



## EUROCITIES - GRSI webinar

Community sponsorship of refugees -  
How can cities be involved?

25 June 2020, 10:00-11:30 CET, via Microsoft Teams

Register [here](#)

Global Refugee  
Sponsorship Initiative

### Participants

This webinar is intended for city officials that are working on the topics of asylum, migration and integration and/or are interested in alternative pathways to protection for refugees.

### Objective

As forced displacement continues to increase worldwide, UNHCR has identified more than 1.44 million refugees in need of resettlement in 2020. However, these needs far outnumber the pledges effectuated through state resettlement programmes with fewer than 1% of refugees likely to be resettled.

In this context, community sponsorship programmes offer an additional opportunity for those in need of protection. They allow citizen groups to directly engage in refugee resettlement efforts and enable cities to work in close partnership with communities in resettling refugees. Cities can provide support to the community and sponsored refugees from arrival to settlement and integration and have an important stake in including refugees in society.

Community sponsorship programmes focus on three objectives:

- 1) Increase refugee resettlement opportunities and improve refugee integration outcomes
- 2) Strengthen local host communities
- 3) Promote welcoming and inclusive societies

This webinar, jointly organised by EUROCITIES and the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative (GRSI), will focus on how cities can become more involved in community sponsorship programmes. Participants will have a chance to hear about experiences and challenges from the ground - both from city authorities and sponsors themselves. The webinar will be an opportunity for cities to discuss their questions and explore how they can become involved in community sponsorship programmes themselves.

### Agenda

10.00	Welcome and introduction by EUROCITIES
10.05-10.10	Video on community sponsorship
10.10-10.35	What is community sponsorship - David Manicom, UNHCR State of play in Europe - Giulio Di Blasi, Refugee Hub-GRSI A sponsorship program explained - Gemma Barlow, UK Home Office The role of local authorities - Anne James, Bristol, & Natasha Bhandal, Birmingham
10.35-10.45	Experiences with community sponsorship - 2 sponsor voices
10.45-11.15	Q&A and discussion with cities
11.15-11.30	Concluding remarks and next steps - EUROCITIES - Mary Coulter, Mission of Canada to the European Union

Registration is mandatory. Register [here](#) to receive an email with the access link.



*This online event has received financial support from the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation "EaSI" (2014-2020). For further information please consult: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/easi>*

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