

EMN STUDY 2016

**Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Programmes in Europe –
What Works?**

EMN FOCUSED STUDY 2016

Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Programmes in Europe – what works?

Top-line “Factsheet” (National Contribution)

National contribution (one page only)

Overview of the National Contribution – introducing the study and drawing out key facts and figures from across all sections of the Focussed Study, with a particular emphasis on elements that will be of relevance to (national) policymakers.

In December 2015, the Slovak Republic (“SR”) admitted on a voluntary basis 149 internally displaced Iraqi Christians persecuted for religious reasons (“persecuted Iraqi Christians”) from the refugee camp in Erbil, Iraq. This transfer is classified in the Slovak context as humanitarian admission carried out on an ad-hoc basis, since Slovakia does not have in place a standard resettlement programme¹.

Regarding the legislative framework, the Slovak Republic does not have in place any regulation for the resettlement or humanitarian admission instruments (see Section 1). Any person to be granted international protection must, upon entering the Slovak territory, make a declaration about requesting asylum. The asylum procedure commences once the declaration is made at the respective police department. During the asylum procedure, the applicant is accommodated in an asylum facility, and is required to stay in the reception centre Humenné during the first 3 to 4 weeks, as the reception centre serves as a quarantine facility, as well. This procedure was used also with respect to the 149 persons admitted to Slovakia in December 2015.

Section 2 provides a detailed analysis of the course of humanitarian admission, the main actors and their duties. The smooth arrival of persons in Slovakia was ensured by the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (“MO MoI SR”), though the proposal to provide assistance to this particular group of persons from Erbil, Iraq, was initiated by a non-governmental organisation. The lists of concrete persons were approved by the Slovak Minister of Interior and the Prime Minister, and the MO MoI SR staff conducted interviews with the families in Erbil. The aim of the interviews was to introduce the Slovak culture, economic situation and conditions for stay in the Slovak Republic for the persons in question. The MO MoI SR was also responsible for the asylum procedure in the course of which the persons stayed in the reception centre in Humenné. After leaving the reception centre, the non-governmental organisation provided appropriate accommodation and continues providing comprehensive integration services to these persons under the supervision of the MO MoI SR.

As noted in Section 3, the executed type of resettlement programme can be considered in the Slovak context a combination of humanitarian admission and sponsorship programme, since the humanitarian admission was financed by a third party/sponsor. The security check of the whole group as well as their transfer to the Slovak Republic was financially secured thanks to the sponsor partner. The non-governmental organisation now has funds from the sponsor to cover accommodation and comprehensive services to be provided under the integration project. This non-governmental organisation collaborates on the basis of a contract with the Ministry of Interior SR, which is the technical sponsor/guarantor of the integration project, i.e. the ministry monitors the activities in terms of the quality of provided services by the non-governmental organisation and it provides guidance.

Section 4 highlights the challenges and experience arising from the humanitarian admission. Professionalism and experience proved to be the key aspects of the entire integration process and are found to be missing among some voluntary and charity initiatives. All workers involved in the project as well as the organisation implementing the project should have experience in working with foreigners and vulnerable groups. One of the crucial points is to bring down clients’ expectations before their arrival as well as just after their arrival in the country of destination, as their expectations have a huge impact on their integration and overall stay in the country of destination.

Even though the integration of asylum-seekers is financed from sponsorship resources, it seems to be equally important to have a state-guaranteed integration programme for beneficiaries of international protection. At present, the integration programme for beneficiaries of international protection is at the stage of preparation and is expected to be adopted by the end of 2016. It is important that the state authorities are involved in integration, as funding from sponsorship resources or EU funds is unstable. State funding and its supervision is a guarantee of stability. In addition, integration services should be provided on a systemic basis. This relates to the fact that responsibility for the project should not be exclusively with other organisations, such as churches or NGOs. The state authorities should be in control of the project course and the quality of provided services.

¹ Standard resettlement programme, as stated in the definition of the study specifications.

Section 1: Overview of national context

This section will briefly outline the Member State legal framework and policies on resettlement and/or humanitarian admission.

i. General overview of the legal framework on resettlement or humanitarian admission in your Member States. Please also include any recent changes in the legal framework (i.e., as a result of the refugee situation in 2015-2016)

From the point of view of legislation, Slovakia does not have in place any regulation for the resettlement or humanitarian admission instruments. Any person to be granted international protection must, upon entering the Slovak territory, make a declaration about requesting asylum. The asylum procedure commences once the declaration is made at the respective police department. The asylum procedure is specified in the Act on Asylum². In the case of the humanitarian admission carried out in 2015, the persons to be admitted had the same status as other asylum seekers coming to the Slovak territory as individuals. However, their reasons to apply for asylum were known to the MO MoI SR prior to their arrival in Slovakia. In 2015-2016, no legislative changes were made in this field – neither in connection with the changing migration situation nor EU asylum policy.

ii. General overview of specific policies in resettlement or humanitarian admission in your Member States. Please also include any recent changes in the policy framework (i.e., as a result of the refugee situation in 2015-2016).

Slovakia decided, on a voluntary basis, to carry out a humanitarian admission of 149 internally displaced persecuted Christians from Iraq. They arrived in Slovakia in December 2015. At present, the process of their integration in society is under way.

Apart from this, the capacities of the Emergency Transit Centre in Humenné (ECT Humenné) has increased from 150 to 250 persons who are able to stay in the centre for the maximum period of 6 months.

iii. Brief overview of national debate on resettlement in the Member State. Please indicate key points of discussion and players involved in this debate. It is suggested the debate also covers the discussion on resettlement following the refugee situation in 2015-2016 and the resettlement scheme proposed in the EU-Turkey negotiations. Sources of national debate to include may be national media reports, parliamentary debates, and statements of NGO/civil society organisations or International Organisations (IOs).

In general, Slovakia's attitudes to resettlement and relocations are very reserved. However, Slovakia resettled on a voluntary basis 149 persecuted Iraqi Christians which is a proof that Slovakia seeks to act in a responsible manner and help voluntarily to groups of persons whose lives are in danger. The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs SR ("MoFEA SR") has recently affirmed that Slovakia wants to take a responsible approach towards the current migration situation: "Slovakia is aware of the gravity of the migration issue and continues to be convinced that it is a European-wide problem which can only be solved jointly in the framework of comprehensive, sustainable European-wide efforts. From the beginning Slovakia was and is still a part of all-European efforts to find sustainable solutions. In respect of mandatory quota or the so called permanent relocation mechanism, we do not consider it to be a sustainable instrument for tackling the migration crisis. From our perspective, emphasis should be placed on the protection of the EU external borders, registration of persons coming to the EU, consistent differentiation between economic migrants and real refugees, effective return policies and co-operation with third countries, as well as on addressing the causes of migration".³ With regard to the aforementioned humanitarian admission, the Minister of Interior SR expressed his positive attitude, saying that "resettlement programmes, which means direct choice of a foreign country, are successful in most cases".⁴

The issue of resettlement and humanitarian admissions, however, has not formed a significant part of political and public debates or media coverage. As for the EU-TK agreement, Slovak Republic has not yet specified the concrete steps to be taken in this regard. Slovak Republic has been carefully followed the practical results of the EU-TK agreement.

Section 2: Overview of the national resettlement and/or humanitarian admission programme

The purpose of this second section is to provide a detailed overview of the national resettlement and/or humanitarian admission programme(s). It describes the characteristics of these programmes. While the questions appear at the front in this Common Template, Member States may wish to move the statistics to an annex when developing their own National Reports for publication. The statistics may also be described in an annex in the Synthesis Report.

2.1 NATIONAL RESETTLEMENT AND/OR HUMANITARIAN ADMISSION PROGRAMME

² Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum and on changes and amendments to some acts.

³ <http://europa.pravda.sk/aktuality/clanok/392003-je-zjavne-ze-slovensko-nepodpori-bruselsky-plan-na-vykupne-za-utecencov/> (consulted on 18/05/2016).

⁴ <http://www.hlavnespravdy.sk/kalinak-v-aprili-budu-migracne-kvoty-znovu-na-stole-tentoraz-trvale/736698> (consulted on 17/05/2016).

Q1a. Does your Member State have a resettlement programme, humanitarian admission programme or other similar programme in place, or did your Member State have one in the past?

Note: in case of more than one programme, please make it clear in the textbox and then refer to 'Programme 1', 'Programme 2' and so on when answering the next questions. If your Member State had a programme in the past please fill out the sections below, but make it clear in the answers that it concerns a previous programme.

No, Slovakia does not have such programme in place, and neither had it carried out any standard resettlement programme or humanitarian admission programme in the past⁵. Slovakia has implemented a humanitarian admission programme on a single occasion.

A specific resettlement programme on an ad hoc basis which cannot be included into any of the categories mentioned above was a resettlement of Ukrainian nationals of Slovak origin who were victims of the Chernobyl tragedy. The programme was implemented during the period of 1993–1996 when 1183 persons - approximately 330 families were resettled to 19 districts of Slovakia.

Q1b. Is it a resettlement programme, humanitarian admission programme or another programme?

The definitions and differences are described above under "7. Definitions". (Resettlement programme / Humanitarian admission programme / Other programme)

In the case of the Slovak Republic, the resettlement programme carried out in 2015 is classified as a humanitarian admission programme.

If other, please specify:

Q1c. Is it a permanent (programme-based) or temporary (ad-hoc) programme?

Please substantiate your answer below.

The humanitarian admission of 149 persecuted Iraqi Christians has been carried out on a single occasion and for the first time; hence, it has been an ad-hoc programme. Since it is not a standard resettlement programme, it is not known whether and in what time frame this programme would take place again. Slovakia does not have any resettlement or humanitarian admission instrument defined in its legislation and the entire process is not regulated in law. The persons admitted under the ad-hoc humanitarian admission programme went through the asylum procedure, just like other asylum seekers, and were granted asylum after about two months. Once they obtained asylum, they moved from the asylum facility to their new homes.

Q2. Please indicate what the main objectives of the resettlement or humanitarian admission programme are (i.e. stemming irregular migration flows, contributing to humanitarian relief in third countries, provide legal avenues for migration, etc.)

The main objectives of the humanitarian admission of internally displaced and persecuted Iraqi Christians whose lives were at risk as a result of the increasing influence of the Daesh terrorist organisation was to provide a refuge in a safe country and the possibility to build up a background in Slovakia. It was a humanitarian action by Slovakia also due to the current migration situation and the country's efforts to mitigate the pressures on the overcrowded refugee camps, in this case in Erbil.

Q3. How has your Member State set up the resettlement or humanitarian admission programme?

This question aims to investigate how the programme was conceived and its functioning. Please describe briefly (a) the process followed by your Member States in setting up such a programme, (b) the steps taken from its inception until the current status (working with NGOs, UNHCR, IOM, through bilateral agreements, study visits to third countries) and (c) the organisational structure of the programme.

The humanitarian admission project was initiated by a non-governmental organisation which initiated the proposal for providing assistance to a particular group of persons from Iraq, including ensuring the process of their integration after their arrival in Slovakia and covering all the financial costs related to their arrival and subsequent integration. The proposal for this type of humanitarian admission was presented to the MO MoI SR and was subsequently approved by the Slovak Minister of Interior and the Prime Minister. The transport of the group of persons was ensured by the MO MoI SR.

The next step after the approval of the proposal for humanitarian admission was preliminary verification by the Slovak Intelligence Service of the identity of the specific group of persons, on the basis of their certified passports, personal data and other related certified copies of documents provided to the MO MoI SR by the representatives of the given group. All persons held valid documents.

Besides security screening by Slovakia, the persons were also checked by a foreign private security agency specialised in security screening of persons from the Middle East, but its involvement was not financed from Slovakia's funds. An important role in the check of persons was also played by Church representatives working in Slovakia, who were – and are still – active in the identification of the admitted persons' actual needs and in their integration in Slovakia.

⁵ According to the definitions introduced in the study specifications.

The MO MoI SR staff conducted individual interviews with the families in Erbil in order to find out whether these families were prepared and sure about moving to Slovakia and whether they were familiar with the processes accompanying asylum and integration in Slovakia. The families were also informed about the cultural specificities, the economic reality and the job possibilities in Slovakia in order to obtain a clearer picture about their new country. In addition to this presentation, the families received written information about Slovakia and about the asylum procedure translated into English and Arabic, and the persons to be resettled confirmed with signature that they understood the information and gave consent to their resettlement.

All services related to their integration are provided by the non-governmental organisation, which implements the project of the target group's integration in collaboration with a diocese, both of them being the contractual partners of the MO MoI SR. The role of the MO MoI SR in the integration process is to monitor the activities of the non-governmental organisation, provide guidance and, if needed, identify possible problems in the provision of assistance in order to solve the issue within its available capacities.

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Q4. Please provide the main characteristics of the resettlement or humanitarian admission programme by completing the table below. As mentioned above, in case of more than one programme, please make it clear in the textbox and then refer to 'Programme 1', 'Programme 2'

| Question | Answer | | | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------|--|--|----------|-----------------------|
| When did your Member State start the resettlement programme and/or humanitarian admission programme? | The proposal for humanitarian admission was presented to the MO MoI SR in September 2015; the MO MoI SR travelled to Iraq in November 2015, and the persons were transferred from Erbil to the reception centre of the MO MoI SR in December 2015. | | | | | |
| Does your Member State set geographical priorities in resettlement or humanitarian admission during the 2011-2016 period? (such as regions, nationalities) | Slovakia does not have a standard resettlement programme in place, as a result of which it did not define any priority regions from which persons would be resettled. The humanitarian admission was proposed by a non-governmental organisation which had a list of a particular group of persons from Iraq, i.e. persecuted Iraqi Christians, who represent one of the most vulnerable groups in the region. Slovakia therefore agreed to their admission. | | | | | |
| <i>Have nationals of countries in the following regions been included in resettlement or humanitarian admission for the years 2011-2016?</i> Yes/No | North Africa ⁶ | Sub-Saharan Africa ⁷ | Middle East ⁸ | Other parts of Asia | Americas | Other, please specify |
| | | | Yes | | | |
| Does the resettled/admitted person need to have been recognised as refugee by UNHCR or a third country? Can the person be a beneficiary of subsidiary protection? | No. Given the fact that the humanitarian admission was carried out on a voluntary basis as part of humanitarian aid by the Slovak Government and that it is not a standard resettlement programme, the admitted persons were recognised as refugee by UNHCR. Hence, the persons were not selected on the basis of UNHCR records, but were identified as vulnerable and suitable for admission on the basis of other criteria than those applied by the UNHCR. The vulnerability criterion was assessed and proposed by foreign partners. The status of a person applying for asylum in Slovakia depends on the individual review of his/her asylum application by the MO MoI SR staff, i.e. decision-makers responsible for the asylum procedure. The persons admitted to Slovakia under humanitarian admission were granted asylum on humanitarian grounds. | | | | | |
| Does your Member State reassess the recognition of persons for resettlement/humanitarian admission by UNHCR? | Yes/No No | If yes, when is this done? | If yes, where is the reassessment carried out? | If yes, how is the reassessment carried out? | | |
| Does your Member State set an annual or multi-annual quota for resettlement/humanitarian admission? | Yes/No No | | | | | |
| <i>If applicable, please indicate the regular quota per year</i> | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
| | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

⁶ See UN geographical division at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49regin.htm#africa>.

⁷ All of Africa, except Northern Africa as per UN geographical division (see previous footnote).

⁸ Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian territories, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

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| Question | Answer | | | | | |
|--|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| <i>If applicable, please indicate the emergency quota per year</i> | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| How are the above quota determined and applied? (please indicate who determines the quota, how they are set and what are the quota for both regular and emergency resettlement) | N/A | | | | | |
| In the period 2011-2015, have quota differed significantly from the actual number of persons resettled/admitted? If so, how (much) and why? | N/A | | | | | |

2.2 PRE-DEPARTURE AND DEPARTURE PHASE

Q5. Please indicate in the table below which authority/actor is responsible for each of the actions/measures indicated and briefly explain their responsibilities. Please note that more details as to how each task/step of the resettlement process is carried out, are further detailed in subsequent questions (e.g. selection criteria, etc.).

| Action/measure | Authority/actor responsible | Explanation of responsibilities (when, how and what) |
|---|--|---|
| Polymaking on national resettlement or humanitarian admission programme/strategy (including objectives, geographical focus, priorities, etc.) | MoI SR | The MO MoI SR is responsible for the technical implementation of the humanitarian admission programme based on the political decision of the Minister of Interior SR and the Prime Minister and it supervises the reception of persons in the asylum facility as well as the course of the asylum procedure. Based on the agreement with the implementing partners of the project, it also supervises the integration process. At the same time, the MO MoI SR sets the objectives, the geographical placement of persons in collaboration with the NGO, and the programme implementation priorities. The policy-making and activities of the MO MoI SR concerning the resettlement and humanitarian admission of the persons to Slovakia is closely coordinated with the Minister of Interior SR. It should be emphasised that the MO MoI SR is subordinated in this area to the proposals and political decisions of the Minister of Interior SR. |
| Identification of the candidate for resettlement/humanitarian admission | Spiritual leader, Erbil, Iraq Non-governmental organisation | The persons which were proposed to be admitted were primarily selected by a spiritual leader who took care of them in Erbil together with foreign partners engaged in humanitarian transfers of persons from Middle East countries. |
| First selection of the candidate for resettlement/humanitarian admission | MO MoI SR | The list of concrete persons to be provided a refuge in Slovakia was presented to the MO MoI SR by a non-governmental organisation which sought to create the capacities and ensure the financial coverage of the project. The preliminary selection of the proposed persons was approved by the Minister of Interior SR. The MO MoI SR was involved in the short-listing of the persons through its representatives who conducted personal interviews in Erbil with the persons proposed to be admitted on the basis of preliminary lists. |

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|--|---|--|
| Security screening | Foreign private security agency Slovak Intelligence Service BBAP PFP Church ⁹ | The persons were checked by Slovak security units, i.e. the Slovak Intelligence Services and BBAP PFP, and by a foreign private security agency specialised in security screenings related to terrorist activities in the Middle East region. In order to ensure transparency, Church representatives from Slovakia were actively involved in the screening process. |
| Interviews with pre-selected persons | MO MoI SR | After the proposal for humanitarian transfer of persons to Slovakia was presented, the MO MoI R staff in Erbil conducted personal interviews with the families in order to find out to what extent they are sure about their decision and prepared for the transfer. Another aim of the interviews was to make them acquainted with what they can expect after coming to Slovakia as well as with the culture, economic situation and integration conditions in the Slovak Republic. |
| Health checks | MO MoI SR | In connection with the humanitarian admission referred to above, the admitted persons were transferred to the reception centre immediately after their arrival in Slovakia, just like in the case of asylum seekers. According to the Act on Asylum, asylum seekers are required to stay in this facility for a minimum of 3–4 weeks. During this period, applicants undergo medical examinations. The primary purpose of this enclosed facility is to eliminate the potential risk of transmission of infectious diseases. |
| Decision on the final selection of a candidate for resettlement/humanitarian admission | Minister of Interior SR Prime Minister SR | The final list of candidates for humanitarian admission was approved by the Minister of Interior and Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic. |
| Pre-departure assistance/measures | Spiritual leader in Erbil Church and NGO in Slovakia St. Elisabeth University | Pre-departure assistance, i.e. preparation for the transfer to Slovakia, was ensured by the spiritual leader who took care of the families in Erbil together with Slovak Church representatives and volunteers from the non-governmental organisation. The St. Elisabeth University was also actively involved, having a clinic directly in Erbil. A university employee instructed Slovak in Erbil, and a doctor from the clinic accompanied the persons during their flight from Erbil to Košice. Before departure, the staff also checked whether the selected candidates were capable of being transferred in terms of their health condition. |
| Departure and travel | Spiritual leader Foreign partners MO MoI SR | The group was prepared for the transfer by a spiritual leader in collaboration with foreign partners. The foreign partners helped to ensure the logistics of the air transfer from Erbil to Slovakia. All 149 persons were transferred as a group by a direct charter flight from Erbil to Košice, Slovakia. |

⁹ Church in singular refers in this text mainly to the Roman Catholic Church of Slovakia which was the main organisation involved in the pre- and post- arrival phase, including integration. The representatives of the Greek-Catholic Church were also involved in some specific cases. However, the main organisation in all cases is the Roman Catholic Church.

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| | | |
|---|-----------|--|
| Provision of information to the selected person (<u>before departure</u>) | MO MoI SR | <p>What information is provided? When is it provided? How is it provided?</p> <p>During their trip to Erbil, the MO MoI SR informed the persons about what they could expect after their arrival in Slovakia. The selected persons were provided information about the asylum procedure, their placement immediately after arrival in the reception centre which serves also as a quarantine facility during the first 3–4 weeks, about medical examinations, etc. They were also informed about the integration process, including services and information about the various aspects of life in Slovakia and about the economic reality. They learnt, for example, about the minimum and average wage in Slovakia, the obstacles they could face in their new country with regard to employment, learning the language and finances in general, especially under the Slovak conditions, which they had to prepare for.</p> |
| Provision of cultural orientation to the selected person (before departure) | MO MoI SR | <p>What orientation is provided? When is it provided? How is it provided?</p> <p>In Erbil, the MO MoI SR staff also provided cultural orientation on Slovakia. Besides living standards and the economic reality, the persons to be resettled were provided basic information about Slovakia (e.g. about the population, official language, cities, traditions, culture, way of life). They were also informed about the equal status of women in society and about religious life at the level of individuals, as the community which they came from was based mainly on traditional Christian values, following habits and values which are not so typical for more liberal countries, such as Slovakia. The cultural orientation aimed to prepare the selected candidates for life, values and cultural differences in Slovakia.</p> |

The questions below concern the identification of persons for resettlement/humanitarian admission.

Q6. How does your Member State approach the identification of persons for resettlement/humanitarian admission in terms of first steps and relations with key stakeholders (such as UNHCR and third countries)? Please describe the process followed by your Member State. If this process is not always the same, please describe when they differ and why this is the case?

Since Slovakia does not have a standard resettlement programme in place, we cannot speak about commonly used procedures. The persons were identified by a non-governmental organisation which, in collaboration with the spiritual leader in Iraq, presented its proposal to the MO MoI SR.

The questions below concern the criteria used by your Member State and/or UNHCR for the selection of persons for resettlement/humanitarian admission.

Q7. Please indicate which methods are used for the selection of persons for resettlement/ humanitarian admission

| Method | Existence of a defined method (Yes/No) | Further explanation |
|--|---|---|
| <u>Selection missions</u> | | |
| Selection missions to the third country | Yes | Yes, the MO MoI SR staff travelled to Erbil to check the suitability and confirm the selection of the candidates. |
| <i>If selection missions are carried out, a) how often? b) Are they carried out to all countries from which persons are resettled?</i> | a) This mission was carried out on a single occasion, b) in the country from which the persons to be admitted came. | |

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| Method | Existence of a defined method (Yes/No) | Further explanation |
|---|---|--|
| Personal on-site interviews with candidates <i>(If yes, please indicate who carries out the interviews)</i> | Yes | During the mission in Erbil, interviews were conducted with the families to be transferred to Slovakia. The interviews with the group of 149 persons (25 families) were conducted by two staff members of the MO MoI SR, using the services of an interpreter provided by the foreign partner. |
| Dossier-based selection (i.e., UNHCR submission of file) | No | |
| Video/telephone interviews with candidates | No | |
| Consultations with UNHCR/IOM (tripartite consultations) <i>(If yes, please indicate when and how often)</i> | No | |
| Consultations with EASO <i>(If yes, please indicate when and how often)</i> | No | |
| Consultations with civil society/NGOs on criteria for selection of candidates | Yes | From the moment of approval of the project proposal, consultations were conducted between NGOs, the Church and voluntaries involved in Erbil, Iraq, on the suitability of the candidates. |
| Consultations with authorities of the country where the resettled person is present | No | |
| Arrangement of interpreters for interviewing candidates | Yes | Yes, during the mission in Erbil the MO MoI SR staff used the services of an interpreter provided by the foreign partner. |
| <i>Other method, please specify</i> | | |

Q8a. Does your Member (State) use criteria to prioritise the selection of persons for resettlement/humanitarian admission (either official or in practice)? These criteria should be understood as additional ones to the key requirement of being eligible for international protection and those applied by UNHCR in its selection Yes/No

Yes, in the case of the humanitarian admission described above (see Q4).

If yes, please see questions 8b and 8c. If no, please go to question 9.

*The Synthesis Report will highlight that the selected person must be eligible for international protection, therefore the Member State will verify that there are no exclusion clauses under Article 12 of the Qualification Directive 2011/95/EU, which reads as follows:

"Exclusion

1. A third-country national or a stateless person is excluded from being a refugee if: (a) he or she falls within the scope of Article 1(D) of the Geneva Convention, relating to protection or assistance from organs or agencies of the United Nations other than the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. When such protection or assistance has ceased for any reason, without the position of such persons being definitely settled in accordance with the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, those persons shall ipso facto be entitled to the benefits of this Directive; (b) he or she is recognised by the competent authorities of the country in which he or she has taken up residence as having the rights and obligations which are attached to the possession of the nationality of that country, or rights and obligations equivalent to those.

2. A third-country national or a stateless person is excluded from being a refugee where there are serious reasons for considering that: (a) he or she has committed a crime against peace, a war crime, or a crime against humanity, as defined in the international instruments drawn up to make provision in respect of such crimes; (b) he or she has committed a serious non-political crime outside the country of refuge prior to his or her admission as a refugee, which means the time of issuing a residence permit based on the granting of refugee status; particularly cruel actions, even if committed with an allegedly political objective, may be classified as serious non-political crimes; (c) he or she has been guilty of acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations as set out in the Preamble and Articles 1 and 2 of the Charter of the United Nations.

3. Paragraph 2 applies to persons who incite or otherwise participate in the commission of the crimes or acts mentioned therein."

If you have comments on this aspect, please state it below:

Q8b. If yes, who sets such criteria and how? Please specify what is the rationale behind setting the criteria, if there is a quota approach and if a specific weighting is used.

The criteria for humanitarian admission are set by the Minister of Interior SR; the MO MoI SR assesses applications on the basis of national legislation and individual assessment. Under the asylum procedure, the asylum applications are reviewed by the staff members of the MO MoI SR Procedural Department who also conduct interviews with asylum seekers with the aim to review the actual reasons for obtaining international protection. Even though the persons admitted on a humanitarian basis went through the common asylum procedure, it should be noted that these persons were admitted on the basis of prearranged lists which were approved by Slovakia at the time when it was clear on the basis of what reasons they should be granted asylum. The most important reason for the granting of asylum was persecution on the grounds of religion or vulnerability of these persons related to the fact that religious persecution of persons who do not leave their country of origin is not a reason for granting asylum under the Geneva Convention. It can therefore be concluded that the criteria for granting asylum were set in advance.

Q8c. If yes, please indicate the relevant criteria to prioritise the selection of persons for resettlement/humanitarian admission. These criteria could be general pre-defined criteria matching with those identified by UNHCR, but can also be preferences and part of the discretionary power of Member States applied on a case by case basis.

| Criterion <i>(in italic some suggested)</i> | Please comment on the degree of priority attributed to the criteria and explain the circumstances when this one is applied |
|--|---|
| Assessed degree of vulnerability of the person(s) | |
| <i>Survivors of violence and/or torture</i> | |
| <i>At risk of violence and/or torture and people at serious risk of violence and/or torture due to persecution</i> | |
| <i>Lack of Foreseeable Alternative Durable Solutions</i> | Slovakia opts for the transfer or resettlement of persons mainly in cases where no other alternative long-term solutions are available. |
| <i>Internal displacement inside the country of origin is not possible</i> | |
| <i>Persons in need of medical assistance, including critical illness, treatment for genital mutilation</i> | - |

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| Criterion <i>(in italic some suggested)</i> | Please comment on the degree of priority attributed to the criteria and explain the circumstances when this one is applied |
|---|--|
| <i>Persons at serious risk of persecution due to their sexual orientation or gender identity</i> | |
| <i>Persons at serious risk of persecution due to Religion/beliefs (also specific focus on non-believers)</i> | These persons were granted asylum on humanitarian grounds – as persecuted internally displaced Christians who did not leave their country. This was the most important criterion for granting asylum. |
| <i>Persons at serious risk of persecution due to political beliefs</i> | |
| <i>Persons at serious risk of persecution due to belonging to specific ethnic group, social group or belonging to minority, indigenous group, nationality</i> | |
| <i>Legal and/or physical protection needs of the refugee in the country of refuge (this includes a risk of refoulement);</i> | |
| <i>Other criterion, please specify</i> | |
| Other criteria | |
| Sex (men, women) | |
| Age (i.e. adults, children, elderly) | |
| Religion / (non-) religious group | |
| Family unit: preference to resettle entire family groups. | Wherever possible, Slovakia preferred the admission of whole families. |
| Presence of family members in the Member State | |
| nationality/ethnic group he/she belongs to | |
| Integration potential or assessed/expected motivation of integrate | |
| Internal displacement | Internal displacement in the country of origin is acceptable for Slovakia in specific cases, where the situation of persons is duly reviewed and serious reasons exist under which transfer into another country is the only solution. |

Q9a. Does your Member State use criteria to exclude/deprioritise certain persons for resettlement/ humanitarian admission? Such criteria are those which lead to the exclusion or postponement of the transfer once the pre-selection has been concluded.

No, no such criteria were set in this case; in general, such criteria are set in connection with potential security risks. For more details see Q9c below.

If yes, please go to questions 9b and 9c. If no, please go to question 10.

Q9b. Who sets the criteria for excluding/deprioritising and how is this approached in practice?

N/A

Q9c. Please indicate if there are criteria for excluding/deprioritising certain persons from the selection for resettlement/humanitarian admission (either official or in practice).

| Criterion <i>(in italic some suggested)</i> | Please comment on the importance of the criterion and explain the circumstances when it is applied |
|--|---|
| <i>Knowledge of substantial ab(use) or criminal record of the refugee</i> | In the event that there is an evidence of a person having committed a serious crime, i.e. crime against peace, war crime or crime against humanity under international documents, the MoI SR shall not grant asylum to such person. |
| <i>Refugees assessed to lack integration potential</i> | - |
| <i>Refugees with family composition issues (unresolved child custody issues, underage marriage)</i> | |
| <i>Refugees with complex profiles, including: high-ranking members of government/authorities, judges, prosecutors</i> | |
| <i>Individuals involved in the military or private security, intelligence branches, paramilitary and militant groups</i> | Slovakia does not admit persons potentially posing a security risk. |
| <i>Members of police forces</i> | |

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| Criterion <i>(in italic some suggested)</i> | Please comment on the importance of the criterion and explain the circumstances when it is applied |
|--|---|
| <i>Staff at prisons or detention centres</i> | |
| <i>Informers</i> | |
| <i>Individuals on the EU sanctions list¹⁰</i> | |
| <i>Individuals who (allegedly) committed serious (non-political) crimes in their country of origin</i> | |
| Persons who have direct family members engaged as combatants | |
| <i>Other criterion, please specify</i> | |

The following questions regard the period after the selection to resettle but before actual departure to the Member State.

Q10a. What is the overall procedure followed in the immediate aftermath of the decision to resettle/admit? Please indicate the administrative steps to be taken and how authorities and responsible stakeholders prepare for departure. Please describe the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders involved in this process.

The approval of the preliminary list of persons to be admitted on humanitarian grounds was followed by administrative procedures connected with the issue of national visas. The national visas were granted by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic ("MoFEA SR") on the basis of previously obtained data. Communication concerning the issue of national visas was between the MO MoI SR and the MoFEA SR. The MO MoI SR and MoFEA SR provided all information to the Consular Department of the MoFEA SR. At the time of the visa granting procedure, the situation in Iraq was identified by the Slovak diplomatic mission as a region at particular risk, as a result of which the Slovak Ambassador was forced to leave the territory of the Republic of Iraq and was temporarily transferred to Beirut. Since the Slovak Ambassador and the Consul for Iraq were not present in Erbil and its surroundings, the visas were issued by the Czech Consul who worked in Iraq during that time and was present in Erbil.

Q10b. Is there a formal agreement signed by both the resettled/admitted person and Member State after selection and before departure? If yes, what is covered by such an agreement? For instance, how are dependent children dealt with?

No legally binding agreement was signed with the selected families before their arrival in Slovakia. The selected candidates, however, signed before their arrival a document confirming that they were familiar with the processes after entering Slovakia. This information concerned, in particular, the asylum procedure, the integration process and basic information about Slovakia. By signature they also confirmed their decision to be transferred to Slovakia. This "contract" was rather informal and served for the MO MoI SR as a confirmation of having been acquainted with the provided information.

Q11a. How is the person actually transferred to the Member State? Please indicate who organises the travel, how travel is carried out in practice (individual, charter or normal commercial flight; transit arrangements via Schengen or non-Schengen States) and what services are normally included (special arrangements for persons with disabilities, access to medication where necessary, etc.). (For services immediately upon arrival, see below.)

The persons were transferred by direct charter flight from Erbil to Košice, Slovakia. This flight was arranged by foreign partners in coordination with their spiritual leader. The costs of the charter flight were covered by the foreign partner.

¹⁰ Consolidated list of persons, groups and entities subject to EU financial sanctions, accessible at http://eeas.europa.eu/cfsp/sanctions/consol-list/index_en.htm

Q11b. Are there specific services available for vulnerable persons when they are being transferred to the Member State? (Special pick-up from the place of stay, at the airport, during the flight).

After arrival at the Košice airport, the persons were immediately transferred by bus to the reception centre in Humenné. The buses were arranged by the MO MoI SR. As for the special needs of vulnerable groups, wheelchairs were arranged for the disabled.

2.3 POST-ARRIVAL AND INTEGRATION PHASE

This phase concerns the period right after the physical arrival of the resettled person or admitted under humanitarian admission programme on the territory of the Member State.

Q12a. Is policy and law for the integration of resettled refugees different than integration policy/law for recognised refugees after an asylum application?

If yes, briefly mention on what aspects.

No. Slovakia does not have in place any policy or legal definition for the resettlement or humanitarian admission status or specifically regulated process of integration of these persons. The persons admitted under humanitarian admission went through the common asylum procedure, as laid down in the Act on Asylum¹¹. Regarding integration, these persons, just like other persons granted asylum or subsidiary protection, continue being included in the integration project which is implemented by a non-governmental organisation and supervised by the MO MoI SR. These persons are provided services comparable to those under a standard integration project designed for beneficiaries of international protection and funded from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. These projects differ in terms of the duration of provided services, i.e. persons admitted under a humanitarian admission programme can be provided services for a longer period of time, if needed (up to 3 years). Compared to common asylum seekers, the asylum procedure took much shorter, as the information on the situation of the target group in Iraq was provided to the Procedural Department staff in advance. Also, accommodation was arranged immediately after leaving the asylum facility, and the persons moved to their new homes immediately. In addition, they are receiving additional assistance covered from Church funds.

Q12b. Who are the key players/actors and which are their responsibilities in the post-arrival and integration phase? This concerns national, regional and local state actors, NGOs, schools and education providers, health care providers, private sector entities, religious institutions, etc.

| Player | Responsibilities |
|---|---|
| Example: Ministry of {}, NGO {name}, Office for {}, individual tutors and counsellors, etc. | Example: responsible for pick-up on arrival, responsible for organising housing, responsible for assisting the resettled person, etc. |
| MO MoI SR | The MO MoI SR was responsible for organising the group's arrival in Slovakia in collaboration with foreign partners. |
| MO MoI SR | The MO MoI SR was also responsible for arranging bus transfer from the Košice airport to the reception centre in Humenné. |
| MO MoI SR | The MO MoI SR Procedural Department was responsible for the asylum procedure and the granting of asylum on humanitarian grounds. |

¹¹ Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum and on changes and amendments to some acts.

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|-------------------------------|---|
| MO MoI SR | In addition, the MO MoI SR was responsible for care of these persons during the asylum procedure, i.e. during their stay in the asylum facility in Humenné, they were provided with accommodation, food, basic sanitary items and pocket money. In the reception centre in Humenné, they attended Slovak language courses and cultural orientation, and were also provided with psychological counselling and could participate in various spare-time activities. |
| MO MoI SR | MO MoI SR also earmarked individual social workers who provided care only to this group. Apart from the common services after granting asylum, the social workers took care of registering these persons at health insurance company as well as registering at the Alien Police department. |
| Non-governmental organisation | Accommodation and complex integration services in Slovakia are ensured by a non-governmental organisation (ensuring the presence of social workers and providing Slovak language instruction, cultural orientation, and spare-time activities). |
| Church | From the project beginning, the Slovak Church representatives, especially from the Nitra Diocese, have been among the key actors providing not only spiritual support (sermons, services, regular communication), but also acting in the field of integration, in particular when it comes to the arrangement of appropriate accommodation. |

Q13. What is the immediate support available upon arrival (presumably by plane) for resettled/admitted persons? This concerns only the immediate support on arrival, most likely within the first hours or day. Please fill in the table below and add extra rows if necessary.

| Measure | Yes/No | Further explanation |
|--|--------|--|
| Airport pick-up | Yes | The MO MoI SR arranged bus transfer from the Košice airport to the reception centre in Humenné. The MO MoI SR staff assisted with getting on the bus and during transfer to the reception centre in Humenné. |
| Provision of (temporary) documentation | Yes | Shortly after arrival in the reception centre in Humenné and lodging of the asylum application, the passports and other identity documents of the resettled persons were withdrawn. They were subsequently given a confirmation of withholding of these documents, and were issued identity cards of asylum seeker with the applicant's photograph and stamp of the MoI SR. The back side of this card shows children up to 18 years. The card is provided for a maximum of 3 months; upon expiry of this period due to extension of the asylum procedure, the card validity must be extended. |
| Food | Yes | Given the fact that the persons arrived during late night hours, they received a food package immediately after getting on the bus. |
| Lodging (<i>more detailed questions below</i>) | | |
| Clothing | No/Yes | No as it was not necessary. However, if needed, there is clothing in the reception centre which is usually obtained via charity collections or donations. |

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| | | |
|------------------------------|-----|---|
| Medical examination | Yes | Shortly after arrival at the reception centre in Humenné, the persons underwent medical examinations (general health check, blood pressure measurement, blood taking, X-ray, etc.). |
| Other form of health care | Yes | During transfer and arrival in the reception centre in Humenné a doctor was available who previously worked with these persons in Erbil on a voluntary basis; she took care of those who had particular problems during the flight to Slovakia, as most of them travelled by plane for the first time. A general practitioner is available in the reception centre in Humenné; if needed, visits to specialist doctors are arranged. |
| Interpretation upon arrival | Yes | Interpretation was arranged by the MO MoI SR staff immediately upon arrival. |
| <i>Other, please specify</i> | | |

The following questions regard the permit granted to the person admitted under resettlement or humanitarian admission.

Q14a. What status is granted to the person resettled or admitted under humanitarian admission? Does it differ from the status given to persons granted international protection for 'regular' asylum applications? Please indicate the duration and other relevant details (extension, etc.).

The persons admitted to Slovakia under humanitarian admission were granted asylum on humanitarian grounds. The main reason for granting asylum on humanitarian grounds was the fact that these people were persecuted because of their religion, all of them were internally displaced persons and the refugee camp in Erbil was their temporary shelter.

Q14b. If the person is not granted the 'standard' international protection status and related residence permit upon arrival, what legal title is granted?

If there are multiple types of resettlement or humanitarian admission, please add more rows or clearly distinguish this information.

| Type of programme | Permit/residence title granted | Initial duration of the permit (in months) | If applicable, extensions possible for the permit | Please provide further details where necessary/applicable |
|----------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Resettlement Programme | | | | |
| Humanitarian Admission Programme | Persons granted asylum are issued a permanent residence permit in Slovakia at the moment the decision on asylum becomes final. | Asylum, including asylum on humanitarian grounds, is granted for an indefinite period of time. Under the Act on Residence of Aliens ¹² , an alien who was granted asylum shall be given a document of residence by the police department which contains the designation "Person Granted Asylum". This document is valid for a period of ten years. In case of asylum seeker granted asylum for the period of 3 years (asylum for the purposes of family reunification), the document is valid for 3 years. | | |

Q15a. Do resettled persons or persons admitted under humanitarian admission have the right to family reunification?

Family members of persons (third country nationals) who were granted asylum on humanitarian grounds (according to the Article 9 of the Act on Asylum) in the territory of the Slovak Republic do not have right for asylum for the purpose of family reunification. However, they can apply for a temporary residence for the purpose of family

¹² Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Aliens and on changes and amendments to some acts, as amended – Article 73(11).

reunification¹³ provided they meet the conditions to be granted this residence and they are able to provide all the required documents as stated in the Act on Residence of Aliens. The application for this type of residence permit is submitted by a third country national at a diplomatic mission abroad.

Q15b. If yes, to what extent is the right to family reunification for resettled persons or persons admitted under humanitarian admission different than for others persons granted refugee status?

Family members of persons granted asylum according to the Article 8 of the Act on Asylum can apply for asylum for the purpose of family reunification. These persons can also apply for the residence permit for the purpose of family reunification according to the provisions of the Act on Residence of Aliens.

Q15c. Do resettled persons or persons admitted under humanitarian admission have access to naturalisation/citizenship?

Yes

Q15d. If yes, to what extent is access to naturalisation/citizenship for the resettled person or person admitted under humanitarian admission different than for other persons granted refugee status?

Under the Act on Citizenship of the SR¹⁴, the condition for a person granted asylum to acquire the citizenship of the Slovak Republic is at least four years of permanent residence in the Slovak Republic prior to the lodging of the application for the citizenship of the SR.

The following set of questions describe the geographical distribution of resettled persons or admitted under humanitarian admission and the allocation of (different types of) accommodation. The aim is to better understand the specific practices in Member States in the physical resettling of persons immediately upon arrival and the period straight after.

Q16a. Is there geographical distribution in the Member State of the resettled persons or admitted under humanitarian admission? Please explain. If no, go to question 17. If yes, please answer 16b. Geographical distribution is the placement of resettled persons in different areas/ provinces/ municipalities of the Member State according to national priorities.

Yes, the area into which the persons admitted under humanitarian admission were placed was specifically determined.

Q16b. Who decides on geographical distribution and how does it work in practice? (in terms of funding allocated to municipalities taking in resettled persons, availability of accommodation, access to schools and employment, preferences of the person)?

All the persons admitted under humanitarian admission were placed in the city of Nitra and its surroundings, as they had very strong emotional ties between each other and had lived as a community before their departure from their country of origin. Moreover, the non-profit organisation providing integration services is active in this region and has there a strong social infrastructure thanks to which it could create the conditions for their integration.

In general, beneficiaries of international protection are usually placed in cities in which the project of integration of beneficiaries of international protection is being implemented, so that they have access to the services provided under these particular projects. Besides Nitra it is currently three larger cities – Bratislava, Žilina and Košice. It should be noted, however, that this geographical distribution can change in the event of replacing the organisation implementing the integration project, since the integration of beneficiaries of international protection is currently carried out on a project basis in three cities in which these implementing organisations have their offices. If a larger group of persons is admitted, such persons are distributed depending on the availability of accommodation, work and education possibilities. The persons are thus placed according to the availability of services and possibilities and so as to have an opportunity to integrate in the general population and not to live isolated within their community. This suggests the anticipated direction of the geographic priorities with regard to the distribution of beneficiaries of international protection in the whole territory of Slovakia.

¹³ Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Aliens and on changes and amendments to some acts, as amended – Article 27(1a).

¹⁴ Under Article 7(2)(e) of Act No. 40/1993 Coll. on the Citizenship of the Slovak Republic, as amended.

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Q17a. Please indicate which types of accommodation are available to resettled persons or admitted under humanitarian admission upon arrival, and how accommodation is arranged in your Member State by indicating the maximum duration and who provides the accommodation.

| Accommodation for resettled person(s) | Yes-always Yes-Often Yes-Seldom/rarely Not used | Maximum duration (months/permanent) | Who provides the accommodation? (e.g., government, NGOs, resettled person, religious institutions) | Further explanations |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| Accommodation in reception centres | Yes | Asylum seekers, including admitted persons, are placed in the reception centre in Humenné during a minimum of 3-4 weeks after arrival in Slovakia, since this centre also serves as a quarantine facility. The applicants stay in this facility until the end of the quarantine. Asylum seekers stay in asylum facilities throughout the asylum procedure which usually takes 3 months. | Accommodation in asylum facilities, including the reception centre, is provided by the MoI SR. | In addition to accommodation in an asylum facility, the MoI SR provides food, basic sanitary items and pocket money. The asylum facility also provides healthcare, social and psychological care. The persons admitted under humanitarian admission stayed in the reception centre in Humenné throughout the asylum procedure. |
| Accommodation in temporary shelter/housing (tents, converted buildings such as schools) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Accommodation in social/council housing | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Accommodation in hotels or other types of housing (formerly) foreseen for tourists | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Accommodation in regular/private housing | Yes | Accommodation is provided for a period of 3 years. | Accommodation was arranged by the non-governmental organisation in cooperation with the Church. Besides commercial accommodation, Church facilities and accommodation provided by volunteers were also available. | In general, accommodation was provided by the non-governmental organisation. |
| Other, please specify | | | | |

Q17b. Is a resettled/admitted person allowed to freely move elsewhere within the Member State after his/her arrival or once accommodation has been allocated? Yes

Yes, when certain conditions have been satisfied, which are:

Yes, admitted persons are allowed to move freely within the Slovak territory but their accommodation is provided only in the particular region. In case such person wishes to move elsewhere, s/he would be requested to cover the entire costs of accommodation or make an individual agreement with the implementing organisation. While staying in the asylum facility during the asylum procedure, the persons were not allowed to leave the reception centre during approximately the first 20 days, as the reception centre serves also as a quarantine facility. After this period they were allowed to leave the facility and move freely within the Slovak territory on the basis of passes.

Q17c. Is a resettled person allowed to freely travel to another Member State once housing has been allocated? Yes, immediately/ after ____ months/ No

Yes, immediately after being granted asylum.

Yes, when certain conditions have been satisfied, which are:

The person granted asylum has permanent residence in Slovakia and is issued by the Aliens Police Department of the Police Force a residence document on the basis of which s/he can travel within the territory of the EU Member States with a valid travel document. In case the person granted asylum does not hold a travel document or the validity of the travel document issued by his/her home country expired, s/he is issued a Travel Document (Convention of 28 July 1951). The duration of the tourist visit to another EU Member State may not exceed 90 days. As for the possibilities of employment in another EU Member State, persons granted asylum have the same rights as Slovak citizens.

The following set of questions describe the services and resources available for the integration of resettled persons or admitted under humanitarian admission. The aim is to better understand the specific practices in Member States in the physical resettling of persons immediately upon arrival and the period straight after. Please note that information and cultural orientation are not covered here but rather in the next set of questions on p.27.

Q18. Please indicate in the table below which integration measures are available specifically to persons admitted under resettlement and/or humanitarian admission, and who provides them. The EMN Focussed Study “Integration of beneficiaries of international/humanitarian protection into the labour market: policies and good practices” covers labour market migration and elements covered at length in that study do not need to be repeated here if they are exactly the same as for resettled persons. However, if the services available and integration measures provided are different for resettled persons than for other persons granted refugee status, please fill out the entire table below.

| Service or measure | Available (Yes/No) | Who provides the service? | For how long is it available? (weeks, months, years) | Please explain the type of service available and how it works in practice | Are these services different than for other persons granted refugee status (not under resettlement)? |
|---|--------------------|--|---|--|---|
| Weekly or monthly allowance (please indicate the amount per person) | Yes, monthly. | The allowances are provided by the NGO which implements the integration project. | The allowances will be available during the period of three years. An allowance of 100 euros is provided during one year from the moment of being granted asylum in Slovakia. An allowance of 80 euros will be provided during the second year and of | The allowances are paid by the NGO on a regular monthly basis from foreign donor resources. In practice, the persons granted asylum come to the NGO office to pick up their allowance. | Yes, compared to persons granted asylum or beneficiaries of international protection in Slovakia upon lodging an individual application for asylum upon entering Slovakia, these persons have more favourable financial conditions. In general, integration of beneficiaries of international protection is funded mainly through EU resources (AMIF) while the integration of persons admitted under humanitarian admission is funded by sponsor partner. Due to the fact that funding of integration is in this case different as in other projects and it does not depend on the allocation of the financial resources from the EU and the Slovak Republic, it is more stable and the amount is higher. Other persons granted asylum or subsidiary protection are not provided pre-arranged accommodation. Once they leave the asylum facility, they |

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| Service or measure | Available (Yes/No) | Who provides the service? | For how long is it available? (weeks, months, years) | Please explain the type of service available and how it works in practice | Are these services different than for other persons granted refugee status (not under resettlement)? |
|---|--------------------|---|---|--|--|
| | | | 60 euros during the third year. | | are provided with assistance in seeking accommodation. In most cases, they find a place in a lodging house or through commercial rent. |
| In-kind support (food, clothing, transportation, furniture, household supplies, and other basic needs) | Yes | In-kind support is provided by the NGO mainly by means of collections and donations of furniture, kitchen utensils, food, etc. The NGO also covers the costs of public transport. | Collections and donations form part of the services provided by the NGO which implements the integration project. This form of support is provided as needed throughout the duration of the integration project, i.e. during the period of 3 years. | Lists of needs were prepared for each family. The collections were organised on the basis of these needs. | No. These services are similar under all integration projects implemented by NGOs. |
| Initial medical check-up (including screening, vaccinations) | Yes | MoI SR | Upon arrival in the reception centre. | Upon arrival in Slovakia, the persons were transferred to the reception centre, in which they underwent medical examinations, general health check, blood pressure measurement, blood taking, etc., as well as vaccination, if needed. A general practitioner is available in the reception centre. A childcare practitioner was available for the group of Iraqi Christians as well. Since the reception centre serves also as a quarantine facility, its purpose is to eliminate the potential risk of transmission of infectious and communicable diseases. | No. Entry medical examinations and quarantine are common procedures for all asylum seekers in Slovakia. |
| Full access to healthcare (for specialised care, etc.) | Yes | SR | Access to public health insurance or free healthcare is time unlimited. | Once the admitted persons were transferred to Nitra, they were immediately taken to a general practitioner and were required to undergo entry medical examinations. | No, all persons granted asylum in Slovakia are provided healthcare to the same extent as citizens of the Slovak Republic. Persons granted asylum are automatically entitled to being included in the public health insurance scheme. The Migration Office issues a card to persons granted subsidiary protection. The card is of different colour than the one held by persons granted asylum or Slovak citizens but ensures the same access to healthcare. |

Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Programmes in Europe – what works?

| Service or measure | Available (Yes/No) | Who provides the service? | For how long is it available? (weeks, months, years) | Please explain the type of service available and how it works in practice | Are these services different than for other persons granted refugee status (not under resettlement)? |
|--|--------------------|---|---|---|--|
| Access to specialised services for survivors of violence and victims of torture, women or girls at risk, children at risk, refugees with disabilities, elderly, persons not likely to enter the labour force (including counsellors, psychologists, mental health checks, etc.) | Yes | The NGO provides services, such as psychological counselling, assistance with visiting a doctor or arranging special healthcare. | Access to these services provided by the NGO is ensured during the period of 3 years. | The NGO organises regular sessions with a psychologist. | No. In general, psychological counselling is provided on an equal basis by all non-profit organisations involved as part of comprehensive integration services to all beneficiaries of international protection. |
| Education support ((a)school registration for children, (b) recognition of qualifications) | Yes | NGO social workers assist with children's enrolment with regard to their compulsory school attendance and with the recognition of qualifications. | This form of support is provided as needed and is time unlimited. | | No. The assistance related to children's enrolment at schools or pre-school facilities with regard to their compulsory school attendance is the same as in the case of other persons granted asylum or subsidiary protection, i.e. as in all other integration projects. |
| Social support (family reunification, legal support, advocacy and community outreach) | Yes/No | The NGO provides these services through its contract partners. | Access to free legal counselling is arranged as needed and is time unlimited. | | All persons granted asylum or subsidiary protection have access to free legal counselling. Asylum for the purpose of family reunification is granted only in case the person was granted asylum under Article 8 of the Act on Asylum ¹⁵ , which does not apply to persons granted asylum on humanitarian grounds ¹⁶ . |

¹⁵ The Ministry shall grant asylum to persons in the case of family reunification with a person granted asylum under Article 8 of Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum and on changes and amendments to some acts.

¹⁶ Pursuant to Article 9 of Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum and on changes and amendments to some acts.

Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Programmes in Europe – what works?

| Service or measure | Available (Yes/No) | Who provides the service? | For how long is it available? (weeks, months, years) | Please explain the type of service available and how it works in practice | Are these services different than for other persons granted refugee status (not under resettlement)? |
|--|--------------------|---|---|--|--|
| Availability of interpreters/translation for reception and orientation sessions and appointments with service providers | Yes | Migration Office of the MoI SR, non-governmental organisation | During the persons' stay in the reception centre, the MO MoI SR arranged interpretation. After leaving the reception centre and transfer to Nitra, interpretation services have been arranged by the NGO. Interpretation services are provided as needed and are time unlimited, particularly during the first weeks after leaving the asylum facility. | Interpreters represent an important element of the process of integration of persons granted asylum; in some cases, they accompany the persons while visiting a doctor, interpret during joint orientation/information meetings, assist with communication with authorities, and are present in situations where understanding is very important. Interpreters are also present at sessions with psychologists or meetings concerning legal affairs. The NGO has 2 interpreters available. | If needed, interpretation is usually provided on the same basis as to all beneficiaries of international protection and under any integration project. |
| Other, please specify Accommodation | Yes | Non-governmental organisation | During the period of 3 years. | The NGO arranged appropriate accommodation for all families, which moved to their new homes immediately after leaving the reception centre. | Unlike other persons granted international protection, the non-profit organisation ensured for the persons admitted under humanitarian admission accommodation for a period of 3 years, and provides extra money to cover their basic subsistence needs. Under other integration projects, persons granted asylum or subsidiary protection receive a monthly allowance to cover the costs of accommodation and basic subsistence, and are assisted by the respective NGO in seeking appropriate accommodation. The allowances to cover these costs are, however, limited to the first 6 months after being granted international protection (with the possibility of extension in some cases). |

Q19a. What funding is made available specifically for resettlement or humanitarian admission, to whom is it made available, and how is this allocated?

Is there a monthly or annual fixed sum per resettled person or an overall annual budget regardless of the number of resettled persons? Please indicate whether this covers funding at national, regional and local level and to what extent the Member State relies on EU (AMIF) funding. Please clearly indicate whether this funding is available to all persons granted international protection by your Member State or is specific funding under resettlement or humanitarian admission programmes.

The project is funded from sponsorship on the basis of a contract with the NGO. The project funding by a foreign sponsor is primarily intended for the target group and serves to cover the costs of their accommodation and comprehensive services related to their integration in Slovakia (see also Section 3). The government covered the costs of accommodation in the reception centre, including food, basic sanitary items and pocket money. In addition, the government covers, during stay in the asylum facility and after granting asylum, access to free healthcare / access to public health insurance. Persons granted asylum were also provided a one-off benefit equal to 1,5-times the subsistence minimum which was covered from the state budget according to the legislation.

No AMIF funds have been used in this project.

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Q19b. Please indicate the annual funding available for resettlement or humanitarian admission (only resettlement activities until the arrival in the (Member) State, not including the budget/funding for after-arrival services). If funding is allocated as a fixed sum per resettled person please consider all funding that were allocated for all resettled persons. Please also indicate what the funding includes.

| | | | | | | |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <i>If yes, please indicate the quota</i> | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
| Budget for resettlement | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| What does it include? | N/A | | | | | |

The following set of questions concern the provision of information and cultural orientation.

Q20a. To what extent is information and cultural orientation provided to resettled persons/admitted under humanitarian admission programmes upon arrival? Please include the information in the table below and indicate to what extent the information and orientation provided under resettlement and humanitarian admission is different from the one provided to other persons granted international protection by your Member State.

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| <p>What information/cultural orientation is provided <i>e.g., community orientation, transportation and travel, overview of rights, role of the police, opening bank account, etc.</i></p> <p>Under cultural orientation, the persons are informed about, for example, Slovakia's political system, history, basic geographical information, women's status, food habits, buying food, or about how to draft a CV.</p> | <p>When is the information/cultural orientation provided <i>e.g.: upon arrival, during the first week/month etc.</i></p> <p>Cultural orientation is provided on arrival at the reception centre and later in the framework of the integration project.</p> | <p>Who provides the information/cultural orientation? <i>e.g., social worker, municipality officers, Police, etc</i></p> <p>In the reception centre, cultural orientation is provided by the NGO in the framework of its complementary services which include Slovak language instruction, cultural orientation, psychological counselling and other spare-time activities.</p> <p>During the integration process, cultural orientation is provided by the NGO as part of comprehensive integration services.</p> | <p>How is the information/cultural orientation provided <i>e.g., oral/written, leaflets, etc.</i></p> <p>Cultural orientation is provided in groups. However, social workers often provide orientation to asylum seekers on an individual basis.</p> | <p>Is the information/cultural orientation different from what is provided to other persons granted international protection (not under resettlement)?</p> <p>Cultural orientation is provided to all beneficiaries of international protection.</p> |
|---|---|--|---|---|

Q20b. How is the receiving community at local level prepared for the arrival of the resettled/admitted person(s) through the provision of information? Please indicate the type of information provided (oral or written information), the receivers of such information (local authority offices, schools, community centres) and how this information is spread.

Before the arrival of the admitted persons, the MO MoI SR invited the mayors of the towns and municipalities to which these persons were planned to be placed to a meeting with the aim to inform the mayors about the arrival of the persons to the Region of Nitra. Selected mayors and other representatives were acquainted with the asylum issues in Slovakia, the legal status of persons granted asylum and with the humanitarian admission project and the culture of the admitted persons. The aim of the meeting was to prepare the towns and municipalities for the admission and to ensure a transparent flow of information. Thanks to this meeting the MO MoI SR also found out in which municipalities it could expect a positive reception of the persons and, on the contrary, which of them did not show sufficient support. Hence, the admitted persons were not placed in those municipalities in which the MO MoI SR observed a lack of willingness by the mayors to actively support their arrival.

Based on the request of some mayors, the MO MoI SR visited some municipalities in order to meet with the mayors individually and to provide more information to the municipality staff.

In addition, a meeting with the representatives of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic was organised before the group's arrival in the Nitra region in order to facilitate children's integration with regard to compulsory school attendance and the education system.

Q20c. How are government officials, municipalities, local NGOs, citizens and other people at local level informed/trained on how to deal with the arrival of resettled/admitted persons? Who provides and who receives this information/training, how is it provided and what qualification/background does the training staff have?

The arrival of the group in the region met with various reactions. Civil servants and municipal authorities are not used to high numbers of foreigners, mainly of Arabic origin. Special training focused on works with the target group at all levels is not a common practice yet given the low numbers of foreigners and persons granted asylum in Slovakia. In spite of being established just recently, the NGO which implements the project sought to prepare itself for the arrival of the group by attending training organised by another NGO with long-year experience in the integration of beneficiaries of international protection and in collaborating with the MoI SR on a contractual basis in the provision of comprehensive services to all those granted asylum or subsidiary protection on the basis of individual lodging of the asylum application upon entering the Slovak territory.

2.4 MEMBER STATES WITHOUT OR CURRENTLY SETTING UP A RESETTLEMENT OR HUMANITARIAN ADMISSION PROGRAMME

Member States that currently do not have a resettlement or humanitarian admission programme might be interested in having such a programme or have specific reasons why they currently are not able or do not wish to set up such a programme. The questions below will explore in further details Member States' considerations.

Q21. Are there any plans to establish such a programme in the foreseeable future? Yes / No (Please substantiate your answer below.)

No. At present, Slovakia does not have any plan to set up a standard resettlement programme or any other humanitarian admission programme.

Q22. Is there a debate in your Member State about whether to set-up a resettlement programme? Please indicate the pros and cons presented whether or not to have a national resettlement programme

No. No debates are currently held in Slovakia about setting up a national resettlement programme and about the potential pros and cons of such a programme.

Q23. Please indicate what the current status of your resettlement programme is, what is the time-frame for carrying out the first resettlement activities and what are the challenges/obstacles/difficulties in setting up a resettlement programme? E.g.: *not a priority, legal obstacles; limited support base for resettlement in society; limited or insufficient technical know-how on how to set-up a resettlement programme; limited or insufficient public human resources; limited or insufficient public financial resources; limited resources for the reception and integration of resettled persons at local level.*

Slovakia made a political commitment to resettle 100 persons on a voluntary basis; however, the specific time frame and the proposal for the steps to be taken are not available for the moment.

SECTION 3: NATIONAL LEGISLATION AND POLICIES ON PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMMES

In light of the discussion on safe and legal ways for refugees to reach EU territory, private sponsorship is often not considered in the EU. Private sponsorship programmes shift primary responsibility for assisting refugees (pre-departure and post-arrival) from the government to private actors (including International Organisations, NGOs, etc.). These private sponsors usually accept a degree of responsibility, either financial, material or other, for the resettled person, for a certain period of time. Often they are able to select or indicate the persons they would like to sponsor for resettlement, but decision-making remains the exclusive competence of the relevant government authorities. Private sponsorship in this Study therefore only concerns those programmes where final decision-making lies with relevant government authorities. Note: in some Member States, Humanitarian Admission Programmes may

contain an element of private sponsorship (e.g., by a family member). These elements should be reported primarily in section 2 and, where applicable, can be cross-referred here in section 3.

Q24. Does or did your Member State have a private sponsorship programme for enabling resettlement of third country nationals? If yes, are they permanent programmes or rather ad-hoc?

Yes. In the Slovak context, the given type of resettlement programme can be considered a combination of humanitarian admission and sponsorship programme given the fact that the humanitarian admission was funded by a third party/sponsor. This means that the non-profit organisation carries financial and material responsibility for the admitted persons and has own funds to provide comprehensive integration services during a period of three years, i.e. throughout the integration project duration. As noted above, this programme is an ad-hoc programme.

Q26a. Is your Member State considering to set up/repeat a private sponsorship programme? Please indicate what are reasons for having or not having/repeating such a programme. (e.g. practical obstacles (such as access to reception, housing, integration services, social support) or indication of lack of interest in private sponsorship, limited or insufficient technical know-how, limited or insufficient public human resources, limited or insufficient public financial resources, etc.)

For the moment, Slovakia is not considering to set up/repeat such a programme.

Q26b. If your Member State is interested in setting up such a programme for the first time, what is of particular importance to consider in setting up a private sponsorship programme? (e.g. technical support from other (Member) States currently having such a programme, handbooks/manuals/toolkits, relevant European or international fora for discussing private sponsorship). **N/A**

The below questions are to be answered by Member States that currently have or had in the recent past a private sponsorship programme, either permanent or ad-hoc.

Q27. Please indicate what are or were the main objectives of the private sponsorship programme? (e.g. increase possibilities for resettlement, increase national quota for resettlement, provide avenues for legal migration, provide legal avenues for expanding the concept of family reunification, etc.)

The main objective of the humanitarian admission, carried out on a voluntary basis and financed from sponsorship, was to save a group of persecuted Iraqi Christians. Another objective was to release the pressures on overcrowded refugee camps. The sponsor partners were willing to help this particular group of people to build a new life by transferring them to a safe country and through their subsequent integration.

Q28. Please indicate the main characteristics of the private sponsorship programme by completing the table below.

| Question | Answer |
|---|---|
| When was the sponsorship programme started/when did it run? | N/A |
| Who can sponsor a resettled person? <i>(e.g., Citizens or permanent residents, groups of persons, NGOs, universities, other organisations or companies)</i> | In Slovakia, the provision of funds for the integration of persons granted asylum is possible on the basis of an agreement between a non-profit organisation and a foreign sponsor. The sponsorship of integration services and general assistance to beneficiaries of international protection is only possible by means of a third party, i.e. a non-profit organisation working with the target group on the basis of an agreement with the MoI SR. The MoI SR as a state authority is not allowed to receive this kind of sponsorship. Since financial support by the government is limited to a certain extent, the MoI MO SR as the technical sponsor of integration projects welcomes such funding initiatives as they enhance the quality of integration as well as living conditions of beneficiaries of international protection in question. |
| Who can be sponsored? <i>(i.e. All nationalities or only specific nationalities (i.e. Syrians))</i> | The foreign partners that provide financial coverage of the costs of integration chose a specific group of persecuted Iraqi Christians who were admitted by Slovakia. |
| Were (international) organisations involved in setting-up the programme? | No |
| How does the selection/preference process works? | The persons proposed to be admitted were primarily selected by a spiritual leader who provided a refuge to them in Erbil in collaboration with foreign partners who are involved in humanitarian transfers of persons from Middle East countries and who selected this particular group and arranged the financial coverage of the entire process. |
| Does the sponsored person need to be recognised as refugee by UNHCR or a third country? | No |
| Does the sponsored person need to be in their country of origin or | No |

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| Question | Answer |
|---|---|
| can they also be somewhere else (another third country)? | |
| Can only one person be sponsored at a time or more than one (family)? | N/A |
| Which persons can or cannot be sponsored through the programme? <i>(low-skilled persons, high-skilled persons, persons with medical need, family members of persons already residing in the Member State,)</i> | Under the respective humanitarian admission programme, all persons were sponsored in the same manner as a group, without distinction. |
| Is the sponsorship programme permanent or temporary? <i>(for the latter, only a short period of time in which sponsorship was possible)</i> | Ad- hoc |
| How does the sponsored person enter the Member States? (directly, indirectly) | N/A |
| Is a family link with the sponsor needed? | No |
| Duration of obligations of sponsorship (in months or years)? | 3 years |
| What status is granted to the sponsored resettled person or family? | Humanitarian asylum |
| Is there an annual quota for persons that can be resettled through a private sponsorship programme? | No |
| Is the quota in addition to the resettlement quota? | N/A |

Q29. What are the obligations of the sponsor?

| Question | Answer (Yes/No) | Amount in euro, and further details |
|---|-----------------|---|
| Is there a minimum income requirement for the sponsor? | N/A | N/A |
| Does the sponsor need to cover the visa fee? | No | N/A |
| Does the sponsor need to cover the airfare/travel to the Member State? | Yes | The transfer from Erbil to Slovakia was covered by the sponsor. The amount cannot be specified. |
| Does the sponsor need to cover the cost of medical exams and other medical costs? | No | N/A |
| Does the sponsor need to cover housing expenses? | Yes | The amount cannot be specified. |
| Does the sponsor need to cover household expenses? | Yes | The amount cannot be specified. |
| Does the sponsor need to provide other types of economic/social support? | Yes | A monthly allowance of 100 euros per person is currently provided to cover basic subsistence. The amount of this allowance will be gradually reduced during the 3-year period. Accommodation expenses are covered separately. In addition, the non-profit organisation obtained sponsorship for setting up a fund for senior people, as persons granted asylum are unable to prove the number of years worked in their country of origin or in another |

| Question | Answer (Yes/No) | Amount in euro, and further details |
|--|-----------------|--|
| | | country and do not have any years worked in Slovakia, as a result of which they are not entitled to a pension. |
| Does the sponsor need to cover administrative fees or costs? (Registration, contributions to ensure access to the health care system, social security, education). | Yes | N/A |
| Other obligations of sponsor | N/A | The non-profit organisation has a contractual relationship with the sponsor partner, which represents a special mechanism of co-operation. |
| If other, please specify | | |

Q30a. Are there consequences for a private sponsor not being able to meet support requirements? Can the sponsor turn to the government for support?

The project implementation falls under the responsibility of the non-governmental organisation which has a contractual relationship with the sponsor partner. What is relevant to the MO MoI SR is the fulfilment of the NGO's commitments, i.e. the MO MoI SR monitors the technical aspects of the NGO's activities and provides guidance. In the event of a failure or non-compliance with the duties set within the provision of comprehensive integration services by the NGO, which has a contractual relationship with the MoI SR, the NGO can be replaced, under the most serious circumstances, by another NGO. Failure to fulfil the commitments can also result from a lack of funds to cover accommodation and related services provided under the integration project. The parties therefore agreed on the basis of the Co-operation Contract between the MoI SR, the NGO and the dioceses that in the event of a serious failure by the sponsored NGO the financial responsibility for the integration will be taken over by the diocese.

Q30b. Do persons resettled through private sponsorship have access to the same (integration) support actions and measures available to persons resettled under the government resettlement programme? (i.e. support with accessing education and vocational training, access to language training, access to skills and job training, job finding support)

N/A, as Slovakia does not have in place any other state resettlement programme.

Q31a. What happens when the sponsorship programme ends? Is there a minimum timeframe established by national legislation to maintain the sponsorship?

No. The project funding is limited to a 3-year period.

Q31b. How is the private sponsorship programme monitored and evaluated?

The MoI SR entered co-operation with the non-governmental organisation ensuring the target group's integration under the trilateral agreement between the MoI SR, the selected diocese and the respective NGO, on the basis of which the NGO undertakes to duly fulfil the set duties. The MO MoI SR monitors the NGO's activities and provides guidance to improve and facilitate the provision of services to persons granted asylum. In certain situations, the MO MoI SR also provides counselling concerning the integration of beneficiaries of international protection. The MO MoI SR, however, does not have any contractual relationship with the sponsor and has therefore no competencies to monitor the fulfilment of the NGO's obligations towards the sponsor.

SECTION 4: EVALUATIONS AND IDENTIFIED CHALLENGES, GOOD PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNT

Section 4.1 examines the existing challenges and obstacles for the design and implementation of specific policies on resettlement. EMN NCPs may also report on any challenges /barriers reported for resettling third-country nationals if available through available studies / evaluations.

Section 4.2 aims to highlight any good practices of the (Member) States that have successfully implemented and managed resettled third country nationals through their resettlement or humanitarian admission programmes.

This section can include also lessons learnt from the practical implementation of specific policies, programmes or schemes in resettlement: lessons learnt may address also assessments of the expected and/or unintended (positive and negative) consequences of specific measures.

In principle only those Member States that have or have had resettlement or humanitarian admission programmes are asked to fill out this Section.

SECTION 4.1: CHALLENGES AND OBSTACLES FOR DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMMES AND/OR HUMANITARIAN ADMISSION PROGRAMMES

Q32. Are you aware of any evaluations at national, regional or local level of resettlement programmes and/or humanitarian admission programmes in your Member State from 2011? If so, what were the main findings? Evaluations could concern the design and implementation of resettlement programmes, pre-departure, post-arrival, integration, etc. N/A

Q33. In your Member State, have any practical challenges/obstacles related to designing, implementing and running resettlement /humanitarian admission programmes been identified? *(This could concern the time it takes to actually resettle a person, administrative obstacles including obtaining travel documents and visa, challenges in working with third countries and their authorities). Source can include evaluations, stakeholder interviews, etc.*

| Phase | Challenges (if any) |
|---|--|
| <i>Pre-departure and departure (including identification and selection)</i> | On the basis of the experience, it can be concluded that the major challenge is to make the expectations before arrival in the country of destination realistic through the provision of as accurate and objective information about the country of destination as possible. It is very important that the persons to be admitted have a clear and accurate idea about what they can expect upon their arrival in the country. Under all circumstances they must be informed about the cultural specificities, the economic reality and available job possibilities. A single piece of inaccurate information provided before arrival is enough to break trust. It is often very hard to restore confidence. |
| <i>Arrival and post-arrival (including integration)</i> | The preparation of the required capacities after arrival in the country of destination and involvement of appropriate staff with sufficient experience in working with foreigners and vulnerable groups always represent a challenge. Another challenge is the often uneasy communication with self-governments during preparations for the arrival of persons. |
| Others, please specify. | |

SECTION 4.2: GOOD PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNT

Q34a. If there are specific examples of good practices or lessons learnt of the resettlement programme in your Member States worth highlighting, please fill in the box below. These can include priorities, types of information necessary for a successful resettlement programme, do's and don't's, etc. *Source can include evaluations, stakeholder interviews, etc. N/A*

Q34b. If there are specific examples of good practices or lessons learnt of the humanitarian admission programme in your Member States worth highlighting, please fill in the box below. *Source can include evaluations, stakeholder interviews, etc.*

First of all, it is very important to ensure that the persons to be admitted have realistic expectations about the country of destination before arrival. This cannot be achieved only by conducting an interview or organising a cultural orientation lecture but it is of a key importance to provide written information translated in the language the given person understands. What also proved to be effective was written consent to all the information concerning the country of destination and to their transfer to the country of destination under the existing conditions. The information provided to persons must be very accurate and as realistic as possible. It is not possible to promise what cannot be guaranteed.

Another important factor influencing the project's development is professionalism of the organisations involved. Resettlement, including integration, must not be carried out by enthusiasts; it is always necessary to ensure a professional approach by social workers and an experienced project manager, especially in the case of arrival of a larger group.

Regarding the integration process, it is necessary to clearly set the limits between social workers and their clients which must not be exceeded. Persons granted asylum must gradually become independent and should therefore not be dependent on being accompanied constantly by social workers while visiting authorities or a doctor. It is also important to ensure sufficient financial coverage by the government, as it is not always very effective to rely exclusively on donations, sponsor partners, the Church or EU funds.

Existence of an integration programme should be an assurance of the admitting country, i.e. services and financial contributions provided by the government in a standardised and systemic manner. Also, the role of the Church in the integration process should be complementary, and not determining. Another important point is early information. Wherever possible, the preparation of integration plans should be launched before the group's arrival in the country of destination. If this is not possible, it should be ensured immediately upon arrival.

And finally, media coverage of any resettlement or humanitarian admission of a particular group of persons should be prevented in order to respect their privacy. At the same time, it is necessary to work with the media in order to ensure publishing of objective information on migration and asylum issues.

Statistics

Statistics on resettlement available on Eurostat will be used for the synthesis report. However, for humanitarian admission programmes no such data is available and for those Member States that have such programmes, data would need to be collected at national level.

Table A.1: National Statistics

| Indicator | Year | | | | | Source | Method used to reach the estimates, as well as any caveats as to their likely accuracy |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--|
| | 2011 (total) | 2012 (total) | 2013 (total) | 2014 (total) | 2015 (total) | | |
| Total number of persons resettled under the humanitarian admission programme (where possibly disaggregated by sex, age, citizenship and country of transit). <i>This data is additional the data available on Eurostat</i> | | | | | 149 | MO MoI SR | |
| Total number of persons resettled by country of transit | | | | | | | |
| Total number of persons resettled under the private sponsorship programme | | | | | | | |