



## **Ad-Hoc Query on risk to national security in resettlement context**

**Requested by EE NCP on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

**Compilation produced on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

**Responses from Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, plus Norway (20 in Total)**

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### **1. Background Information**

Estonian Ministry of Interior is in the process of analysing the risk to national security in context of resettlement programmes. UNHCR is mentioning in their document: “UNHCR is acutely aware of the concerns of States to maintain public security and combat terrorism. These concerns are entirely legitimate and UNHCR understands and shares the desire of States to ensure the integrity of resettlement programmes. A balance must be struck which addresses these concerns, whilst avoiding the erosion of long-standing refugee protection principles. Ideally, systems that protect the integrity of the resettlement process also serve to protect refugees.”

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Estonia has not this far taken part in resettlement programmes, and would like to carry out a risk analysis concerning the participation in such programmes. We would like to find out how MS assess the risk to national security arising from resettlement programmes (including any economic, political, social or cultural risks, risks to national identity, terrorism and crime).

Please provide answers to following questions:

1. In case, your MS is taking a part of resettlement programmes.

a Has your MS carried out any evaluations, studies or analysis on security risks arising from participation in resettlement programmes?

If yes, do these studies include analysis of economic, political, social or cultural risks, risks to national identity, terrorism and crime?

If yes, is there any time interval after which evaluations/studies are repeated? Is there any legal provision for these studies?

Could you please refer to such studies?

b What authorities are involved in your MS in decision-making process on acceptance of refugees to your country, are the officials of the security authorities also involved ?

c Do you have any statistical data of refugees, who are not approved by your MS security officials? Moreover, which are the most common reasons not to accept a refugee?

d In order to follow up on specific issues in more detail, please provide contact details for an official in your state to which any supplementary queries in relation to this ad hoc query can be addressed.

2. In case, your country is not taking a part of resettlement programmes.

a Has your MS carried out some evaluations, study's or analysis on security risks arising from possible participation in resettlement programmes?

If Yes, do these studies include analysis of economic, political, social or cultural risks, risks to national identity, terrorism and crime?

If yes, is there time interval after which evaluations/studies are repeated? Is there any legal provision for these studies?

Could you please refer to such studies?





b Has your MS analysed any particular reasons, why not to take part in resettlement programmes.

c In order to follow up on specific issues in more detail, please provide contact details for an official in your state to which any supplementary queries in relation to this ad hoc query can be addressed.







We would very much appreciate your responses by **8<sup>th</sup> January 2015**.

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## 2. Responses

		Wider Dissemination?	
	<b>Austria</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. a Austria only recently started to take part in currently still ongoing UNHCR resettlement programmes. Therefore no such Austrian evaluations/studies/analysis on security risks resulting specifically from such resettlement programmes yet exist. In this regard, particularly checks in all cases are carried out by the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution and Counter-Terrorism.</p> <p>1. b Several authorities are involved in the whole resettlement process, state security authorities, security authorities and asylum authorities in Austria as well as representations abroad.</p> <p>1. c. Yes, such persons are internally noted down, whereupon a further processing of the persons was up to now not undertaken, because these did not want to participate anymore in the programme.</p> <p>1. d. Responsible for the overall coordination of resettlement programmes in Austria is the Department III/5 of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, email: BMI-III-5@bmi.gv.at</p> <p>2. Not applicable. Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior.</p>
	<b>Belgium</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. a. No such studies or evaluations have been undertaken in Belgium.</p> <p>1. b. The decision to resettle refugees (including the size) is taken by the government (State Secretary for Migration and Asylum policy). The selection process is managed by the Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGRS). All cases submitted for resettlement are screened and cleared by the Security of the State. Public order threats are taken into account when deciding on the eligibility for resettlement.</p> <p>1. c. So far no (resettlement) refugees were refused because of security reasons.</p> <p>1. d. contact details: <a href="mailto:Ewout.Adriaens@ibz.fgov.be">Ewout.Adriaens@ibz.fgov.be</a> (CGRS). Tel: +32/2/205.50.56</p>
	<b>Czech Republic</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. a) No - given a very small number of resettled refugees so far.</p> <p>b) If concerning resettled refugees the main responsible body is the Ministry of Interior. All refugees recommended for resettlement are also scrutinised by the security authorities.</p> <p>c) If concerning resettled refugees, then no - given a very small number of resettled refugees so far.</p> <p>d) Ministry of Interior, Department for Asylum and Migration Policy, emncz@mvcz.cz.</p> <p>2.N/A</p>
	<b>Estonia</b>	<b>No</b>	This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further.






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	<b>Finland</b>	<b>No</b>	This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further.
	<b>France</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. France takes part in resettlement programs. Through a framework agreement with the High Commissioner for Refugees that was signed on February 4th 2008, France undertakes to receive about 100 resettlement applications per year.</p> <p>1.a. Only security checks are carried out on a case-by-case basis by the French security services during the application process. Individual interviews are also conducted in case of on-site mission.</p> <p>1.b. Resettlement cases are examined by the Asylum Service of the Ministry of the Interior that takes decisions after consulting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the security services.</p> <p>1.c. Since 2008, very few cases have been refused on security grounds.</p> <p>1.d. <a href="mailto:asile-d1@interieur.gouv.fr">asile-d1@interieur.gouv.fr</a></p> <p>2.N/A.</p>
	<b>Germany</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. Germany is taking part in resettlement programmes</p> <p>a. Germany has not carried out evaluations, studies or analysis on security risks arising from participation in resettlement programmes</p> <p>b. Besides the Federal Ministry of Interior and and the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees also the security authorities are involved in the process. The security checks are carried out during the visa procedure.</p> <p>c. There is no statistical data available regarding rejections of the security authorities. Estimated numbers are very low.</p> <p>d. Additional queries may be addressed to: Ms Corinna Wicher; Email: <a href="mailto:ref213posteingang@bamf.bund.de">ref213posteingang@bamf.bund.de</a></p>
	<b>Greece</b>	<b>Yes</b>	Greece is in a state of implementation of a series of structural reforms in the asylum/reception system, and as a consequence, there has been no involvement so far in the field of resettlement.
	<b>Hungary</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. Yes, Hungary takes part in a resettlement programme involving Syrian refugees, nevertheless, Hungary has not yet carried out such analyses.</p> <p>2. N/A</p>
	<b>Italy</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1.N/A.</p> <p>2.Italy has not yet taken part in resettlement programs. Generally, resettlements were carried through specific projects led by the Ministry of the Interior in agreement with UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Italian Council for Refugees (CIR) and some local institutions (provinces and municipalities); the resettlement procedures were defined in these projects from time to time depending on the persons and organizations involved.</p> <p>There are no official available documents providing the requested information.</p>

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	<b>Latvia</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. –</p> <p>2. Latvia is not taking part in resettlement programmes.</p> <p>2.1.No</p> <p>2.2.No</p> <p>2.3.Ms.Līga Vijupe, Head of Asylum Affairs Division e-mail: <a href="mailto:liga.vijupe@pmlp.gov.lv">liga.vijupe@pmlp.gov.lv</a></p>
	<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>No</b>	This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further.
	<b>Luxembourg</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1.Luxembourg is participating in the resettlement of Syrian refugees in 2014 and 2015.</p> <p>a. No, there are no public evaluations, studies or analysis on security risks arising from possible participation in resettlement programmes.</p> <p>b. The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs has the lead in all resettlement matters.</p> <p>c. No data is available.</p> <p>d. Ms Anouk Kirpach, Head of international relations/Resettlement, MFA, Directorate of Immigration, 26 route d’Arlon, L-1140 Luxembourg.</p> <p>2.N/A</p>
	<b>Netherlands</b>	<b>No</b>	This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further.
	<b>Slovak Republic</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. It should be noted that Slovak Republic does not take part in the resettlement programme and due to this fact the following information mainly concerns humanitarian transfers.</p> <p>a) No specific study, evaluation or analysis on security risks has been carried out. However, during each resettlement / humanitarian transfer, a person has to be proposed for resettlement / humanitarian transfer by the Bureau of Border and Alien Police of the Police Force Presidium and the Slovak Information Service prior to his/her approval for resettlement / humanitarian transfer.</p> <p>b) Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic in cooperation with the Bureau of Border and Alien Police of the Police Force Presidium and the Slovak Information Service – their position is a precondition for the approval of the group for the humanitarian transfer by the Migration Office.</p> <p>c) No. The information about the most common reasons for rejection is not available.</p> <p>d) Katarína Žúžiová Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic +421 2 48 254 251 <a href="mailto:katarina.zuziova@minv.sk">katarina.zuziova@minv.sk</a></p>

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	<b>Slovenia</b>	<b>Yes</b>	2. So far Slovenia didn't take any political decision to implement resettlement programme. No such assessments were carried out yet.
	<b>Spain</b>	<b>Yes</b>	1.a -No. 1.b-In Spain, the procedure for granting international protection (refugee status as well as subsidiary protection status) is regulated as follows: the procedure is instructed by the Refugee & Asylum Office, which is depending of the Ministry of Interior. Afterwards, an Inter-ministerial Commission, which is composed by representatives from different Ministries (Foreign Affairs, Justice, Interior, Employment and Social Security, and Equality). The final decision on the application for international protection is taken by the Ministry of Interior, once the Inter-ministerial Commission assessment has been heard. The official of the security authorities are not involved in the decision making process. 1.c-No 1.d Inmaculada Vidal. E-mail <a href="mailto:i Vidal@interior.es">i Vidal@interior.es</a>
	<b>Sweden</b>	<b>Yes</b>	A-C: Data cannot be shared by means of an EMN query. We stand ready to engage with Estonian authorities bilaterally to assist with further information on the matter. Please contact Head of resettlement, Oskar Ekblad: <a href="mailto:oskar.ekblad@migrationsverket.se">oskar.ekblad@migrationsverket.se</a>
	<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>Yes</b>	The Gateway Protection Programme is the UK resettlement scheme for refugees identified by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and has been operating annually since 2004. Gateway refugees are provided with 12 months resettlement support including a caseworker and access to the benefits system. Gateway refugees are granted Indefinite Leave to Remain on arrival in the UK and so have the right to take up paid employment in the UK. The UK also operates the Mandate Resettlement Scheme. The Mandate Scheme allows the UK to resettle refugees who have close ties to the UK. To meet the close ties requirements, the refugee must be a spouse, a minor child or a parent/grandparent over 65 of someone living in the UK; and the UK sponsor must be willing to accommodate them. These family members in the UK must have settlement or immigration status leading to settlement in order to be eligible (but do not themselves have to be refugees). The applicant must have been granted Mandate refugee status by the UNHCR and also demonstrate a resettlement need in accordance with the UNHCR Criteria on Resettlement. On 29 January 2014, the UK established the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation (VPR) Scheme. The scheme runs in parallel with the UNHCR's Syria Humanitarian Admission Programme (HAP). The VPR scheme prioritises help for survivors of torture and violence, women and children at risk, and those in need of medical care. The UK works with UNCHR to identify suitable cases. 1.a No 1.b. Refugees must be referred for resettlement by UNHCR, after which they are assessed by Home Office staff to determine whether they meet resettlement criteria .The UK also requires all those referred for resettlement to be security screened. 1.c No 1.d Dave Atkinson, Resettlement Operations Manager, Home Office HQ <a href="mailto:Dave.Atkinson2@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk">Dave.Atkinson2@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk</a>
	<b>Norway</b>	<b>Yes</b>	1.a – We are not aware of any such studies.

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			<p>1.b – Normally, the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) decides the outcome of resettlement referrals. According to standard operation procedures we consult the National Security Police (PST) and the Directorate of Integration and Diversity (IMDi). In cases which involve national security concerns, or have foreign policy implications, the cases are subject to a final scrutiny by the Ministry of Justice and Public Security.</p> <p>1.c – UDI does not have such statistics. The most common reasons for rejecting a resettlement referral is lack of recognition as a refugee, and thereafter capacity limitations of local municipalities (e.g. lack of suitable housing).</p> <p>1.d – Tonje Øyan – Head of Resettlement Unit, UDI (<a href="mailto:toe@udi.no">toe@udi.no</a>)</p>
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