

# SAFE PASSAGE

## What is the Difference between Resettlement and Relocation?

### Resettlement

### Relocation

#### Definition

The selection and transfer of refugees from a State in which they have sought protection to a third country that admits them – as refugees – with a permanent residence status (UNHCR).

The transfer of persons who are in clear need of international protection from one EU Member State to another EU Member State (European Commission).

#### What does it mean?

Resettlement is a durable solution, especially for particularly vulnerable refugees or refugees in situation of protracted displacement.

Relocation is an intra-EU solidarity tool and a mechanism intended to alleviate Greece and Italy, frontline Member States, from the disproportionate number of asylum seekers who arrived on their territories. In response to an unprecedented number of arrivals, the European Commission established in September 2015 a voluntary mechanism to relocate a total of 66,400 asylum seekers from Greece and 39,600 from Italy.

Resettlement is also an international solidarity tool with developing countries which are hosting the absolute majority of the worldwide refugee population.

#### Who can benefit from it?

Refugees of any nationality. Referral to countries is usually made by UNHCR. Specific programmes may be put in place by certain countries for specific nationalities.

Asylum seekers who applied for asylum in Italy or Greece and of a nationality with an EU average recognition rate of above 75%, revised every quarter. Currently: Syria, Eritrea, Burundi, Mozambique, Bahrain, Bhutan, Qatar, and Yemen.

#### Which European countries participate?

21 countries currently participate in a scheme launched by the European Commission in July 2015:

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

All EU Member States are bound by the relocation decision; however, Denmark and the United Kingdom opted out.

France, Finland, the Netherlands and Portugal are the countries which so far have relocated the highest numbers of asylum seekers.

