

# Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Programmes in Europe – what works?

**A Study from the European Migration Network 2016**

Presentation at hearing on resettlement  
**European Parliament, LIBE Committee**  
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# Rationale and aims of the study

## Background rationale:

- Increasing number of refugees worldwide
- Chaotic situation in EU, exceptional migratory pressures, irregular and dangerous refugee journeys to Europe
- New and more legal pathways to protection needed

## Study aims:

- Map resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes across the EU and Norway
- Obtain insights into how these programmes work
- Investigate new developments
- Provide overview of challenges and lessons learnt
- In addition: Map private sponsorship schemes

# Study formats

## Synthesis report (61 pages):

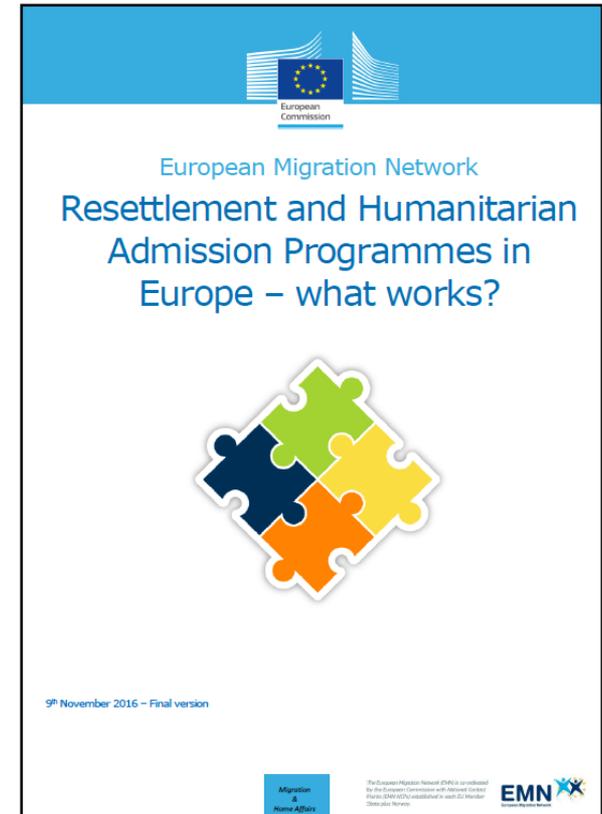
[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european\\_migration\\_network/reports/docs/emn-studies/emn-studies-00\\_resettlement\\_synthesis\\_report\\_final\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/emn-studies/emn-studies-00_resettlement_synthesis_report_final_en.pdf)

## Summary (EMN Inform, 8 pages)

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european\\_migration\\_network/reports/docs/emn-informs/emn-informs-00\\_inform\\_resettlement\\_final\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/emn-informs/emn-informs-00_inform_resettlement_final_en.pdf)

## National reports (24 countries)

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european\\_migration\\_network/reports/studies/results/asylum/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/studies/results/asylum/index_en.htm)



# Participating countries and definitions

## Study covers 23 EU Member States and Norway

- Not covered: Denmark, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Greece

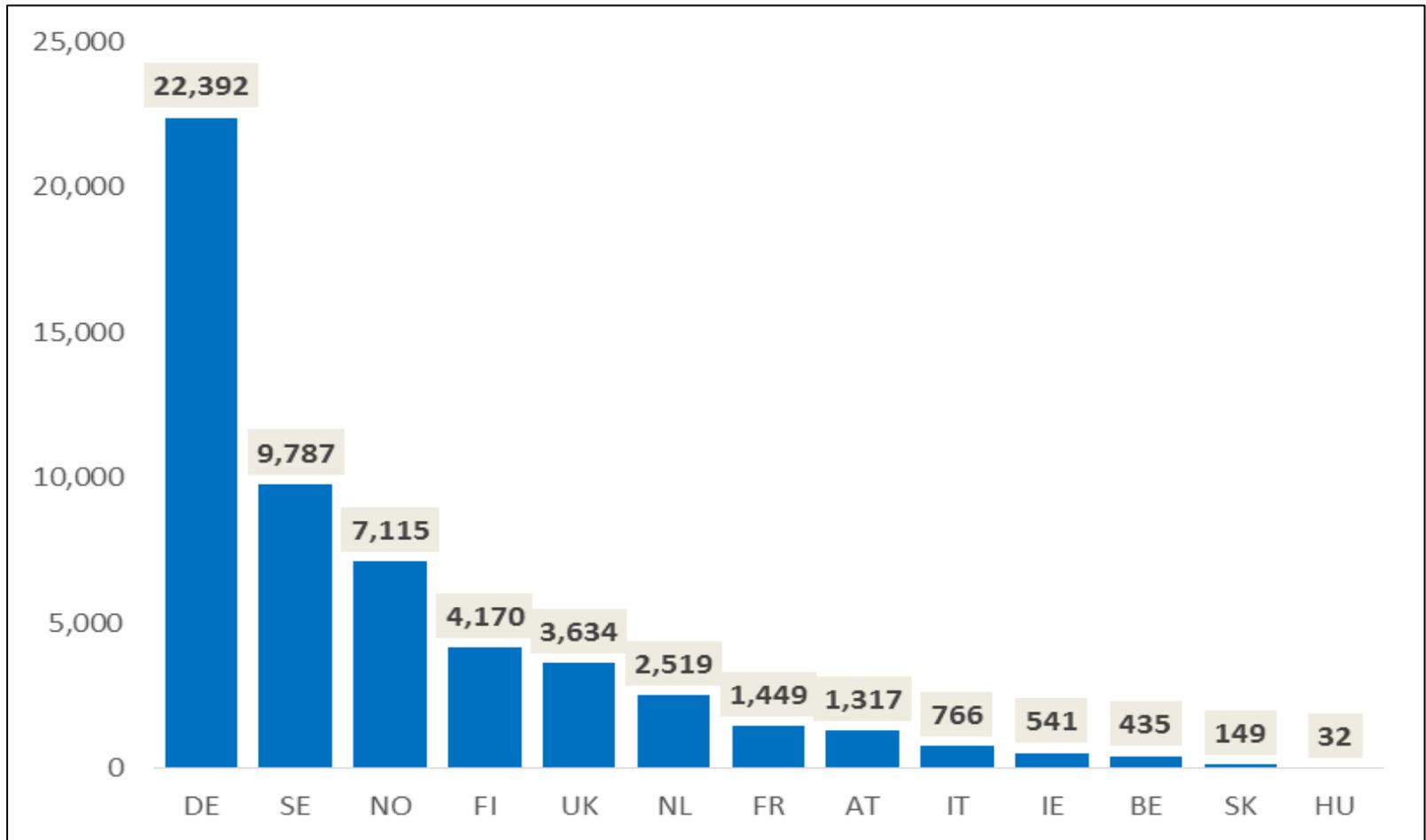
### Definition “resettlement”:

- Transfer of a third country national or stateless person, on request from UNHCR and based on the need for international protection, from a third country to a Member State where they are permitted to reside with refugee status or a similar status

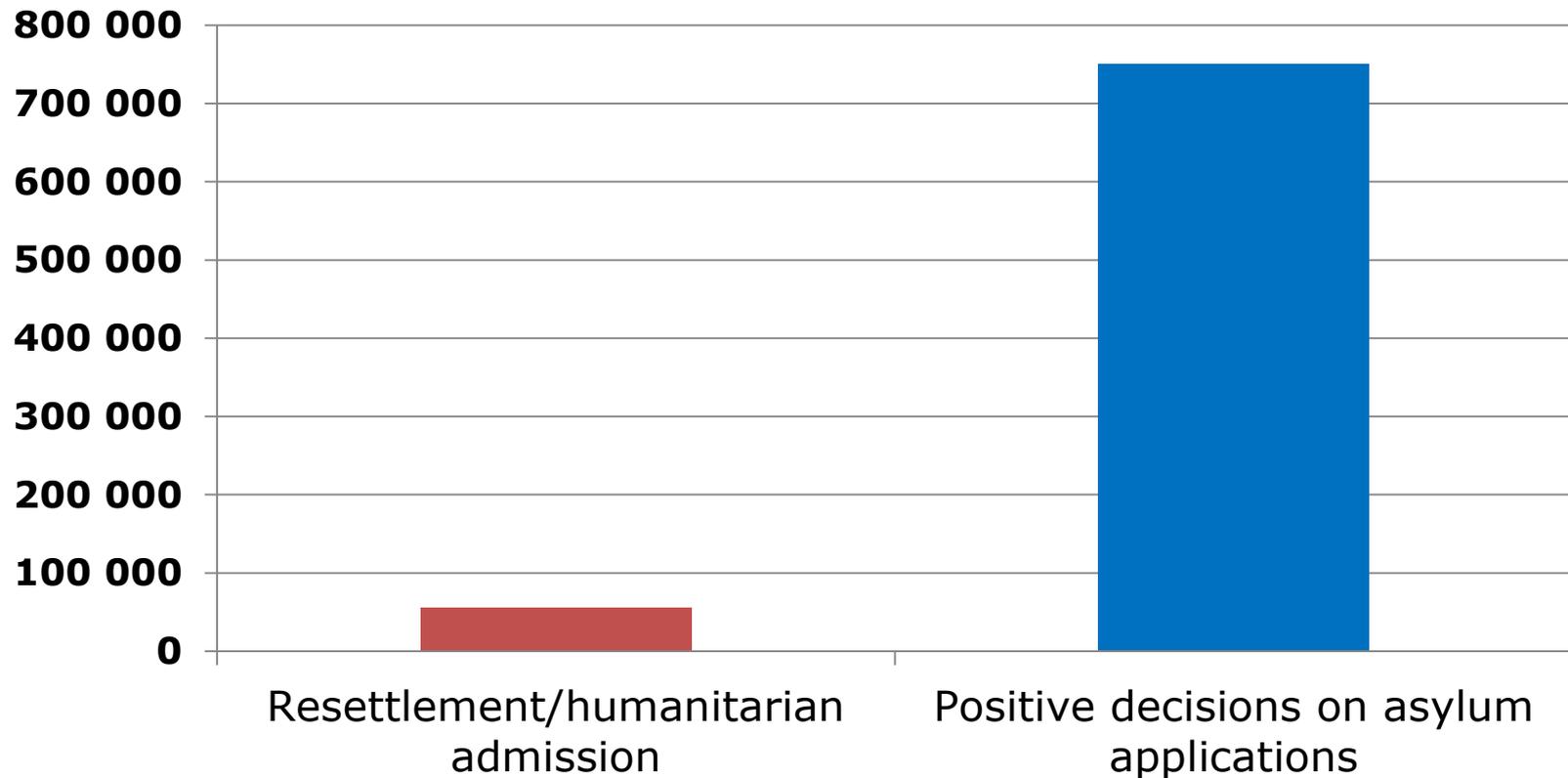
### Definition “humanitarian admission”:

- No definition, but in the context of the study defined as schemes similar to resettlement, but for varying reasons do not fully adhere to the definition of resettlement

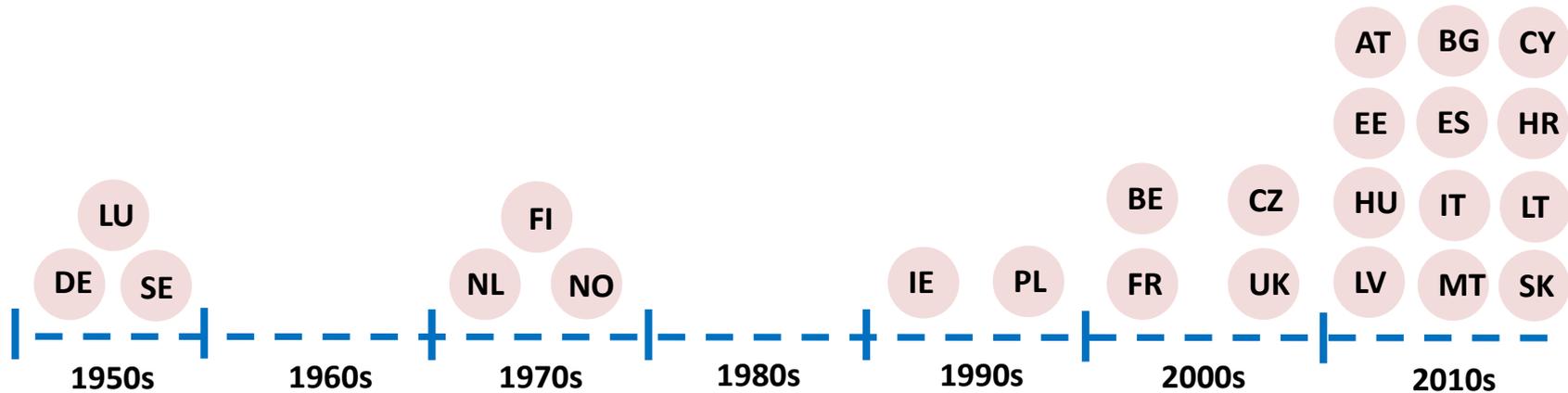
# Refugees resettled or admitted through humanitarian admission, 2011-2015



# Refugees resettled/admitted to EU, compared to asylum seekers granted protection 2011-2015

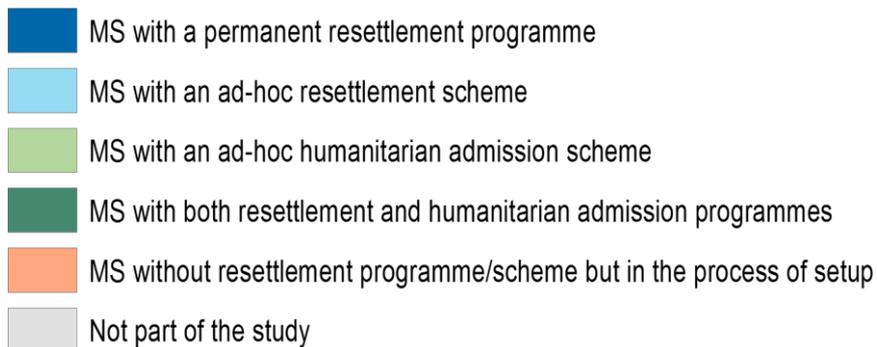


# When were resettlement or humanitarian admission programmes introduced?





- **Permanent resettlement programme:** BE, BG, ES, FI, IT, NL, SE, NO
- **Both resettlement and humanitarian admission:** AT, CZ, DE, IE, UK
- **Ad-hoc resettlement or humanitarian admission:** AT, HU, LU, PL, SK
- **In the process of starting up resettlement schemes:** CY, HR, LT, LV, MT



# Basic comparison between countries

- **17 Member States** and **Norway** have in place **resettlement** or **humanitarian admission** programmes, or have had them in the past, while **6 MS do not (yet) have experience** with resettlement or humanitarian admission
- While the **main objectives of Member States' schemes are similar** (providing protection, help countries of first refuge, “durable solution” for refugees), their characteristics vary (type of scheme, use of quota, selection priorities, methods)

# Selection methods and status of beneficiaries

- **UNHCR identifies** candidates for resettlement, while **MS' authorities take the final decision** on resettlement (selection missions, dossier-based selection, or both)
- Generally, resettlement means that a person must have been **recognised as a refugee by the UNHCR before admission**. Some MS accept beneficiaries of subsidiary protection, too. Some re-assess protection claim before admission, other do not (relying only on the UNHCR)
- Humanitarian admission can be without prior UNHCR assessment and/or temporary instead of permanent

# Additional selection criteria and prioritisation

- Some MS use **additional criteria for selecting beneficiaries**, in addition to UNHCR assessment, such as:
  - Type and degree of **vulnerability** (survivors of violence and/or torture, persons in need of medical assistance)
  - **age** (elderly persons/children), **single mothers**
  - **family unity** and pre-existing **links to the Member State**
  - **integration potential**
- **Exclusion criteria** or **de-prioritisation** approaches are also used in some MS
- Some MS have **emergency quota** within overall resettlement quota (e.g. NL, SE, FI)

# Status granted, quotas, and geographical priorities

- Most Member States grant **resettled refugees** and **beneficiaries of protection** who have come as asylum seekers the **same (or a similar) status**, but accommodation/housing provisions and integration arrangements can differ between these groups
- The majority of States set **annual or multi-annual quota** for resettlement
- Most MS use **geographical priorities** regarding from where to resettle. Focus on Syrians

# Post-arrival situation

- Some MS accommodate resettled refugees in **reception** or transit **centres** before they are assigned **permanent housing**, others arrange permanent housing immediately
- All MS have integration arrangements (benefits, language course, access to labour market) in place, but there is great variation
- Some MS have an internal **distribution/allocation mechanism** in place within their MS, others do not

# Private sponsorship

- Only five Member States have **formal private sponsorship programmes (very small numbers, except Germany)**
  - 2011-2015: Total of 21,500 persons admitted to Germany, 294 to Italy, 157 to Poland, 149 to Slovak Republic and 119 to Ireland
  - Private sponsorship often resembles family reunification (DE, IE) or has religious component (PL, SK)
- Thus, **experience is limited**, but some countries are interested

# Challenges

## ■ **Pre-departure:**

- Long selection procedures and delayed transfers
- Logistical obstacles or security risks in third countries
- Provide pre-departure information and orientation, manage expectations among candidates

## ■ **Arrival and post-arrival:**

- Arrange accommodation
- Arrange language courses
- Meeting needs for special support
- Provide employment opportunities

# How address these challenges?

- Good co-ordination between authorities needed
- Provide adequate and realistic information and sufficient cultural orientation to prepare beneficiaries and manage their expectations
- Improve housing situation in destination country and provide permanent accommodation directly upon arrival
- Enhance role of local communities and volunteers – do not abandon resettled refugees after their arrival. Provide peer support by other refugees

# Overall conclusions

- Commitments and pledges have increased, but resettlement is still very small. Too small to function as an alternative to irregular entry and territorial asylum?
- Promote resettlement as an orderly process, involve municipalities, highlight positive experiences
- Explore private sponsorship?

# Thank you!



For more information, please contact:

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