

Resettlement in Austria

Suggestions for a Resettlement Programme in Austria
from the working group of Caritas Austria, Diakonie, the
International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Austrian
Red Cross and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees
(UNHCR)

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1. Executive Summary: Resettlement in Austria

Resettlement describes the relocation of refugees in particular need of protection, who can neither return to their countries of origin nor find appropriate protection and permanent residence in the first country of refuge in the near future due to continuous risks of persecution. It is a humanitarian programme and refers to the transfer of refugees from the first country of refuge with the aim of permanently settling and integrating them in a country that is receptive to refugees. Therefore, resettlement is both a tool for protection and a durable solution for refugees. Moreover, it is a tangible expression of international solidarity with countries of first refuge, as four-fifths of the 10.4 million refugees worldwide under the mandate of UNHCR live in so-called developing countries.

More and more countries, also in the European Union, acknowledge the importance of resettlement as an effective instrument of international refugee policy. While in 2005 only 14 states offered resettlement places on a regular basis, today 27 states worldwide participated in resettlement programmes. Apart from recognizing refugees who have sought asylum in Austria, in the past Austria has repeatedly received people in acute emergency or crisis situations – such as refugees from Uganda, Chile and Iraq in the 1970s, refugees from Indochina in the 1970s and 1980s, as well as Iraqi refugees from Turkey in 1991. However, in Austria there is no programme specifically designated to the controlled and continuous admission of refugees in the framework of resettlement, yet. The concept paper at hand, which was jointly developed by a working group consisting of Caritas, Diakonie, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Austrian Red Cross and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), aims at not only presenting and explaining resettlement in more detail, but also at initiating a constructive discussion about specific measures for a future resettlement programme in Austria. The concept is based on many years of the organizations' experience in resettlement or protection for refugees as well as best practice examples of resettlement programmes that have already been carried out in some European countries. A detailed description of a resettlement programme that was adapted and is feasible for Austria, including concrete suggestions for its implementation, is at the core of the concept paper. The resettlement process for Austria elaborated in the concept paper essentially consists of the following steps:

- All resettlement procedures begin with the identification and selection of refugees whose situation indicates a need for resettlement. The main criterion for the selection of refugees is the particular need for protection according to the seven categories developed by UNHCR together with resettlement states. Those are laid down in the "UNHCR Resettlement Handbook". The basis for the decision

about reception in the Republic of Austria is an individual case application conveyed by UNHCR. It should also be emphasized at this point that all refugees proposed by UNHCR for resettlement are refugees according to the Geneva Refugee Convention, war refugees or their close family members. The decision on whether a refugee who has been selected and proposed for resettlement by UNHCR is actually received remains within competence of Austria. If needed, interviews can be conducted by Austrian representatives with the refugees in the first country of refuge.

- The preparation and implementation of the resettlement refugees' journey to Austria involves, apart from the relevant logistical arrangements (such as the organization of documents, visa and transfer modalities) health examinations, medical assistance, when necessary, as well as orientation trainings prior to departure (to provide initial information about the receiving country and prepare the refugees for their journey).
- After their arrival, the resettlement refugees will be granted asylum ex officio according to the grounds for seeking asylum laid down in the framework of the admission decision according to Art. 3 (4) of the Asylum Act 2005, as amended.
- In order to ensure that best possible support is available and enable the refugees to sustainably integrate in Austria, it is crucial that receiving communities are optimally selected and prepared, that intensive and well-prepared frontline assistance to resettlement refugees is available, and that there are seamless integration measures in the reception communities and additional support offers.
- Since the resettlement process is connected with numerous different tasks, this requires mutual efforts and effective cooperation of all actors involved on all structural levels (that is, between all authorities and communities as well as all implementing governmental and non-governmental organizations).
- Finally, a joint approach by the federal government, provinces and municipalities is proposed. Moreover, the future Asylum and Migration Fund of the European Union will provide financial assistance for the reception of resettlement refugees.

According to the views of the organizations involved in the development of this concept paper, through a targeted use of resettlement, the Austria could prevent refugees from further human rights violations, display a sign of international solidarity with first countries of refuge and, by relieving those states, improve the situation of refugees who cannot participate in resettlement programmes.

2. Introduction

Austria is currently not implementing a resettlement programme, yet. A working group consisting of Caritas, Diakonie, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Austrian Red Cross and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has thus developed the present proposal for a future resettlement programme in Austria. The suggestions are based on the experiences of many years and the established practice of these organizations with resettlement and refugee protection. The concept takes best practice examples for resettlement in Europe into account and was adapted for the Austrian context.¹

Resettlement is one of three durable solutions for refugees to build a new life for themselves in a new host country after the experiences of persecution, violence and insecurity.² For refugees who cannot return to their countries of origin in the near future due to continuing risks of persecution, but who do not have any perspective to stay permanently and integrate in the country of first refuge, resettlement is the only remaining solution.

Resettlement is a humanitarian measure and describes the transfer of refugees from their country of first refuge to a new host country (the so-called resettlement country), which accepts them as refugees and grants them an unlimited residence permit. Hence, it is a necessary requirement for admission to a resettlement programme that the person in question is a recognized refugee in the sense of the Geneva Refugee Convention and that resettlement presents the most suitable durable solution. Furthermore, the person must fulfil certain criteria, e.g. a special legal or physical need for protection. Resettlement has three equally important functions:

1. Resettlement is a means of granting international protection for refugees whose life, freedom, safety, health or other fundamental human rights are threatened in the country of first refuge;
2. Resettlement can be a durable solution for a greater number or groups of refugees for whom the alternative durable solutions of local integration or voluntary repatriation are not possible;
3. Resettlement can be a concrete expression of international solidarity that allows countries to share responsibility for refugee protection.

¹ ICMC, *Paving the way: A Handbook on the reception and Integration of Resettled Refugees*, June 2011, available at: http://www.icmc.net/system/files/publication/paving_the_way_a_handbook_on_the_reception_and_in_56768.pdf (accessed on 22 January 2013).

² The two other durable solutions are the local integration in the country of first refuge and the voluntary repatriation to the country of origin as far as it is possible in safety and dignity.

Resettlement may also have strategic value in that opening resettlement as a durable solution for refugees worldwide goes beyond the alleviation of the fate of individuals. Resettlement opens ways for cooperation in the field of refugee protection especially when addressing long-lasting, protracted refugee situations³ and can therefore significantly contribute to strengthening protection capacities in countries of first refuge – by still granting asylum seekers entry, for instance, or by improving the situation of the refugees who remained there. Therefore, an important sign of international solidarity can be made and the situation of persons who cannot personally take part in resettlement can be improved in a sustainable manner through a well-considered, targeted use of resettlement.

Austria is not yet implementing a resettlement programme; however, it has a long tradition of granting refuge to persons in need of protection. Apart from recognizing spontaneously entering asylum seekers as refugees, the Republic of Austria has repeatedly proven its readiness to grant ad-hoc reception and temporary protection to people in acute crisis situations. The reception of refugees from Uganda, Chile and Iraq in the 1970s, the reception of around 2,000 refugees from Indochina between 1979 and 1983, as well as the reception of approximately 200 Iraqi refugees from Turkey in 1991 attest to this.

Resettlement to Austria could be carried out as follows:



In the country of first refuge, UNHCR first determines that a person is a refugee, identifies refugees with a need for resettlement and selects the suitable resettlement states. This is followed by interviews with the resettlement refugees and/or a study of

³ By "protracted refugee situation" UNHCR understands situations, in which more than 25,000 refugees of the same nationality have already been residing for five years or more in the country of first asylum. At the end of 2011 7,1 million refugees worldwide were in such a situation.

their documents and a decision on the reception by the resettlement state, e.g. Austria. The journey of the refugees is subsequently prepared. Upon arrival in Austria, asylum is officially granted without an additional asylum procedure. Later, the clarification of the refugees' needs takes place (initial care) and they are assigned to a suitable host community that has volunteered to participate in resettlement and in which the long-term integration will take place. Standardized integration modules, which are designed specifically for the resettlement refugees, offer an orientation – centrally or on-site in the host communities – in a language that is understandable for them, and provide practical information about life in Austria. Finally, further integration support is necessary in the host communities.

This concept paper describes the resettlement process outlined above and the appropriate suggestions of the working group in detail. Firstly, the international context (p. 7) and Austria's relevant experiences with refugee protection (p. 10) are explained. Secondly, an illustration of the procedure to identify and select resettlement refugees follows, including the categories used by UNHCR for this purpose (p. 11). In addition, the preparation and transport of the resettlement refugees to Austria are presented (p. 16), as well as the selection and preparation of host communities in Austria (p. 18). This is followed by the explanation of the intensive initial care provided to refugees immediately after their arrival in Austria (p. 22) and a description of the processes and recommendations for the upcoming durable integration. Finally, a number of proposals for the coordination of a national resettlement programme (p. 25) and for financial support from the EU (p. 26) are given.

3. Resettlement in the international context

Even though the international and regional legal bases for international refugee protection do not prescribe any explicit obligation of the individual states to receive refugees in the framework of resettlement programmes, more and more countries worldwide recognize the importance of resettlement as an effective instrument of international refugee policy.

While in the year 2005 only 14 states offered resettlement places for UNHCR requests on a regular basis, in 2012 there were 27 resettlement states worldwide: Apart from the traditional resettlement states (Australia, Denmark, Finland, Canada, New Zealand, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the USA) now also Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria (from 2014), Chili, Germany (pilot programme), France, Iceland, Ireland, Japan (pilot programme), Paraguay, Portugal, Romania, Spain, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Uruguay and the United Kingdom take part in resettlement.

The most important resettlement states in 2012 were the USA (53,053 persons), Australia (5,079 persons) and Canada (4,755 persons). In Europe Sweden (1,483 persons) and Norway (1,137 persons); however, the United Kingdom (989 persons), Finland (763 persons), Denmark (324 persons), Germany (323 persons), The Netherlands (262 persons), France (84 persons), Spain (80 persons), Ireland (40 persons), the Czech Republic (25 persons), Portugal (21 persons) and Hungary (1 person) also received resettlement refugees.⁴ In December 2011, Germany decided to introduce a resettlement programme for 300 refugees per annum from 2012 until 2014. Altogether, at least 15 EU Member States will participate in resettlement from 2014.⁵

However, the need for resettlement is far greater than the number of available places. Annually, there are only 80,000 resettlement places available globally approximately, while UNHCR estimates that there is global need for 691,000 resettlement places.⁶ To cover this need, there is an urgent need for further resettlement places. In view of the quickly changing situation in the countries neighbouring Syria, UNHCR plans to appeal for the reception of Syrian refugees, who are not included in the global resettlement needs.

The EU received 4,400 resettlement refugees through the 15 participating EU Member States in 2011 and thereby offered 6.4% of the resettlement places worldwide. It is expected that the number of resettlement places in the EU will increase in the course of the EU resettlement programme, which was mutually agreed upon in March 2012 and which offers financial support for the Member States and defines geographic priorities (refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Myanmar and Eritrea). 20,000 resettlement places per year until 2020 are the aim of the “Resettlement saves lives” campaign of the European Resettlement Network.⁷

Resettlement receptions 2008-2012 organized by UNHCR ⁸

Resettlement state	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
States with regular resettlement programme					
Argentina	78	8	23	24	5
Australia	5,171	6,720	5,636	5,597	5,079
Brazil	19	30	28	23	8
Bulgaria (from 2014)					

⁴ See the list of all resettlement states in the statistic on the resettlement receptions 2008-2012 organized by UNHCR.

⁵ Portugal, Rumänien, Schweden, Spanien, Tschechische Republik, Ungarn und Vereinigtes Königreich.

⁶ See UNHCR Projected Global Resettlement Needs 2014, July 2013, to be available soon at: <http://unhcr.org/pages/4a16b1676.html>.

⁷ See the campaign “Resettlement saves lives” of the European Resettlement Network, available at: <http://www.resettlement.eu/page/resettlement-saves-lives-2020-campaign> (accessed on 22 January 2013)

⁸ See UNHCR Projected Global Resettlement Needs 2014, July 2013, to be available soon at: <http://unhcr.org/pages/4a16b1676.html>.

Proposal of the working group consisting of Caritas, Diakonie, IOM, Austrian Red Cross and UNHCR for the implementation of a Resettlement Programme in Austria

Chili	45	66	6	22	3
Denmark	403	488	386	606	324
Germany		2,064	457	22	323
Finland	675	710	543	573	763
France	276	179	217	42	84
Ireland	89	194	20	36	40
Iceland	29		6		9
Japan (pilot project)			27	18	
Canada	5,663	6,582	6,706	6,827	4,755
New Zealand	894	675	535	477	719
Netherlands	580	347	430	479	262
Norway	722	1,367	1,088	1,258	1.137
Paraguay			13	13	
Portugal	5	26	24	28	21
Rumania			38		
Sweden	1,596	1,880	1,789	1,896	1,483
Spain	8				80
Czech Republic	23	17	48		25
Hungary (from 2012)					1
Uruguay		14	17		5
USA	48,828	62,011	54,077	43,215	53,053
United Kingdom	697	969	695	424	989
States with specified Resettlement programmes / Ad-hoc receptions					
Belgium	6	54	2	19	1
Greece	2				
Italy	30	191	58		9
Korea	23	20	23	11	20
Luxembourg		28			
Palau			3		
Switzerland	12	17	19	39	54
Total	65,874	84,657	72,914	61,649	69,252

4. Resettlement in Austria

4.1. Resettlement as a contribution to refugee protection

Austria has been contributing to refugee protection for decades. In the last ten years, a total of 47,000 persons who requested international protection in Austria were recognized as refugees or were granted subsidiary protection. Austria received more than 180,000 refugees from Hungary after the defeat of the revolution in 1956/58, and over 160,000 Czechoslovaks after the “Prague Spring” in the summer of 1968.

However, from a global point of view, it is currently developing countries, that receive the majority of refugees: Four-fifths of the 10.4 million refugees under the mandate of UNHCR lived in developing countries at the end of 2011, with Pakistan, Iran and Syria as three most important receiving countries, closely followed by Germany and Kenya. Setting up a resettlement programme in Austria would therefore be a visible signal for the persisting readiness of the Republic to take over co-responsibility for the handling of the worldwide misery of refugees. Moreover, an increase of resettlement places in the EU would be realized.

An institutionalized resettlement procedure offers numerous benefits:

- The introduction of a systematic programme with reception quotas enables receiving states and involved actors to plan in a realistic and transparent manner and to calculate the costs of respective reception programmes.
- Fundamental questions, such as the organization of interviews and processing of the files by the resettlement country as well as the geographical distribution of resettlement refugees in Austria could be clarified beforehand. Not only does this contribute to an acceleration and alleviation of the reception and integration process, but it also saves significant costs, since established structures and gained expertise can be used. The decision about the reception of resettlement refugees remains within the competence of the Republic of Austria.

A legal basis for resettlement is available. The Austrian Asylum Act foresees a special regulation for refugees who can be accepted in the framework of a quota so that an asylum procedure does not have to be carried out for each of the accepted individuals, since that would mean a high administrative burden. In particular, Art. 3 (4) of the Asylum Act 2005 as amended stipulates that, “A foreigner is to be granted the status of being entitled to asylum ex officio and without further procedure, when the Republic of Austria is obliged to do so by international law.” Since the decision about the reception is preceded by the determination of the refugee status by UNHCR and an examination of the case by the Austrian authorities, including a security screening, the resettlement refugees are to be granted asylum after their arrival without further ado.

4.2. Identification and priorities

The decision about which refugees are admitted to a resettlement programme in Austria is a process that can involve, apart from UNHCR and the resettlement states, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other actors from the refugee sector (like community representatives).⁹ Most of the resettlement countries have agreed on a mutual work-sharing resettlement procedure with UNHCR, in which the specific knowledge and skills of different actors can be used effectively.

The annual or multiannual geographic priorities, i.e. the specification of countries of first refuge and of countries of origin of resettlement refugees, which are defined in international consultations (“Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement – ACTR”), form the basis for the national resettlement procedures. Resettlement states, international organizations and NGOs usually meet in July in Geneva for the annual consultations.

The consultations are supported by a working group (“Working Group on Resettlement”), which provides a smaller forum for discussion once or twice a year. The participation of Austria at the annual consultations and the meetings of the working group would be desirable in order to bring in the Austrian position/evaluation in the process. Additionally, UNHCR offers bilateral talks to best assess the needs of the host country and the potential for receiving resettlement refugees.

The resettlement countries can fix the dimension of their resettlement programme themselves and propose certain geographical priorities. All resettlement states are bound by the internationally accepted resettlement categories of special need for protection, as well as the global resettlement need and the global resettlement priorities.¹⁰

Some countries¹¹ allocate a further quota in addition to a regular resettlement quota that can be used ad-hoc under flexible criteria for urgent cases (departure from the country of first refuge within six weeks after transmission of the dossier)¹² and urgent emergency cases (departure within seven days at the most after transmission of the dossier)¹³. This is also proposed for Austria.

⁹ In Denmark, representatives of the NGO Danish Refugee Council and now also more often the representatives of the host communities take part in interview missions.

¹⁰ In 2013, refugees from Somalia, Iraq, Myanmar, Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) represent the largest number of refugees with need for Resettlement. For further information see UNHCR Projected Global Resettlement Needs 2013, July 2012, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/5006aff49.html> (accessed on 22 January 2013).

¹¹ E.g. Sweden (350 places) and Denmark (ca. 75 places).

¹² See UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, July 2011, p. 246, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/4a2ccf4c6.html> (accessed on 22 January 2013).

¹³ See UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, July 2011, p. 246, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/4a2ccf4c6.html> (accessed on 22 January 2013).

In order to guarantee an objective selection based on factual aspects and a transparent procedure when transmitting refugees' files in the framework of resettlement, UNHCR has developed standards for all phases of the resettlement procedure together with the resettlement countries. These can be found in the UNHCR Resettlement Handbook¹⁴.

4.3. UNHCR resettlement categories

The following basic requirements are to be taken into account to identify and select refugees for a resettlement programme:

On the one hand the *refugee quality*¹⁵: The flight and persecution story is discussed in the framework of the UNHCR procedure for determining whether a person falls under UNHCR's refugee mandate, and indicators for the existence of possible grounds for exclusion are examined.¹⁶ On the other hand the *special need for protection*: UNHCR has developed seven categories¹⁷ together with resettlement states that indicate an objective need for resettlement with regard to the individual situation of a refugee in the country of first refuge.

The seven categories for special need for protection include:

- Persons with legal and physical needs: The refugee could be deported from the country of first refuge to the country of origin or to another state in which there is a risk of *refoulement*, or the refugee is exposed to the danger of arbitrary detention, threat to physical safety or other severe violations of human rights in the country of first refuge.
- Survivors of violence and/or torture: Survivors of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and their family members need in many cases special assistance and treatment. However, in many countries of first refuge there are no adequate offers of assistance or treatment tailored to the special needs of survivors of torture or violence.
- Medical needs: The refugee in question suffers from an illness that is life-threatening without treatment, can lead to the loss of important physical functions or was triggered in the country of first refuge; there is no access to adequate possibilities of treatment or assistance in the country of first refuge and the residence in a resettlement state can significantly improve the state of health of the person concerned.

¹⁴ UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, July 2011, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/4a2ccf4c6.html> (accessed on 22 January 2013).

¹⁵ See Chapter 3 of the UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, July 2011, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/4a2ccf4c6.html> (accessed on 22 January 2013). While some States limit resettlement to refugees in the sense of the Geneva Refugee Convention, other programmes also consider persons affected by the extended definition of refugees according to the OAU-Convention or the Cartagena Declaration. Moreover, resettlement can be considered for stateless persons who are not refugees but for whom resettlement is the most suitable long-term solution.

¹⁶ In the family context it is sufficient if the quality of a refugee was determined for one family member and if there are no grounds for exclusion from asylum with regard to any of the family members suggested for resettlement.

¹⁷ See Chapter 6 of the UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, July 2011, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/4a2ccf4c6.html> (accessed on 22 January 2013).

- Women and girls at risk: Refugee women and girls are often exposed to specific dangers in many refugee situations. They are exposed to an increased risk of sexual or other physical violence, as well as marginalization and economic dependence in the country of first refuge.
- Persons whose family members are already in the resettlement state: In principle, family units are proposed for resettlement as a whole. However, in some cases families are separated during the flight. In the interest of preserving the unity of the refugee family, resettlement is to be considered with regard to dependent family members.
- Children and adolescents at risk: There is urgent need for protection which cannot be provided for in the country of first refuge, so that resettlement was found to be the most suitable solution in the best interests of the child. The child participates in the decision according to his/her age and development status.
- Lack of foreseeable alternative durable solutions: A refugee cannot return to her/his country of origin in the near future and he/she does not have any perspective of a long-term integration into the society of the country of first refuge due to the concrete set-up of the country's refugee protection system. This particularly applies to refugees in so-called "long-lasting refugee situations".

4.4. Identification and transmission of the resettlement files

Three steps need to be considered when identifying and transmitting resettlement files of refugees by UNHCR for a resettlement programme:

1. The identification on the grounds of resettlement categories,
2. The justification of the need for resettlement by filling in the "Resettlement Registration Form" (RRF), and
3. The selection of a suitable resettlement state by UNHCR, to which the dossier is to be transmitted.

All three steps are briefly explained below to illustrate the process.

4.4.1. Identification on the grounds of resettlement categories

There are three basic possibilities to establish whether one or more of the previously mentioned categories apply in a particular refugee situation with regard to individual refugees or refugee groups:

- Identifying and considering indicators for the existence of the need for resettlement in the framework of regular refugee registration or other measures of identification through UNHCR (e.g. via situation analysis with the participation of the concerned refugees);
- Recommendations of other organizations (especially NGOs);

- Internal UNHCR recommendations (e.g. from other departments) as a result of spontaneous requests of individual refugees, followed by hearings of UNHCR.

In order to prevent fraud and to secure the smooth and effective operation and high quality of the resettlement procedure, UNHCR has formalized the transmission procedure as far as possible and introduced mutual information duties for cooperation with partner organizations. Moreover, UNHCR conducts regular trainings and consultations with all organizations involved.

In order to be able to decide on the actual need for resettlement, the facts are clarified, available information is updated if necessary and the received indications are verified. This can take place, for instance, in the form of house visits, through interviews with the potential resettlement candidates or via interviews with third parties.

4.4.2. Determination of the need for resettlement

If the evidence of the need for resettlement is confirmed, UNHCR staff conducts an extensive clarification of the facts, including an interview with the refugee concerned under the direction of a UNHCR specialist. It is subsequently decided whether all requirements for resettlement are met in the individual case from UNHCR's point of view.

UNHCR fills out the special standardized resettlement form (RRF) to ensure that all relevant information is accessible in a clear form at the time of the actual resettlement decision and in the course of transmission of an individual resettlement request to a specific host country.

Apart from all personal data, including photos of the applicant and of all relatives that are involved, the RRF contains a detailed justification of the individual need for resettlement, an extensive illustration of the reasons for flight and prosecution, as well as the UNHCR decision on the person's recognition as a refugee. The examination of the reasons for flight and prosecution allows the resettlement states to determine the refugee status of the person in question on the grounds of the submitted dossier also without conducting a selection procedure. Furthermore, the RRF provides space for explanatory notes about special needs, information about illnesses, specific needs and vulnerabilities. Resettlement states are encouraged to transfer relevant information to the authorities responsible for the reception of the resettlement refugees.

4.4.3. Selection of a suitable resettlement state by UNHCR, to which the dossier is to be transmitted

When selecting the resettlement states to which a case for reception is proposed, UNHCR takes the following criteria into account: family ties in resettlement states, urgency of the case and vulnerability in light of the duration of proceedings in the respective resettlement state, reception priorities of the resettlement states, distribution

of the annual quota of the resettlement states, treatment possibilities of any medical needs, language skills, cultural aspects, nationality, family constellation and, if possible, the preference of the refugee.

Finally, it is helpful appropriate quota arrangement of refugees with an acute need for support and integration assistance and refugees who are less reliant on help are to be considered in this context. UNHCR normally tries not to propose a potential receiving country a share of refugees with an increased need for help and support of more than 20 per cent.

4.5. The decision on the reception of a resettlement refugee

If Austria is identified as the most suitable resettlement state, UNHCR would transfer the complete resettlement dossier¹⁸ with the request for examination of the reception to the authorities as agreed upon – this would potentially be the Federal Ministry of the Interior. The Federal Ministry of the Interior would then transfer the individual cases to the Federal Asylum Office, which is also competent for the granting asylum, for examining and possibly proving specific security concerns or other interests of the Republic of Austria that would contradict a reception in individual cases.

The basis for the decision on the reception in the Republic of Austria is provided by the individual application forwarded by UNHCR. The decision can thereby be made on the grounds of the dossier without personal interviews or in the framework of selecting missions. The decision based only on the dossier has shown to be generally more efficient and cost-efficient than the execution of selecting missions and is of outstanding value in urgent and acute emergency cases when refugees have to be brought to safety within a very short time period. Some EU Member States – Denmark, Finland, France, the Netherlands, Portugal and Sweden – accept resettlement applications at least partially only on the grounds of the dossier. Selecting missions, on the contrary, are useful for transmitting a personal and thorough impression about the refugees proposed for resettlement and their current life situation and challenges in the country of first refuge to the Austrian authorities.

When deciding about the reception of a refugee, his/her need for protection is the major factor. A subjective and discriminative selection that goes beyond the generally accepted resettlement categories¹⁹ would run contrary to the protection and needs-oriented approach to resettlement.

¹⁸ Thereby the above mentioned Resettlement-Form (RRF), as well as copies of possibly existing identity and other documents are meant.

¹⁹ See Chapter 6 of the UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, July 2011, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/4a2ccf4c6.html> (accessed on 22 January 2013).

4.6. Granting of Asylum in Austria

Under the terms of Art. 3 (4) Asylum Act 2005 in the currently valid version, refugees, to whose reception Austria has obliged itself under international law, are to be granted asylum *ex officio* and without further procedure. There was a similar provision in the Asylum Act 1997. According to the parliamentary materials thereto, asylum should be granted *ex officio* and without further examination of the requirements in the individual case upon arrival in Austria in the case of reception of refugees in the framework of resettlement. As the examination of the refugee quality was already undertaken by UNHCR and the Austrian authorities prior to arrival, this is merely attested through the granting of asylum. The decision with which asylum is granted declares that the refugee is recognized as such by law.

4.7. Preparation and journey

After the decision on the selection of the resettlement refugees and the resettlement state becomes certain, the first preparations for a safe journey and the future residence are made. This can include the following:

- Health examinations and medical assistance
- Pre-departure orientation trainings
- Organization and execution of the journey.

4.7.1. Health examinations and medical assistance

Medical examinations are an important tool to prepare the refugees for the journey and consider their health situation, as well as to comply with the guidelines of the resettlement state (e.g. for the prevention of the spread of transmittable diseases like tuberculosis). These are carried out in the country of first refuge. Medical assistance can be provided during the journey if needed; if a person is not capable of flying, the flight is postponed to a later date. If a refugee becomes ill during the journey and cannot fly to the final destination, IOM as the executing organization informs the competent authorities as soon as possible in order to agree on the further proceedings.

The health examinations are based on the guidelines of the resettlement state and usually include the following measures:

- Medical examinations prior to departure including a preventative check-up also with regard to the interests of the public health
- Examination to determine whether the person is fit to travel prior to departure
- Medical assistance during the journey
- Preliminary and post-health counselling
- Vaccination and immunizations

The medical documentation of the examinations in the country of first refuge is transferred to the authority in Austria that is responsible for the medical assistance of the refugees with the consent of the refugee and with respect to data protection principles.

4.7.2. Orientation trainings before departure

Orientation trainings, which the refugees receive before arrival in the resettlement state, are an important measure for a successful resettlement programme and above all for the later integration in the resettlement state. The orientation trainings last approximately three days depending on the target group (adolescents, adults) and cover: cultural orientation trainings (basic information on the host country Austria) and the preparation for the flight and journey.

The cultural orientation trainings offer introductory practical information on the respective resettlement state, e.g. Austria, and have the following goals:

- Information provision about the resettlement procedure
- Preparation of the refugees for the conditions in the resettlement state and thereby support with the development of realistic expectations;
- Addressing possible reservations and fears;
- Responding to the questions and concerns of the refugees.

The cultural orientation trainings are prepared in cooperation with the responsible Austrian authorities and tailored to the needs of the target group and to the emphases in the knowledge transfer chosen by the resettlement state. In the context of the training, information about Austria is offered in the native language of the refugees. A good practice is the appointment of bi-cultural trainers or of twinning pairs of two trainers (one representative of the authority, one cultural trainer) to ensure a conjunction of the pre-departure with the post-arrival measures. The trainers of cultural orientation trainings can also support the subsequent integration process by sharing information about the resettlement refugees already prior to arrival with the host city/community in Austria for an ideal adjustment of the integration process.

In addition to the cultural orientation trainings, it is advisable to offer information on the procedure of the flight and the journey. Usually, depending on the level of knowledge of the refugees, the situation in the plane is simulated so that the resettlement refugees know what to expect; this is especially important for first time travellers. Information can be provided and resettlement refugees can practice checking in and going through document and security controls, airport transfer and arrival.

4.7.3. Organization and execution of the journey

The logistic, administrative and operational help for a safe, reliable and economic journey of resettlement refugees over international borders to Austria is important.

The following supporting services can be provided:

- UNHCR compiles the relevant documentation with the help of IOM (including travel document, visa application, residence permits in the country of first refuge).²⁰ This is carried out in a strictly confidential manner with consideration to data protection principles.
- Resettlement refugees are supplied with the necessary clothing by IOM if needed.
- After issuance of the transit and entry visa by the competent authorities, these are taken over by IOM and handed over to the resettlement refugees at the time of departure. Usually this happens at the international airport, where the refugees are also supported at check-in and a final identity check takes place to avoid possible confusions.
- Furthermore, IOM conducts the journey with consideration of the most direct flight connection. The bookings are made from the nearest international airport to Austria.²¹ If transit is necessary, food and accommodation, as well as rebookings are provided, if necessary.
- Upon arrival, the resettlement refugees are picked up by one of the aid organizations at the airport – as was already the case in 2011 with the humanitarian action of receiving Iraqis in need of protection – and are accompanied to the responsible assistance staff and authorities.

4.8. Integration in Austria

Integration is a reciprocal process in society as a whole²², with the aim of establishing equal chances of participation in social resources for immigrants, without forcing them to give up their cultural specificities.

Generally all immigrants and asylum seekers face similar challenges when coming to a new country, such as the learning a new language or building up a new life. However, resettlement refugees are – due to the special circumstances of their flight and their special needs for protection – frequently confronted with additional challenges that need to be taken into account when planning and coordinating the resettlement programme. These are as follows:

- Resettlement refugees have often spent a long time – often several years – under very difficult circumstances in refugee camps before their arrival in the resettlement state. Many were reliant on the support of various aid programmes

²⁰ The range of these formalities can vary depending on the country of first refuge. IOM contacts the immigration authorities in the country of first refuge upon request to obtain an exit permit, as well as the travel permit or certificate from the place of residence to the airport. IOM organizes a travel document from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC travel document) for refugees who are not in possession of an own passport.

²¹ IOM has special conditions with the airline companies (e.g. reduced fees, advantageous booking conditions and cancellation possibilities, extended luggage allowance, etc.), that are also accessible for the journey of resettlement refugees.

²² See also Nationaler Aktionsplan für Integration (National Action Plan for Integration), January 2010, available at: http://www.integration.at/fileadmin/Staatssekretariat/4-Download/Bericht_zum_Nationalen_Aktionsplan.pdf (accessed on 22 January 2013).

or auxiliary services and must therefore first learn again to act autonomously and independently;

- For many resettlement refugees, arrival in the resettlement state means a sudden change to a technologically advanced and complex society. This should especially be taken into account in frontline assistance;
- After many years of uncertainty, the arrival in the resettlement state evokes high expectations for many resettlement refugees towards the new country, whether regarding their living conditions or regarding their integration, such as in regards to employment, accommodation and social support and success;
- Resettlement refugees mostly do not have an extended family, their own community or other supportive networks that they could fall back on in the initial time after their arrival in the resettlement state and which could offer them the necessary support.

It is important to grant the resettlement refugees asylum²³ as soon as possible upon arrival in Austria in order to counteract these additional challenges. The non-bureaucratic recognition of refugee status constitutes the basis for the forthcoming integration measures that form the cornerstone for a successful long-term integration in Austria. These can in principle be divided into three phases that are described in more detail below:

- The selection of the suitable host community/ies
- An intensive phase of frontline assistance
- The integration measures in the host communities.

It is important that resettlement refugees are admitted to measures facilitating their integration directly after their arrival in Austria. It is therefore recommended that they receive the most essential information about the life in Austria in standardized integration modules specifically designed for the resettlement refugees immediately after their arrival in Austria. The better organized the assistance of the refugees in the first days and weeks is, the greater are the chances for a successful long-term integration. In the long run it would be important to provide them access to existing measures of the integration support.

The close cooperation of federal and local authorities, NGOs and refugee communities to steer the integration measures has proven to be successful in many countries (such as Belgium, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Ireland).²⁴ Thus, the

²³ Along with that also goes the legal title for services of the needs-based minimum benefit system. Cf. Art. 4 (3) lit 2 of the Art. 15a Agreement on a Basic Welfare Support, January 2013, available at: <http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20006994&ShowPrintPreview=True>. (accessed on 22 January 2013).

²⁴ See Chapter 4.9. for Coordination.

establishment of a resettlement coordination group for Austria is recommended. (see p. 25)

4.8.1. Selection and preparation of the host communities

The community is selected through an alternating process between the federal authorities, the NGOs and under the possibly quick involvement of the communities and their representatives that have accepted – in the best case volunteered for – the reception of the resettlement refugees. In order to be able to identify communities that are willing to receive resettlement refugees as soon as possible, potentially interested communities should be provided with extensive informational material about resettlement. This can be linked with pre-existing projects for the preparation of communities for resettlement refugees.²⁵ A well-prepared host community plays an important role in the integration process. The early establishment of a “welcoming culture” is thus recommended. This could be promoted through informing the population about resettlement as a long-term solution (aims, goals, benefits, etc.) and intensified awareness raising about the new neighbours. In many communities in Austria, established integration models already exist and the reception of resettlement refugees represents a further step in the implementation of these existing models. The associated promotion of understanding, respect and tolerance towards foreigners on the community level illustrates a further positive side effect of the resettlement process.

The communities interested in reception provide information about their infrastructure beforehand. The resettlement refugees are assigned to the respective host community after a comparison of their offers with the needs of the arriving resettlement refugees. In particular, it must be clarified if there are suitable accommodation possibilities for an unaccompanied minor refugee, enough places of childcare and schools for a family with small children and psychotherapeutic facilities for a traumatized refugee. It is important that these facilities are easily accessible (reasonable physical distances).

The preparation and selection of a host community, as well as the subsequent accommodation and the execution of specific integration measures are a complex process that needs appropriate preparation. On the one hand the individual needs and wishes of the resettlement refugees are to be taken into account, as are the capacities of the host communities on the other. The following aspects are to be considered when selecting the suitable host communities:

1. Availability of appropriate and cost-effective housing. It is important that the rent fees are in relation to the (potential) incomes of the resettlement refugees and that the housing correspond to their needs (e.g. for singles, elderly or large family units, for the ill and other persons with special needs);
2. Availability of sufficient capacities on the labour market, as well as different

²⁵ Project “Cities that Care, Cities that Share” – a European project for the preparation of host communities, available at: <http://www.resettlement.eu/page/share-project> (accessed on 22 January 2013).

- possibilities for employment. These include the existence of enough possibilities of formation and further education on the labour market (e.g. availability of apprenticeships);
3. Existence of appropriate infrastructure (education and health care facilities, transport infrastructure covering a wide area etc.);
 4. Existence of integration measures. Interpreters and technically qualified social workers are needed in the phase of initial assistance (see below); NGOs, as well as local service providers and civil or religious organizations can function as a first network of support for newly arrived refugees. The readiness on the side of the community (e.g. also in form of volunteers from the community) to get involved with the reception and integration of resettlement refugees would also be desirable.

Especially in connection with traumatized or unaccompanied minor resettlement refugees, a fine adjustment with the respective community for further integration measures is of outmost importance, so that, for example if needed, access to intercultural psychotherapy can be assured, etc.

Apart from state institutions and NGOs, local initiatives such as clubs, rectories, voluntary groups, etc. play an important role in the preparation and support for the communities. While NGOs that are active in the refugee and migration sector can serve as a bridge between resettlement refugees and the host community, it is mostly the contacts with the local population that accelerate their integration into the community. That is why as many different actors as possible should be involved in the integration process. Continuity in the assistance – as little change as possible in the assistance staff – would also be important.

In the light of the integration boosting effect of the family unit, it is recommended that resettlement refugees with already existing family structures in Austria should live in the communities of their family members – especially if these offer room for housing – or at least nearby. European experience shows furthermore that ideally at least two to three families (of the same nationality) should be settled in the same community.²⁶

Concerning the question of the type of available housing space, it should be taken into account that an accommodation in one's own flat with a supportive neighbourhood stimulates the attachment to the community and should therefore be preferred. This could be tied in with already existing capacities of various NGOs to a certain extent, and resettlement refugees could initially be accommodated in so-called start flats. Afterwards, resettlement refugees receive support in looking for a flat on the housing market. Communities can hereby make a significant contribution through the provision of

²⁶ ICMC, *Paving the Way: A Handbook on the Reception and Integration of Resettled Refugees*, June 2011, available at: http://www.icmc.net/system/files/publication/paving_the_way_a_handbook_on_the_reception_and_in_56768.pdf (accessed on 22 January 2013).

municipal housing. In communities with a wide range of integration projects already in place, projects with synergy effects can be used after a potential adaptation.

4.8.2. Intensive phase of initial assistance in Austria

The phase of initial assistance primarily serves the purpose of clarification of the specific needs of the refugees and the allocation of the appropriate host communities. It takes place centrally (e.g. in Vienna) and the resettlement refugees are taken to the host communities only afterwards. The central phase of initial assistance usually takes a few days up to two weeks at the most.

It is recommended that an initial assessment of needs for the assignment to a host community should already take place in the country of first refuge. After their arrival in Austria this estimation is reviewed and a definite assignment is made.

The attentive and intensive organization of the phase of initial assistance plays a crucial role for the long-term integration in the host communities. This leaves the first lasting impression and affects the further integration. The more intensive resettlement refugees are dealt with in the beginning and the better their needs are assessed, the more expediently the suitable host community can be found and appropriate integration measures can be taken and the sooner resettlement refugees can lead an autonomous life.

A sufficient lead time for all actors participating in the integration process is important in order to enable appropriate preparations for the reception of the refugees. The time period and the constitution of the phase of initial assistance should consequently be designed in a flexible manner. Depending on the needs and the size of the arriving resettlement group, a longer phase of frontline assistance can also make sense.

To be able to cover the most urgent needs of the refugees, the following aspects must be clarified during the frontline assistance in any case:

1. Securing of basic needs (clothes, accommodation, food, etc.)
2. Clarification of the psychological, medical, age- and/or gender-related needs
3. General information about life in Austria and presentation of the host communities.

The assessment of physical and psychological needs is to be emphasized in particular. The data assessed in the country of first refuge on the medical, psychological and other specificities are transferred before the arrival of the resettlement refugees in Austria directly to the organization implementing the phase of initial assistance, in order to enable a targeted verification in Austria.

Qualified doctors clarify – with the assistance of appropriate interpreters – the resettlement refugees' needs for physical and/or psychological treatment. This must be carried out with particular sensitivity with regard to cultural, age and/or gender-specific

customs. Since their physical and mental health has a significant influence on the integration capacity of the resettlement refugees, a seamless and long-term continuation of this treatment must be ensured in the host community. In this way, integration perspectives can also be opened for physically or mentally affected resettlement refugees.

4.8.3. Integration measures in host communities

The first experiences that the host communities and the resettlement refugees share with each other should be as positive as possible, since the essential foundation for a future cohabitation are laid down here. Therefore, it would be desirable to establish a “welcome culture” and to respond to existing uncertainties, worries and fears on both sides, especially in the first days.

A regulated and accurate information exchange about the time of arrival, the number of resettlement refugees and their special needs is of tremendous importance. Depending on whether, for instance, a small group of elderly and ill persons or a larger group consisting of families with children in school age is about to arrive, appropriate preparations and different measures are to be taken, since different needs must be taken into account.

Upon the arrival of the refugees, a symbolic “welcome” to the community could be organized, where the resettlement refugees get to know the contact persons in the community and sign a welcome certificate with the local mayor.

In order for resettlement refugees throughout Austria to have equal minimum requirements for the integration and preparation for everyday life, integration modules designed specifically for them (in a language understandable for the refugees) can offer orientation and communicate practical information about life in Austria. These “start integration courses” are implemented in the form of a one to two week course by NGOs specialized in refugee protection that work in the field of integration with easily accessible information tools via handbooks, internet portals and videos.

The following topics should be covered:

- Assessment of writing and language skills

The acquisition of the German language represents a fundamental step on the road to social, cultural and professional integration. A continuous offer of alphabetization and German courses is available throughout Austria. It is part of the integration module to assess the language skills of the resettlement refugees in order to support the early learning of the German language. Based on the assessment, appropriate alphabetization and language courses will be arranged.

- Housing in Austria

An overview of how to search for flat, as well as additional information about rental costs, the conclusion of rental agreements, rent control, energy costs and providers, telephone and TV connection, Internet etc. can be provided. The resettlement refugees are encouraged to look for an apartment on their own within a certain timeframe (for example within a year), whereby they are supported by the host communities to find an apartment. Important contact persons are presented in the module.

- The Austrian education system

An overview of the education system in Austria provides a first orientation for resettlement refugees about existing opportunities. This also includes awareness raising among parents, e.g. about the benefits of going to day care and the value of a completed school education. Moreover, support could be offered to enrol children in school, if required.

- Work and further education

Apart from brief, general information about the labour market situation and access to the labour market in Austria, practical tips for job search should be included in this module. Measures with regards to apprenticeships and further education, teaching professions, recognition of foreign certificates etc. are also explained.

- Social security and health care system

An illustration of the specificities of the Austrian social system (claims, services, support offered in the resettlement procedure, etc.) should give a first overview at this point. This also encompasses information about medical care²⁷ (social security number, e-card, hospital stays or finding a doctor, etc.), as well as conduct in medical emergencies.

- Fundamental values of society

Social life in Austria, the principles of equality, individual freedom and democracy are conveyed in this module. This includes also basic information about the political system, the most recent history, as well as everyday behaviour such as greetings, facial expression and gesture, punctuality, etc.

After taking part at the “start integration courses”, refugees can receive access to already existing integration measures including alphabetization and language courses. When implementing the long-term integration, a wide range of already existing resources and projects in Austria and synergy effects can be used. At the same time, members of the host community have the possibility to participate actively in the integration process. Specifically appointed contact persons, so-called resettlement focal points (see 6.4.2) in the communities can watch over the compliance with minimum standards and provide

²⁷ Even though they are not explicitly mentioned, psychosocial facilities and care, rehabilitation centres etc. also fall thereunder.

support if there are difficulties. Additionally, it is vital that specialized social workers are involved in the integration process, for instance through already existing integration projects.

Unaccompanied minor refugees represent a particularly vulnerable group, for whom specific specialized facilities already exist. These could also be used in the framework of a resettlement programme in Austria.

4.9. Coordination and cooperation of the different actors

4.9.1. Resettlement coordination group

The establishment of a “resettlement coordination group“, consisting of authorities on the federal and local levels, NGOs and international organizations is recommended. It can take on a counselling, steering and supporting function. Complex decisions, like the selection of appropriate communities, the setting of minimum standards for the phase of frontline assistance and the integration measures, as well as their quality control, or the assignment of a resettlement refugee to a community, for instance, could be discussed as well as other basic substantive topics relating to resettlement. Such an association would optimize the entire course of the resettlement process through a targeted information exchange. Meetings of the resettlement coordination group could take place on a regular basis (approximately every three months).

4.9.2. Resettlement focal points

At the local level it is recommended that each host community appoints a resettlement focal point who knows the local infrastructure, the authorities and service providers and is in close contact with the organizations entrusted with integration. Resettlement refugees can turn to these resettlement contact persons with questions and this person will send them to the responsible institutions, if necessary. They are also the contact persons for the authorities, the resettlement coordination group and the communities. They can point out defects and possibilities for improvement. In this way, the communication can be significantly simplified and processes can be optimized. Already existing integration points in the community can be entrusted with these tasks through a mandate extension.

4.9.3. Involvement of volunteers

Volunteers can act as social links between the resettlement refugees and the community. Close contact with volunteers can positively support the integration of the resettlement refugees in addition to the offer of integration modules for resettlement refugees and the integration in existing on-site integration measures.

Volunteers can help to establish contact with the local population, organize common activities (e.g. cooking together or other common leisure activities), function as assistance with everyday life in central areas of life (e.g. assistance when dealing with authorities, counselling when looking for a flat or a job, etc.) and give support with learning the language. Volunteers should receive a preparatory training by NGOs that are active in integration work.

4.9.4. Additional support services

The persons directly involved in the assistance of the resettlement refugees (e.g. social workers, interpreters, psychologists, etc.), as well as the involved NGOs could meet with the resettlement refugees and volunteers on a regular basis to exchange experiences and information – parallel to the resettlement coordination group. The information and suggestions for improvement gathered in these working groups can be forwarded to the resettlement coordination group. Meetings every three months are also recommended. Additionally, an Internet platform should be set up to network participants among themselves so that they can communicate with one another.²⁸ In this regard, communities that already participate in a resettlement programme or are about to do so can establish partnerships with other communities and exchange additional experience on this field²⁹ or resettlement refugees in one community could exchange their experiences with refugees in other communities.

4.10. Evaluation

An evaluation of the resettlement process is important in order to be able to make statements about the success of the programme. Gaps can be identified, measures can be better adapted to the needs of the target group and the quality of services can be improved through evaluation.

There are different methods to assess the challenges and difficulties during the resettlement process and to find the right approach to solving the problems, such as:

1. Distribution of feedback forms
2. Regular consultations with resettlement refugees
3. Networking meetings of the actors
4. Research and extern evaluation.

The appropriate method for the evaluation of a resettlement programme in Austria can be defined when the parameters of the programme are fixed.

²⁸ Cf. Thereto the “Save me campaigns“ in Germany, available at: <http://www.save-me-kampagne.de/> (accessed on 22 January 2013).

²⁹ Cf. thereto “The Share project“, available at: <http://www.resettlement.eu/page/share-project> (accessed on 22 January 2013).

4.11. Financing

A resettlement programme aims at the long-term integration of the refugees in the societies of receptive countries and at the acquisition of economic independence. Thus, the expenses for the reception, care and integration in the framework of resettlement are normally paid as an advance that is returned to the sponsors in the federal government, the provinces and the communities in the case of a successful integration as social contribution.

Resettlement is one of the priorities of the Common EU Asylum Policy and has been increasingly supported also financially by the EU in the last years. Measures for establishing, developing and implementing a resettlement programme were eligible in the framework of the European Refugee Fund.³⁰ Recently, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union agreed on the Common European Resettlement Programme in March 2012. In this framework, Member States that carry out a resettlement programme with the support from the European Refugee Fund in 2013 for the first time, receive 6,000 EUR per person if they receive refugees from certain states of first refuge or with special needs for protection. This financial support should be extended in the future. For instance, the proposal of the European Commission for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council establishing the Asylum and Migration Fund³¹ foresees 560 million EUR for EU resettlement programmes for the financings period of 2014-2020. According to the proposal

“Member States will receive financial incentives (lump sums) every two years on the basis of their pledging which will follow the establishment of common Union resettlement priorities. These will be the result of a political process involving in particular the European Parliament and the Council and reflecting the policy developments at national and Union level. Through these financial incentives, two objectives are to be achieved: a quantitative one, i.e. to increase significantly the current resettlement figures which are too small, and a qualitative one, i.e. to strengthen the European dimension through the implementation of defined and dynamic common Union resettlement priorities.”³²

Even though the financial means additionally provided in the framework of the European Refugee Fund and the future Asylum and Migration Fund for resettlement do not cover the total costs of a resettlement programme, they can at least cover a part of the specific

³⁰ Decision Nr. 573/2007/EG of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 May 2007 establishing the European Refugee Fund for the period 2008 to 2013 as part of the General Programme “Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows” and repealing Council Decision 2004/904/EG, available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:144:0001:0021:DE:PDF> (accessed on 22 January 2013).

³¹ Proposal of the European Commission for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Asylum and Migration Fund, available at auf: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0751:FIN:EN:PDF> (accessed on 22 January 2013).

³² *ibid.*

costs for the reception of resettlement refugees that arise through possible selection missions, the takeover of travel expenses and integration support.

A precise calculation of the costs is unfortunately not possible without specific knowledge of the countries of origin and transit and the exact number and composition of the resettlement refugees, and can only be provided after disclosure of detailed key data. However, it is essential that the introduction of a resettlement programme is understood as a common task of the federal government and the provinces that also requires a common financing concept. It is the only way of ensuring that resettlement refugees will find the same conditions and equal access to supportive measures in all regions throughout Austria.