

International Rescue Committee European Resettlement & Integration Technical Assistance

Countering misinformation: The importance of refugee and migrant participation and civic engagement during COVID-19

July 6, 2021

It is important that resettlement agencies review each affiliate's strategy to ensure it aligns with the intent of supporting refugee integration and consider:

- Is the strategy based on aspects of integration to support refugee participation in civic life, i.e., what are the integration gaps or needs?
- Does the strategy have an overarching goal?
- While integration is a long-term process that extends well beyond the Reception and Placement (R&P) period, local resettlement affiliates can focus on those aspects that begin the process e.g. how are refugee youth incorporated into schools? Are their parents involved? Are refugees in housing that is integrated in the larger community?

Considerations for Assessing Strategies for Refugee Participation to Support Integration

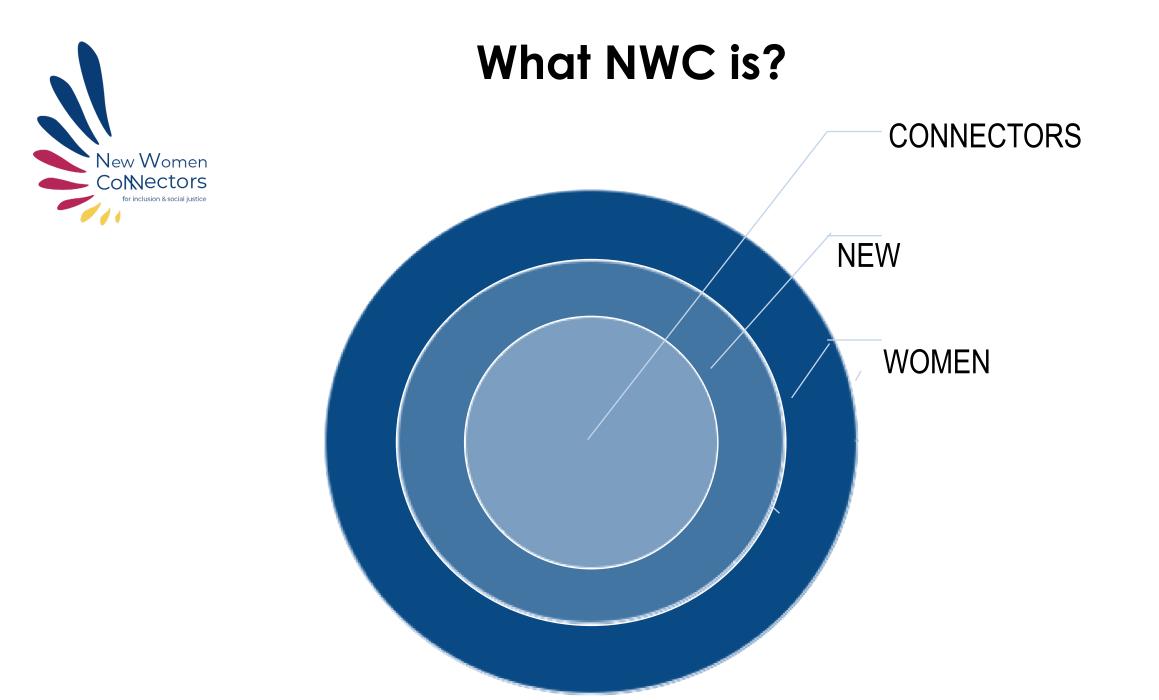
<u>Resource</u>

An excellent resource for ideas around integration, and specifically supporting refugee participation in civic life, can be found in the Welcoming America's "<u>Welcoming Standard</u>".



• Women led platform Expert and advisors with migrant and refugee-background.







Expert Group on views on Migrants

Why us?

Absensce of affected groups in policy and -decision making. (limited Gender lens)



Works to increase the participation of migrants and refugees policy-making processes.

Little to no meaningful participation of (women)refugees and migrants.





What do you mean with inclusion?

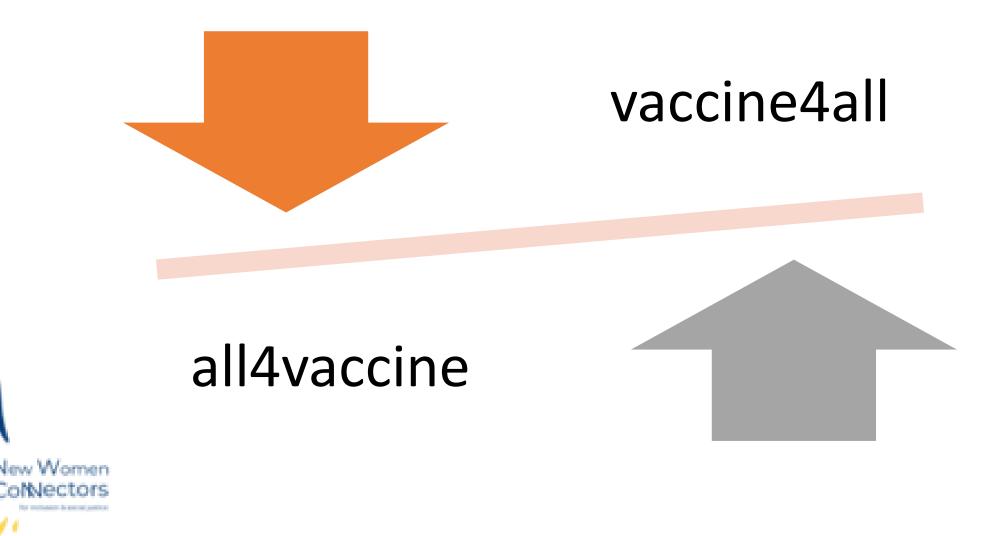




| Representing | representing immigrants & refugees interest in Europe in policy debates and processes on local, national and European levels. |
|----------------------|---|
| Ensuring & promoting | ensuring & promoting immigrants' & refugees' access to rights in their communities in Europe. |
| Contributing | contributing to building a positive & empowering narrative about immigration & asylum. |



A two-fold approach





vaccine4all

Leave no one behind

| | Vaccination strategy & different risk groups | Free of charge | No documents needed | Informative hotline or website | Website not only in English & the national language | Factsheets available in various languages | Online registration available |
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General Standards for Reception and Integration in the EU





2013

Directive 2013/33/EU: Standards for the reception of applicants for international protection

• Content: Access, Special needs, Rules regarding detention

2021–2027

Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021 – 2027

- Promoting inclusion for all
- Content regarding Health: Rights and Access



All4vaccine

Acceptance of Vaccination

Representation Matters







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6 July 2021



SHARE Participation

Approach, good practice & opportunities at a time of Covid-19





The SHARE Network

- Created in 2012;
- Promoting partnerships for refugee inclusion in local communities across Europe;
- To date, the SHARE Network has engaged 4,000 stakeholders in 27 EU countries in dialogue, capacity-building and advocacy;
- Scope: orientation and integration for refugees and migrants in rural areas and communitybased sponsorship.





How we work

- Fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships (between national, regional and local), taking account of multilevel governance frameworks;
- Inclusive territories, to acknowledge the importance of the regional and local level for successful settlement and early integration;
- Advocacy on increasing resettlement and complementary pathways as well as fostering solidarity, welcoming communities and early integration in rural areas;
- **Refugee and migrant participation** in regional and local integration frameworks, especially in the evaluation of practices and piloting of co-design of local integration programmes.



Participation: a triple win

Refugees and migrants

Organisations and authorities working with refugees and migrants

Policy and decision-makers



Refugee and migrant participation

- Refugee and migrant participation in policymaking, governance, and designing, implementing and evaluating actions for integration;
- First step SHARE Network webinar 'Participation & co-creation for refugee & migrant integration in the EU' (15 December 2020)
- Downloadable tools: SHARE Ladder of Participation & 10 Key Principles for Refugee & Migrant Participation (<u>www.resettlement.eu</u>)





SHARE Network: Ladder of Participation (Refugee & Migrant Integration)*

| DOING TOGETHER Equal decision-makers | Organisational governance & decision-making | Refugees and migrants are members of: Organisational Boards and management committees. Strategic meetings. Statutory consultative and policymaking bodies. | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| | Refugee & migrant-led organisations | Associations and public authorities provide: Direct funding. Legal & administrative support. Skills development opportunities. Access to professional and policy networks. Formal partnerships. | | |
| DOING WITH In an equal & reciprocal relationship | Co-creation | Refugees and migrants are: Partners in designing, implementing and evaluating integration actions Act as volunteers or with some form of financial compensation. | | |
| DOING FOR Engaging and involving people | Consultation Informing | Satisfaction surveys. Focus & discussion groups. Feedback & suggestion mechanisms. | | |

* adapted from 'Ladder of co-production', Think Local Act Personal, 2015



SHARE Network:

10 Key Principles for Refugee & Migrant Participation

- 1. Refugees and migrants are 'experts of their own experience', with unique knowledge and perspectives that can improve integration programmes and policies.
- 2. Sustained and not ad-hoc involvement, wherever possible.
- Dedicated budgets for participation (policymakers and authorities/organisations working directly with refugees and migrants).
- 4. Preparation before participation (through skills development and professional orientation).
- 5. Interpretation and translation support tailored to the language needs of participating refugees and migrants.
- 6. Gender sensitive approach to ensure the inclusion of refugee women and girls in participatory activities.
- 7. Refugee and migrants facilitate training and capacity-building for professionals and volunteers facilitated.
- 8. Peer support and mentoring for refugees and migrants engaging in participatory work, wherever possible.
- Refugee/migrant participation as a core evaluation criteria for all activities, programmes and policymaking designed to benefit them.
- 10.Compensation for refugees and migrants engaging in participatory work as far as possible, while acknowledging the value of volunteering (especially for vulnerable groups).



How we do it, together

- By promoting and supporting co-creation approaches for integration across the SHARE Network;
- By **advocating** for the inclusion of participatory approaches for integration and inclusion in relevant EU policy and funding instruments, and in the implementation of EU funds at national level;
- By **developing and piloting** participatory and co-creation approaches for refugee and migrant integration and inclusion;
- By **identifying and disseminating** best practice and lessons learned in refugee and migrant participation in the EU (Covid-19 research);
- By facilitating the participation of SHARE refugee and migrant ambassadors in advocacy and policy discussions.





INTEGRATION TRAJECTORY IS PRE-DEFINED AND NOT CO-CREATED PERSONAL AVAILABILITIES AND ASPIRATIONS

FORM OF COMPENSATION AND FUNDING

Challenges

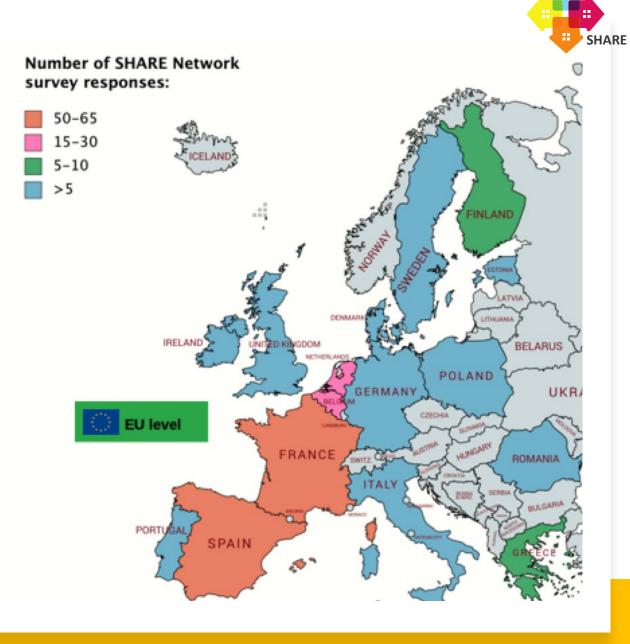


BALANCING ADVOCACY WITH CRITICAL VOICES

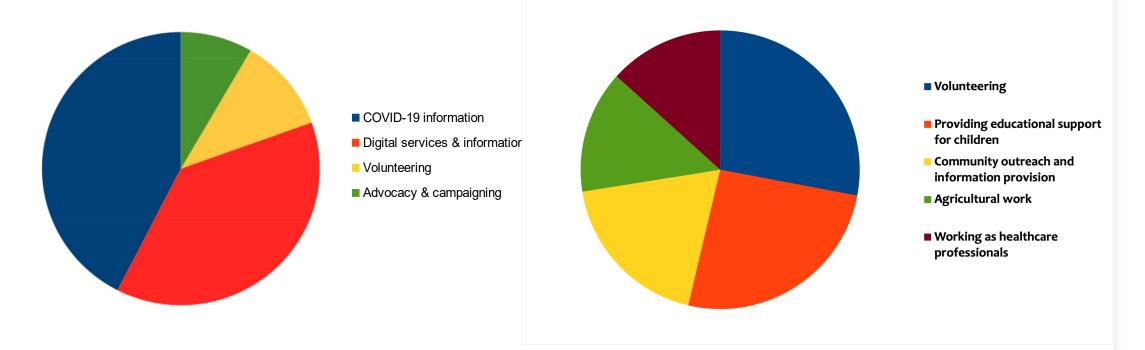
ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL APPROACH VS DIVERSITY OF VOICES

SHARE survey on Covid-19

- Map the impact of COVID-19 on welcome and integration for refugees and migrants across the EU.
- Map welcome and integration responses to COVID-19 and identify best practice that can be taken forward in the pandemic recovery.
- Online survey (8 EU languages), accompanying desk research and interviews (October 2020-January 2021).
- Formal collaboration with Entraide Pierre Valdo (France) & CEPAIM (Spain) - SHARE TI



Areas of work in which respondents have implemented specific responses to manage the impact of COVID-19 Ways in which asylum seekers, refugees and migrants have been involved in pandemic responses across European territories and communities

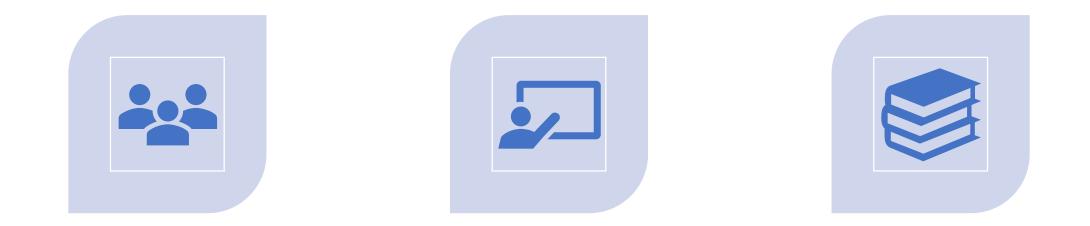


Responses to COVID-19





Next steps



PARTICIPATION STRATEGY FOR THE NETWORK SECOND WEBINAR AT THE END OF THE YEAR DEVELOPMENT OF CO-DESIGN TRAINING MODULE



Marika Carlucci, <u>carlucci@icmc.net</u> Junior Project Officer ICMC Europe

www.resettlement.eu Follow us on Twitter at @ShareNetwork3

Thank you!

Participatory decision-making in refugee policy:

Best practices and future opportunities

REFUGEE CONGRESS Participatory decisionmaking: Why does it matter? Lack of participatory decision-making can result in misinformation, barriers to integration, and ineffective programs and/or services

 Successful participation can bridge gaps, aid integration, build meaningful relationships and trust, inform future best practices and benefit welcoming communities (Skills, talents, expertise)

"Nothing about us without us."

Creating a refugee-led space: About *Refugee Congress*

Wherever conversations take place that impact refugees, asylum-seekers, and other vulnerable migrants, our voices should be <u>equal</u> partners at the table.





Public Education: Storytelling for education + narrative shift

Advocacy:

Promoting welcoming policies and programs at Local, state, and national levels

Capacity building and leadership development: Training, mentorship, and resources *Refugee Congress:* Who we are and what we do



Meaningful participation: Examples in motion - Resettlement 2.0: Reimaging and redefining resettlement in the U.S.

- Reimagining and redefining refugee integration outcomes

- The Refugee Advocacy Lab and supporting inclusive state policies

- Refugee Storytellers Collective

- Clients Evidence-based services

- Invest in refugee leader capacity.
- Identify barriers together.
- Reimagine what integration means.
- **Co-design f**rom the start.
- Rewardiing refugee expertise

Tips for success in participatory decision-making



Thank you!







Promising Practices for Civic Engagement

Salt Lake City & Sacramento

Meet the Presenters



Tatjana Tadić Andrews Community & Civic Engagement Coordinator

IRC Salt Lake City Tatjana.Andrews@rescue.org



Missy! Orr Community Engagement Manager IRC Sacramento/NorCal Missy.Orr@rescue.org





Key Threads to Consider

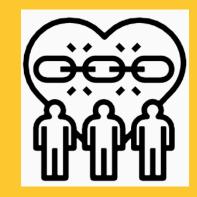
- 1. Invest in staff capacity to coordinate civic engagement.
- 2. You do not need to recreate the wheel.
- 3. Compensate community members' time.
- 4. Be creative in your outreach focus on meeting people where they are.

3 target areas to advance civic engagement





Staff engagement



Partnerships



Refugee Voices

Staff Engagement





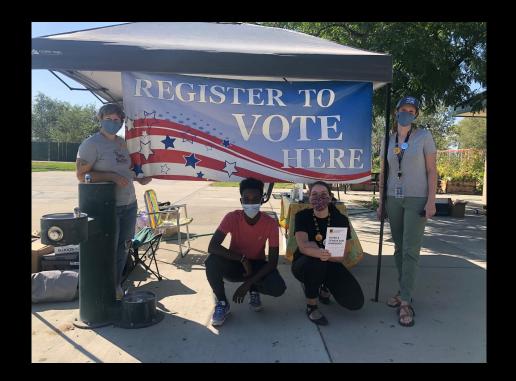
- Engage staff to inform & advance strategies
- Leverage existing
 opportunities





Partnerships

 Find organizations that are already doing nonpartisan civic engagement work in your community





Refugee Voices











From Harm to Home | Rescue.org



Refugee Leadership & Advocacy

Eurita Webinar: Countering misinformation within refugee & migrant populations

July 6th 2021 Susanna Lubanga, Resettlement Director IRC Abilene, Texas



Chambers of Commerce started leadership programs across the US in the 1970s

Premise: "If you are connected to your community, you are more likely to invest, to start businesses and engage."

Refugees, including leaders, often feel disconnected from their new communities

Empowering refugee leaders, in turn allows refugee leaders to engage with their communities and bring refugees into the fold

LEAD gives refugees a voice in the community.





L – LEAD: Leadership skills E – EMPOWER: Exploring & connecting with the community A – ADVOCATE: Advocacy training & story telling D – DEVELOP: Strategic Planning, SBD



"The mission of the IRC Abilene's LEAD program is to develop and strengthen **leadership** skills of local Refugee leaders, **empower** them through knowledge of the Abilene community, build **advocacy** capacity, and **develop** strategic vision."



LEAD 2018/2019 Program dates

| Saturday, September 15 | LEADERSHIP | 9am – 4:30pm |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Tuesday, October 16 | Health Day | 9am – 4pm |
| Tuesday, November 13 | Economy Day | 9am – 4pm |
| Tuesday, December 11 | Non Profit Day | 8am – 3pm |
| Saturday, January 19 | Advocacy Training | 9am – 4:30pm |
| Tuesday, February 12 | Education Day | 9am – 4pm |
| Tuesday, March 12 | City/County Day | 9am – 4pm |
| Tuesday, April 9 | Advocacy Day in Austin | 6am – 8pm |
| Saturday, May 19 th | Strategic Planning/Vision setting | 9am – 4:30pm |
| Thursday, May 23 rd | Graduation | 7pm – 10pm |



Qualifications

In the USA for a minimum of two years Speak, read, and write English Leader in the community Ability to attend all Saturday sessions Arrived as a refugee/Asylee Resident of Abilene, Texas



Cost: \$200

This may be paid in four installments September – December

Application Process:

Return a completed application to the IRC no later than August 13th. Applications may be e-mailed or brought to the IRC in person Two recommendation letters must be received by August 10th (letters must be in English and may not be by a family member)



2018/19 co-hort

- 5 women & 10 men
- Range of 2 years 11 years in the United States
- Country of Origin: Bhutan (3), Afghanistan (2), Congo DR (6), Burundi (1), Rwanda (1), Togo (1), Nigeria (1).
- 10 are US citizens
- 2 are business owners, and 2 are working towards it
- 10 are homeowners
- 9 graduated from LEAD





LEADERSHIP

 Seven Habits of Highly Effective People



- Seven Community speakers including City Manager, News anchor, AISD Director of Leadership, Community Foundation of Abilene, Senator Arrington's office, Chamber of Commerce
- 20 minute teaching module, 25 minute application
- Mentors joined for lunch





EMPOWER

- Six Empower Days: Economy, non Profit, health, education, city/county, Dyess AFB
- Various speakers and tours of facility
- For example: Economy day toured the livestock auction, a local production company, met with the VP of an ad agency, met the President & toured First Financial Bank, and met with the Chamber of Abilene President
- For example: City/County day toured the fire fighter academy, city's water treatment plan, met with the Chief of Police, the mayor, city manager and county judge



ADVOCATE

- Story telling training telling your story through a strength based approach; high context vs. low context
- Local, state and federal government structures & how to participate civically
- Texas Refugee Advocacy Day April 9th in Austin
- Encouraged to attend City Council meeting
- Elected officials joined for lunch





A story of two men....

Client A

Fluent in English Good education background Transferrable job skills Strong advocate Computer & technology literate

Client B

Legally blind Medical limitations Single case, no relatives/friends Difficulty navigating US systems Poor financial decision making

Which story are we more likely to tell? Which one has a better chance of being hired? Which man is more likely to be successful?



Opportunities

- 7 LEAD members travelled to Austin
- 2 travelled to DC for national advocacy work (A third scheduled for 2020)
- 1 graduate spoke on a panel with D Miliband, M Albright and the Rwandan ambassador
- 6 attended various community forums





Opportunities





