 refugees over the years 2018-2019. In December 2019, France renewed its commitments to the UNHCR to receive 10 000 resettled refugees over the years 2020-2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU Resettlement, 2016-2017: 3 565 2018 – 2019: 9 684 2020 – 2021: 2 743 Bilateral framework agreement with the UNHCR: 886 resettled persons between 2016 and 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2016 – 2017: Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and Turkey 2018 – 2019: Niger, Egypt, Chad, Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan 2020 – 2021: Niger (including refugees evacuated from Libya), Cameroon, Chad, Egypt, Rwanda (including refugees evacuated from Libya), Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon. 	
HR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU Resettlement programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2017-2019 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 250 Syria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turkey 	

MS	Type of programme	Period of implementation	Resettlement quotas	Number of resettled persons/nationalities	Countries from which they were resettled	Stakeholders responsible for implementation
IE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 2015 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2015, Ireland committed to resettle 1 040 programme refugees, as part of a broader commitment to bring 4 000 people to Ireland through a combination of resettlement and relocation. In 2019, Ireland committed to resettle up to 2,900 refugees between 2020 and 2023. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resettlement strand of IRPP: 2 198 (2016 – 2022) from Syria, Iraq, Palestine and Afghanistan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lebanon and Jordan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) and UNHCR
IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resettlement Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 2015 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2022, in agreement with the European Commission, Italy's pledge for the arrival, by the first semester of 2023, of: 100 Afghan refugees from Pakistan, 90 Afghan refugees from Iran, 50 refugees of various nationalities from Turkey, 10 refugees of various nationalities from Libya and 65 refugees, mostly Syrian, from Lebanon (a total of 315 people) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,572 refugees (84% Syrian nationals) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Syria, Sudan and Turkey 	
LV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU Resettlement Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2016-2017 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 46 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turkey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of the Interior (State Border Guard, Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, State Security Service), Ministry of Welfare, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
LT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resettlement programmes (initiated by Government resolutions) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2015-2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU resettlement: quota of 1 077 for resettlement from 22 June 2015 to 31 December 2021 Resolution No. 682 (from Afghanistan): quota up to 200 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2016: 206 (Iraq, Syria, stateless) 2017: 208 (Syria, Eritrea, stateless) 2018: 18 (Syria) 2019: 7 (Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria, Senegal, South Sudan) 2020: 6 (Afghanistan, Syria) 2021: 212 (Sudan, Eritrea, Afghanistan, Tajikistan) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU Resettlement Programme 2016: Turkey 25 2017: Turkey 59 2018: Turkey 18 2019: 0 2020: Jordan 5 2021: Ethiopia Other programmes 2021: 179 persons resettled from Afghanistan 2019-2022: 118 people from Venezuela 2022: 50 persons resettled from Ukraine (not as part of TPD). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Migration Department, Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MS	Type of programme	Period of implementation	Resettlement quotas	Number of resettled persons/nationalities	Countries from which they were resettled	Stakeholders responsible for implementation
LU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment during the Justice and Home Affairs Council (JHA Council) of 20 July 2015⁵⁸ EU-Turkey agreement EU Joint Resettlement programme EU resettlement and humanitarian admission programme (2021-2022) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 2015 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JHA Council Commitment: 30 refugees EU-Turkey agreement: 190 refugees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JHA Council commitment (2017): 28 refugees from Lebanon and Turkey in 2017 (23 Syrians, two stateless people, two Iraqis and one Iranian) EU-Turkey agreement (2015-2017): 206 refugees (Syria) EU Joint Resettlement programme (2017-2019): 48 refugees were resettled from the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) from Niger (nationals from Somalis, Eritreans, Sudanese, and Ethiopians) EU resettlement and humanitarian admission programme (2021-2022): 60 Afghan nationals have been admitted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turkey, Lebanon, Niger 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directorate of Immigration of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, National Reception Office of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Grand-Ducal Police
MT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU-Turkey agreement EU resettlement and humanitarian admission programme (2021-2022) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2017 2021-2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resettlement of Syrian nationals from Turkey in virtue of the 1:1 EU Turkey Statement EU resettlement and humanitarian admission programme 2021-2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU-Turkey agreement: 17 Syrian nationals EU resettlement and humanitarian admission programme (2021-2022): 1 Afghan national (The resettlement was delayed to February 2023 due to some logistical issues) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turkey 	
NL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resettlement in the context of a multiannual policy framework⁵⁹ Resettlement based on (EU) migration cooperation with third countries' (Framework of EU-Turkey Statement) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiannual policy framework: since 1999 Resettlement in framework of EU-Turkey Statement: since 2016 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiannual policy framework: An annual national quota of 500 (except in 2018: 750) Resettlement in framework of EU-Turkey Statement: Magnitude of the effort is determined for the duration of an EU resettlement program and the execution is conditional to the mutual implementation of the cooperation and the spontaneous asylum influx resulting from that. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MPF: 2016 – 2019: 2120 persons resettled, mostly Syrians, Congolese, Southern Sudanese, Eritreans, nationals from various Sub-Saharan countries.⁶⁰ MPF: 2020 – 2021: 384 persons resettled, mostly Syrians, Yemeni, Eritreans, Congolese, nationals from various Sub-Saharan countries 2016 – 2021: 4529 persons resettled within framework of the EU-Turkey Statement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiannual policy framework, 2016 – 2019: Lebanon, Jordan, Uganda, Egypt, Kenya, Niger Multiannual policy framework, 2020 – 2022: Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Kenya, Rwanda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Security and Justice, the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) (including the Bureau Medical Advisors (BMA) of the IND), the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), local Dutch diplomatic representations abroad, Dutch municipalities, and Civil Society Organisations (e.g. Dutch Refugee Council)
PT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resettlement Programme EU-Turkey agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2018 – 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 300 (150 Egypt and 150 Turkey) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 930 refugees were resettled 468 Syrians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turkey and Egypt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OIM provides support to the operation

⁵⁸ Commission Recommendation (EU) 2017/1803 of 3 October 2017.

⁵⁹ Please note that mentioned numbers do not necessarily correspond with the national quota. Family members arriving in the Netherlands to reunite with refugees resettled under the multiannual national framework do count towards the national quota, but are not included in the reported numbers. Furthermore, until 31 December 2019 the calculation model for the multiannual policy framework was based on the number of refugees *selected* for resettlement, instead of arriving in the Netherlands (several months after their selection). As of 2020 the calculation model of the multiannual policy framework is based on the number of arrivals in the Netherlands of resettled refugees.

⁶⁰ Please note that in 2016 the resettlement in the framework of the EU-Turkey Statement (460 persons total) was counted towards the national multiannual policy framework.

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SI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU Resettlement programme and EU-Turkey agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU Resettlement programme: 20 refugees from Turkey, Lebanon or Jordan EU-Turkey agreement: 40 refugees from Turkey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 34 Syrians nationals (EU Resettlement and EU-Turkey agreement implemented together) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turkey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible national authorities include the Police, Ministry of the Interior, Government Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants as well as IOM and UNHCR.
SE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-standing resettlement programme based on Swedish Aliens Act 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 1950s 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual quota of 5 000, reduced to 900 from 2023 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Differing geographic priorities but the last couple of years many resettled persons have been nationals of Syria, Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea and Sudan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The programme is administered and organised by the Swedish Migration Agency, upon instruction from the Ministry of Justice, and in cooperation with the UNHCR.



For more information

EMN website: <http://ec.europa.eu/emn>

EMN LinkedIn page: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/european-migration-network>

EMN Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/emnmigration>

EMN YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@EMNMigration>

EMN National Contact Points

Austria www.emn.at/en/

Belgium www.emnbelgium.be

Bulgaria www.emn-bg.com

Croatia <https://emn.gov.hr/>

Cyprus www.moi.gov.cy/moi/crmd/emnncpc.nsf/home/home?opendocument

Czechia www.emncz.eu

Denmark www.justitsministeriet.dk/

Estonia www.emn.ee/

Finland www.emn.fi/in_english

France www.immigration.interieur.gouv.fr/Europe-et-International/Le-reseau-europeen-des-migrations-REM3/Le-reseau-europeen-des-migrations-REM2

Germany <https://www.bamf.de/EN/Themen/EMN/emn-node.html>

Greece <http://emn.immigration.gov.gr/en/>

Hungary www.emnhungary.hu/en

Ireland www.emn.ie/

Italy www.emnitalyncp.it/

Latvia www.emn.lv/en/home/

Lithuania www.emn.lt/en/

Luxembourg <https://emnluxembourg.uni.lu/>

Malta <https://emn.gov.mt/>

The Netherlands <https://www.emnnetherlands.nl/>

Poland <https://www.gov.pl/web/europejska-siec-migracyjna>

Portugal <https://rem.sef.pt/>

Romania <https://www.mai.gov.ro/>

Spain <https://extranjeros.inclusion.gob.es/emn-Spain/>

Slovak Republic <https://emn.sk/en/>

Slovenia <https://emm.si/en/>

Sweden <http://www.emnsweden.se/>

Norway <https://www.udi.no/en/statistics-and-analysis/european-migration-network---norway>

Georgia https://migration.commission.ge/index.php?article_id=1&clang=1

Republic of Moldova <http://bma.gov.md/en>

Ukraine <https://dmsu.gov.ua/en-home.html>

Montenegro <http://www.mup.gov.me/>

Armenia <https://migration.am/?lang=en>

Serbia <https://kirs.gov.rs/cir>