

From Commitment to Implementation: Recommendations for the EU Relocation Mechanism

A policy brief by the Berlin Governance Platform, the International Rescue Committee and HIAS

In 2024, the EU adopted the Pact on Migration and Asylum, presented as a reform to the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) aimed at creating a more balanced approach to solidarity and responsibility-sharing among Member States. However, the reform focuses more on restricting access to international protection within Europe than on establishing a truly equitable asylum system. While the Pact introduces a new Solidarity Mechanism to support first-arrival states, it does not address the fundamental shortcomings of the Dublin System, thereby likely leaving first-arrival states to carry the majority of the responsibility of new arrivals.

The Solidarity Mechanism has the potential to alleviate the burden on first-arrival countries. It combines mandatory solidarity with flexibility regarding the type of contributions, allowing Member States to choose between relocations, financial contributions, or alternative measures. Relocation remains one of the most practical and tangible forms of solidarity, as it can reduce pressure on national asylum systems while offering safe and legal pathways to protection seekers. However, its success depends entirely on Member States' commitment. Without adequate pledges and fair, efficient implementation, the Solidarity Mechanism risks becoming yet another symbolic measure rather than a functional solution.

The Berlin Governance Platform (BGP), the International Rescue Committee (IRC), and HIAS Europe call on EU institutions to strengthen relocation efforts and on Member States to prioritize relocations, integrating the recommendations of this policy brief into their implementation. When implemented properly, relocation accelerates asylum procedures, improves access to assistance, and fosters long-term integration. At a time of highly polarized migration debates, an effective and well-structured relocation system – rooted in fairness, transparency, and meaningful participation – can help shift public perceptions and demonstrate that migration, when managed proactively and humanely, benefits both newcomers and host communities.

Drawing on extensive programmatic experience in relocations and resettlement across Europe and the U.S., our organizations have seen firsthand how data-driven matching can improve relocation outcomes, moving beyond political deadlock to a system that is both operationally feasible and protection-centered. This policy brief presents good practices and key policy recommendations to scale up relocation efforts and make the Solidarity Mechanism a real driver of EU solidarity – with those seeking protection and among Member States.

Get in contact with the authoring organizations!

Berlin Governance Platform (Lea Rau): kontakt@governance-platform.org

International Rescue Committee (Meron Knikman): Meron.AmehaKnikman@rescue.org

HIAS Europe: info@hias.org

Navigating Relocation Commitments: Provisions and Challenges in the New Solidarity Mechanism

To launch the new Solidarity Mechanism, the Commission will first identify the total annual number of required relocations and financial contributions for the Annual Solidarity Pool at the Union level, setting a minimum of 30,000 relocations and EUR 600 million in financial contributions yearly (see Art. 63 AMMR). While this target is woefully imbalanced with the number of annual arrivals in border Member States, the Commission can propose higher levels of solidarity contributions for the upcoming year if the overall migratory situation requires it. However, given past reluctance among Member States to commit to relocations, and the anti-migrant discourse across the EU, achieving even the original target remains uncertain even though Member States committed to it when the Pact was adopted.

After setting the total numbers, the Commission will facilitate the pledging of solidarity contributions by Member States by applying a reference key based on population size and GDP, ensuring compliance with the fair share principle (see Art. 13, 57(3), 66 AMMR). The High-Level EU Solidarity Forum will be convened within 15 days of the Commission's Annual Report to discuss solidarity measures, determine Member States under migratory pressure (thus being enabled to benefit from solidarity pledges), and finalize relocation pledges (see Art. 13, 57 AMMR). Negotiations within the Forum will likely be very complex and highly politicized as Member States balance contrasting requests and needs. Ensuring objective decision-making will be a challenge, and the Commission, together with the Solidarity Coordinator, will play a critical role in securing commitments (see Art. 15 AMMR). Greater involvement of external experts with a programmatic footprint on the ground – such as NGOs and CSOs, including Refugee-Rights (RROs) and Refugee-Led Organisations (RLOs), and the UN – could improve transparency, strengthen evidence-based decision-making, and ensure protection and humanitarian considerations are not overridden by heavily politicized narratives.

Relocations will primarily involve applicants for international protection, though beneficiaries of protection may also be relocated (see Art. 56 (2) AMMR). Both contributing and benefitting Member States, with support from the EU Solidarity Coordinator, may express “reasonable preferences” for relocation candidates’ profiles, but are expected to prioritize vulnerable individuals (see Art. 60 (4) AMMR). However, experiences with past relocation efforts show a high risk of over-selection, where Member States favor only certain groups of people, limiting relocation opportunities. Additionally, mismatches between contributing Member States’ preferences and profiles of individuals considered for relocation could create further obstacles. Without a strong focus on vulnerability as the central criterion of the relocation process, as well as clear coordination mechanisms, many of the most at-risk individuals could fall through the cracks of the reformed system.

Under the Asylum and Migration Management Regulation (AMMR), the selection process should consider meaningful links such as family or cultural ties in a Member State (see Art. 67 (3) AMMR). While the AMMR explicitly includes these “meaningful links” as a factor in relocation, there is no requirement to consider the preferences of protection seekers regarding their destinations. Not considering personal preferences may reduce displaced individuals’ sense of agency and prospects for successful integration, and could undermine operational efficiency by increasing the likelihood of secondary movements.

The European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) will play a key role in facilitating relocations, supporting both benefiting and contributing Member States (see, e.g., Art. 15 (3), 21 (8), 22, 54, 67 (3), 68 (1) AMMR). Central to this is the further development of the EUAA matching tool, designed to improve the tailored allocation of asylum applicants and beneficiaries of international protection to Member States. Originally developed by EASO (now EUAA), the tool was piloted and tested in late 2016 and early 2017 in close collaboration with the Greek

Asylum Service. Although the software was developed in 2017, various challenges prevented its implementation at the time. Manual matching by EASO/EUAA has been employed in past relocations but has been constrained by operational and political barriers. One of the primary challenges has been the restrictive preferences imposed by Member States, which have significantly limited the ability to generate meaningful matches, complicating the matching process and impeding the scalability of relocations. Another constraint for successful matching was Member States reporting their pledges and preferences at different times, preventing successful matching of protection seekers' preferences with the states' opening places. Lessons from data-driven matching models in other contexts that account for individualized and needs-based matching criteria should inform further development of the EUAA matching to unlock its full potential under the Pact. This would enable greater transparency for protection seekers, NGOs, and CSOs, including RROs and RLOs, and promote fairness and support of long-term integration. Our organizations' programmatic experiences – detailed in the case studies below – demonstrate that data-driven matching can help overcome political and operational barriers to relocation.

Learning from Programmatic Experience

Experiences from past relocation programs show that new approaches and technical adaptations are essential for relocation to succeed – both in scale and effectiveness. Policymakers and the EUAA should prioritize evidence-based, data-driven policies, rather than allowing political considerations to shape migration and asylum decisions. Learning from proven good practices, especially those developed by civil society in recent years, is now more critical than ever. This section presents the programmatic experiences of this policy brief's authors – the BGP, the IRC, and HIAS Europe – in data-driven matching, participatory relocation, and admission programs, offering practical insights for building a more effective relocation system.

Good Practice: Data-driven Matching of Protection Seekers and Cities for Participatory Relocation by the Berlin Governance Platform's Re:Match program

Re:Match pilots a data-driven and participatory governance model to facilitate the relocation of protection seekers from the EU's external borders directly to welcoming cities across the Union. Central to the Re:Match model is an algorithm-based matching process that aligns protection seekers' individual profiles, needs and preferences with the infrastructure, capacities and labour market needs of cities, ensuring an optimal fit for both parties. The BGP-led project is implemented in close cooperation with Pairity, who developed and operated the underlying algorithm, building on their extensive matching experience.

Addressing the lack of participation from both municipalities and protection seekers in traditional relocation processes, Re:Match provided evidence that involvement of both groups is not only feasible but essential. To successfully implement the program, the BGP partnered with Pairity to adapt their algorithm to offer a fair, transparent, and tailored approach to relocation. This ensured protection seekers were matched with destinations that provide the best conditions for their future while using municipal-level data to optimize scarce resource allocation in receiving communities. This data and preference-driven approach enhanced reception and integration outcomes, while also reinforcing municipalities' commitment to national admission decisions, contributing to a more sustainable and effective relocation system.

Between 2023 and 2024, Re:Match relocated 137 displaced Ukrainians from Poland to eight German cities. Each matching phase involved collecting municipal data through digital questionnaires and protection seekers' data via trauma-informed interviews, conducted by trained staff. This process fostered transparency, expectation alignment, and iterative improvements based on participant feedback. The algorithm – developed and refined through a participatory process involving displaced Ukrainians and participating cities – generated individualized matches by filtering out unsuitable

options, calculating Match Scores, and optimizing resource distribution across millions of possible combinations to balance individual and collective needs. Protection seekers received detailed match results and practical relocation information, while municipalities were provided with data packages to support arrival preparations.

Re:Match is continuously evaluated and refined. One year after relocation, 88% of participating protection seekers considered their participation a good decision, reporting an early sense of belonging to the host community and steady integration progress – with 91% engaging in language courses, strong social connections, and increasing self-sufficiency in housing, employment, and education (► [Transition to Stability, 12-Month Results](#)). Municipalities valued the structured, transparent process and the ability to match protection seekers based on local needs and capacities. Moreover, they reported that Re:Match improved resource allocation and that protection seekers arrived in cities with better preparation and realistic expectations.

The Re:Match Pilot marked a milestone as the first instance of direct relocation into cities, providing a blueprint for transforming the Solidarity Mechanism from a national-level commitment into a truly integrated and effective relocation system (► [Data-Driven Matching of Refugees and Cities - An Implementation Guide](#)). Scaling this approach within the Solidarity Mechanism would enhance integration, strengthen municipal engagement, and reinforce solidarity at both the local and Member State levels, contributing to a more functional EU relocation framework. To advance this vision, we propose two pilot approaches to implement the Re:Match model within the Solidarity Mechanism:

- **Cooperating with a Coalition of Welcoming Cities:** The European Commission could support a city-driven pilot program, modeled after Re:Match and in collaboration with existing city networks such as the [International Alliance of Safe Harbours](#) (IASH). This initiative would match protection seekers directly with municipalities across multiple Member States, allowing relocated individuals to be counted toward national relocation pledges. Participating cities could receive [direct funding](#) under the Solidarity Mechanism to cover reception and integration costs.

- **Complementing the EUAA's Matching with a Second Round:** Member States could pioneer a two-stage matching approach, complementing the EUAA's national-level matching with a second round of municipal-level matching within the receiving country. This would ensure the best possible fit between protection seekers and municipalities, strengthening tailored allocation of protection seekers received through the EU relocation mechanism. Conducting these two matching steps in close succession would provide early clarity for both protection seekers and host communities, allowing for better preparation and a smoother transition.

Good Practice: Leveraging Data-Driven Matching in Refugee Resettlement Through the Welcome Corps Matching and Placement

In 2023, [over 200 organizations](#) welcomed the launch of the [Welcome Corps](#) – a private sponsorship program in the U.S., initiated by the Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) and implemented by a consortium of six organizations with expertise in refugee resettlement, protection, and welcome, including [the IRC](#) and HIAS. The program's objective was to match groups of private sponsors with refugees approved for resettlement in the U.S., who would then help the refugees find housing, employment, and schooling for children, acquire language skills, and settle into new communities. With time, the program also allowed people to sponsor refugees they knew, thus reuniting families and friends separated by crisis and conflicts. Over 13,000 people supported the welcome of newcomers through Welcome Corps in its first year, and the thousands of arrivals through the program helped the US reach a [three-decade high record](#) for refugee resettlement in 2024.

As part of this consortium project, the IRC collaborated with Parity to implement large-scale algorithmic data-driven matching for cases in which the sponsors did not already know the refugees overseas. The IRC review process helped refine and optimize the algorithm and flag data on refugees' language skills, medical conditions, and other vulnerabilities to finalize the matching.

In this algorithmic matching process, through which HIAS also received sponsor-refugee matches, sponsors could indicate matching preferences – for example, family size and composition, languages – but the more preferences included the longer wait times for a beneficiary match often became. Therefore, sponsors could indicate how long they were willing to wait for a 100% match before they waived the preference. In HIAS' experience, this effectively managed expectations from sponsors around the length of time matching would take, as well as the likelihood of that match being aligned with their own expectations.

Lessons from this pilot program could support the EU's relocation and matching efforts. Algorithmic data-driven matching offers a scalable operational solution that could enhance the efficiency and outcomes of relocation processes both for individuals and Member States. Notably, in the U.S. implementation, the algorithm was not used to determine eligibility for resettlement – such as by prioritizing integration potential or other socioeconomic factors – but rather to support the placement of individuals already selected for resettlement. Research indicates that algorithmic data-driven matching often leads to more transparent and objective decisions by utilizing clearly defined criteria and data, thereby promising better long-term integration outcomes for refugees (see e.g. [Why Matching Matters, Craig Damian Smith with Emma Ugolini, 2023](#)). Nonetheless, the IRC's experience, corroborated by HIAS, highlights the important role of NGO partners in informing and reviewing the final matches to ensure that factors like protection needs and individual vulnerabilities are fully addressed. Algorithms like Parity's, which incorporate refugees' personal preferences into the matching criteria, further enhance the effectiveness. At the same time, for sponsors' preferences, the programs should provide them with clear eligibility criteria and realistic timelines upfront, helping them understand the program's scope and set preferences that can be realistically accommodated without excessively prolonging the process or narrowing available pathways. Directly incorporating external data, such as demographic and economic information from official public sources, has also proven valuable in improving matching outcomes and could be further leveraged in future initiatives.

Good Practice: Incorporating Beneficiary Choice in U.S. Relocation Matching Through HIAS Welcome Circles for Ukrainians

HIAS' [Welcome Circle program](#) seeks to mobilize groups around the U.S. and [Europe](#) to provide community sponsorship for Ukrainians displaced as a result of the 2022 Russian invasion. The model was developed through HIAS' participation in the [Sponsor Circle Program \(SCP\)](#) in 2021 as a community-led resettlement initiative to expand the United States' capacity for welcoming and integrating Afghans and was expanded to include other populations, including Ukrainians. Welcome Circles are comprised of volunteers who commit to hosting for six months with the goal of facilitating immediate settlement support and aiding in their integration journey.

To facilitate matches between Welcome Circles and Ukrainians, HIAS implemented an algorithmic matching process based first and foremost on the preferences of the beneficiaries. The matching platform, developed in Partnership with Worcester Polytechnic Institute and Oxford University, was dubbed "[RUTH](#)" ([Refugees Uniting Through HIAS](#)) and conformed to GDPR.

The process began with an intake assessment with a Relocation Officer based in Poland that included a needs assessment, counseling about the post-arrival support, and signing of a privacy notice explaining their data protection rights. The profile was entered into the RUTH platform including details such as family size, medical concerns, pets, religious practices, and location preferences. Welcome Circles received training, background checks, and a certification before having their profile entered into the RUTH platform. These profiles collected information about local support, cost of living, job prospects, and volunteers' strengths.

The algorithm suggested matches to the beneficiaries first for their review. If a beneficiary accepted the match, they would be introduced to their Welcome Circle and apply for humanitarian parole to enter the U.S. If a beneficiary declined the match, they were given the option to place themselves in a queue for a specific location in the U.S.

This approach balanced the desire of Ukrainian beneficiaries to settle in key cities with large Ukrainian diasporas and the need to allow people to move quickly. Post-arrival support was provided by the Welcome Circle volunteers with support from HIAS.

The RUTH platform facilitated matches between 44 Ukrainian cases and their U.S.-based sponsors. An aim of the platform was to lessen the risk of secondary migrations, which creates challenges in post-arrival support. This was achieved, with only two of the arrived beneficiaries out-migrating within the sponsorship period. Among those matched by RUTH 71% felt that the matching process accurately reflected their household composition and needs. In the Welcome Circle program, 87% of beneficiaries could see a future for themselves in their community.

Good Practice: Learning from Germany's Federal Admission Program for Afghans, an Innovative Pathway with Unmet Potential

Launched in October 2022, Germany's Federal Admission Program Afghanistan (FAP) was designed to provide protection to at-risk Afghans. However, budgetary negotiations halted new admissions in July 2024, leaving thousands in limbo. By January 2025, only 3,074 people had received admission approval, and 1,093 had arrived in Germany – far below the government's target of 1,000 admissions per month. Despite these challenges, the program remains a crucial, expandable tool for protecting Afghans at risk and offers valuable lessons for EU and national admission programs.

The program works in partnership with civil society organizations that have submitted cases as designated “authorized agencies”. IRC Germany actively participates in the FAP, submitting 165 cases and serving 600 clients between March 2023 and August 2024. The FAP created a safe pathway for individuals at risk due to their profession or persecution based on gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religion. Future initiatives should expand eligibility to include non-core family members in special dependency relationships or facing derived risks. Considering social and family connections significantly eases the arrival process and reduces municipal strain.

The FAP introduced new approaches to admission processing, some of which proved effective, while others highlighted areas in need of improvement.

- **Case Submissions Through Civil Society Organizations:**

Instead of self-registration, submissions are handled by civil society organizations, with clear criteria published on a government website in Dari, English, and German. Multiple-choice questionnaires proved inadequate for complex cases, causing backlogs. This led to additional information – such as income sources and narrative summaries – being requested after submission. Lack of public funding available to NGOs limited their participation, constraining the program's reach.

- **Digital Selection Procedures:**

Online tools are essential given the applicants' location in Afghanistan. However, an integrated online tool with one single communication channel would have improved efficiency. The lack of transparency in the scoring system for case selection makes it difficult to understand pre-selection criteria and assess applicants' chances of admission.

- **Visa Processing in Third Countries:**

Without diplomatic representation in Afghanistan, visa procedures are conducted in Islamabad, Pakistan. The prolonged uncertainty during this process increases mental health and safety risks for FAP applicants. Providing medical and mental health care and safe accommodations, as done in Pakistan, is crucial for well-being and should be standardized in future programs.

While the FAP faces significant implementation challenges, it remains a valuable model for humanitarian admission programs, and the lessons learned can apply to relocations through the Solidarity Mechanism. Lessons from this initiative should inform future EU and national efforts, ensuring that protection pathways are more accessible, transparent, and responsive to the needs of at-risk populations.

Key Recommendations

While the Pact on Migration and Asylum introduces important structural changes, further adaptations to relocation procedures are necessary. Member States require practical guidance to implement relocations successfully, and the EUAA must further develop its relocation and matching system to fulfill its new mandate. Achieving this requires not just commitments from Member States to pledge for relocations, but also a willingness to learn from existing programmatic experience.

This section outlines key recommendations based on an analysis of previous relocation efforts and the BGP's, the IRC's and HIAS Europe's programmatic experience on the matter. When designed in line with these recommendations, relocations can move beyond political obligation to a valuable policy tool that benefits both newcomers and host communities.

General Framework

- **Guarantee Timely Pledges and Swift Relocations:** We urge Member States to make relocation pledges without delay, ensuring they align with the needs identified through the Solidarity Forum. Relocations should be carried out timely and in a coordinated manner across Member States. Security screenings, conducted by national authorities, must adhere to clear and standardized guidelines to prevent selective practices. Additionally, responsibility determination for the asylum procedure should be completed before departure to prevent unnecessary transfers to avoid prolonged insecurity for applicants as well as delayed access to the asylum procedure.
- **Establish a Robust Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Solidarity Mechanism:** Clear reporting and evaluation phases should be integrated into the Solidarity Mechanism policy cycle, ensuring that assessments lead to actionable recommendations and the subsequent monitoring of their implementation. Governments and EU institutions should publish comprehensive data on relocation programs and their evaluation.

The involvement of UN agencies, civil society, and other external stakeholders in data collection and evaluation will strengthen transparency and accountability of the mechanism.

- **Engage Civil Society:** Civil society organizations (NGOs and CSOs, including RLOs and RROs) bring essential programmatic expertise and firsthand experience from working with displaced and host communities. The EU and its Member States can greatly benefit from CSOs' insights in designing, implementing, and monitoring relocation processes. We urge Member States, the EU Solidarity Coordinator, and the EUAA to actively consult organized civil society when designing selection, matching, relocation, and monitoring procedures and to invite them to the EU Technical-Level Solidarity Forum to ensure their expertise informs decision-making. Furthermore, civil society's direct involvement on the ground is essential for validating processes, ensuring adequate care and transparency, and contributing to effective implementation.

Selection and Matching

- **Make Vulnerability the Guiding Principle for Selection:** Relocation processes should be developed and implemented with vulnerability as a guiding principle and central criterion for selection. We urge member states to prioritize the protection and well-being of those most in need, including unaccompanied minors as well as other particularly vulnerable individuals. Criteria must be based on thorough needs and vulnerability assessments involving relevant government agencies in first-arrival countries and external experts, such as NGOs and CSOs, including RLOs and RROs. This will also contribute to enhancing transparency in the selection process. Restrictive national preferences should no longer override humanitarian concerns.

- **Preserve Families, Recognize Meaningful Relationships:** We urge Member States to preserve family unity in relocation decisions, including through verification of family links for

unaccompanied children. While the AMMR prioritizes family ties, including those formed in transit, its definition remains too narrow and fails to reflect the reality of meaningful relationships. We strongly recommend expanding the definition of a family unit to include siblings, adult children, extended family members, and members of the same household, when protection seekers express a wish for this. Recognizing a broader spectrum of meaningful relationships would ensure that relocation decisions support social cohesion, stability, and long-term integration.

- **Strengthen Data-Driven Matching for Effective Relocation:** A data-driven algorithmic matching model should be used to align a fair, participative, and efficient relocation process with long-term integration outcomes. This approach enables a tailored allocation of protection seekers by factoring in individual profiles, needs and vulnerabilities, preferences, and meaningful links while ensuring operational feasibility for receiving Member States. Member States should avoid limiting suitable matches by imposing restrictive selection criteria. Ensuring transparency in the matching process is key to building trust and managing expectations – this includes a clear explanation of why a person was matched with a specific destination, strengthening their ability to adapt and navigate local conditions. Matching becomes even more impactful when Member States actively involve municipalities in determining relocation destinations, ensuring relocation efforts align with local realities and strengthening municipal commitment to national relocation decisions. To achieve this, Member States should pre-identify receiving municipalities, integrate municipal data into the matching system, and enable either direct allocation to municipalities or two-step matching – first assigning a Member State, then determining the municipality.

- **Center Protection Seekers’ Preferences in Matching:** Beyond ensuring a fair distribution of applicants among Member States, matching should incorporate the preferences of protection seekers. Personal priorities, such as specific links and the presence of support networks (including extended family or friends), access to education or employment opportunities, and specific services, should be considered. Recognizing applicants’ preferences lifts up their agency, strengthens alignment with receiving Member States, and fosters mutual commitment – ultimately improving retention, integration, and reducing secondary migration. Municipal involvement makes preference-based matching even more effective, as local-level data provides a more precise and meaningful pairing. By matching not just at the Member State level but directly with municipalities, relocation can be more targeted, ensuring that protection seekers arrive in communities best suited for their successful long-term integration.

Relocation

- **Prioritize Willingness to Relocate:** We strongly recommend maintaining a personal willingness to relocate as a fundamental factor in the relocation and matching process. Contrary to the intention of the AMMR, we recommend granting not only beneficiaries but also applicants of international protection the option to oppose relocation. This is particularly crucial given the non-uniform standards for asylum eligibility across Member States. Providing protection seekers with this agency empowers them in the process, enhancing their commitment to the receiving Member State.
- **Standardize Procedures for Enhanced Protection and Transparency:** Relocation and matching procedures must be streamlined, transparent, and guided by clearly established timelines to ensure sufficient preparation time for host communities while preventing prolonged uncertainty and undue psychological stress for protection seekers. Digital tools, such as a unified online system for case registration, selection, and progress tracking, could improve

efficiency, accountability, and accessibility. Standardized safeguarding measures should be integrated throughout the process to guarantee adequate protection, access to clear multilingual information in accessible formats, and tailored care, including mental health support, for vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and pregnant women. To ensure a seamless transition from relocation to integration, post-arrival support structures should be embedded into the system.

- Provide Comprehensive and Transparent**

Pre-Departure Information: To successfully bridge relocation and reception, protection seekers must receive comprehensive pre-departure support, including health assessments and orientation material that provides clear, practical information on the relocation process, individual rights, and the destination. This information must be accessible, taking into account age, language, literacy and vulnerabilities. Transparent communication helps manage expectations realistically, fosters trust, strengthens commitment to the relocation process, supports integration efforts, and reduces the burden on municipal services. These benefits are further enhanced when applicants and beneficiaries are assigned to a specific city in the host country and informed of their destination in advance of the relocation – just as municipalities can benefit from the early provision of information to prepare for reception and integration.



The Berlin Governance Platform (BGP) is an independent think tank based in Berlin that develops, promotes and tests transparency-oriented and participatory governance in order to develop sustainable and human rights-based solutions to societal challenges. In the field of migration policy, the BGP develops new policy concepts for safe migration to and within the European Union. Since 2022, the BGP develops and pilots data-driven matching of protection seekers and municipalities as a tool for EU relocation efforts.

↗ www.governance-platform.org

Lead-Author: Lea Rau, Migration Policy Officer
Co-Author: Giulia Fellin, Project Lead Migration



The International Rescue Committee (IRC) works in more than 50 countries to help people affected by humanitarian crises to survive, recover, and rebuild their lives. In Europe, the IRC is working with governments, municipalities and local organizations to meet the immediate and critical needs of those seeking refuge, and to support the effective integration of refugees into their new communities.

↗ www.rescue.org

Lead-Author: Ganna Dudinska, Senior Policy Advisor
Co-Authors: Anna-Stina Naujoks, Advocacy Coordinator Humanitarian Admission & Meron Knikmann, Senior EU Advocacy Advisor



Welcome the stranger.
Protect the refugee.

HIAS is the international Jewish humanitarian organization that provides vital services to refugees and asylum seekers in more than 20 countries. We advocate for the rights of all forcibly displaced people to rebuild their lives and seek to create a world in which they find welcome, safety, and opportunity. In Europe, HIAS Europe manages humanitarian programming worldwide and supports European Jewish communities, organisations, and activists in their efforts to welcome and integrate refugees.

↗ www.hias.org/hias-eu/

Co-Authors: Liora Jaffe, Senior Program Manager & Andrea Gagne, Senior Program Manager