

This paper is available for Open Access Download on:

<https://doi.org/10.24834/isbn.9789178771776>

Franziska Böhm, Ingrid Jerve Ramsøy, Brigitte Suter

# Norms and Values in Refugee Resettlement

A Literature Review of Resettlement to the EU

*Current Themes in IMER Research 21: 1*



*Current Themes in IMER Research No 21: 1*

ISBN 978-91-7877-177-6 (pdf)

DOI 10.24834/isbn.9789178771776

**Published**

2021

**Editor**

Anders Hellström, anders.hellstrom@mau.se

**Published by**

Malmö Institute for Studies of Migration, Diversity and Welfare (MIM)

Malmö University

205 06 Malmö

Sweden

Online publication

[www.bit.mah.se/muep](http://www.bit.mah.se/muep)

FRANZISKA BÖHM, INGRID JERVE RAMSØY, BRIGITTE SUTER

## **Norms and Values in Refugee Resettlement**

A Literature Review of Resettlement to the EU



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 770330

## Abstract

As a result of the refugee reception crisis in 2015 the advocacy for increasing resettlement numbers in the overall refugee protection framework has gained momentum, as has research on resettlement to the EU. While the UNHCR purports resettlement as a durable solution for the international protection of refugees, resettlement programmes to the European Union are seen as a pillar of the external dimension of the EU's asylum and migration policies and management. This paper presents and discusses the literature regarding the value transmissions taking place within these programmes. It reviews literature on the European resettlement process – ranging from the selection of refugees to be resettled, the information and training they receive prior to travelling to their new country of residence, their reception upon arrival, their placement and dispersal in the receiving state, as well as programs of private and community sponsorship. The literature shows that even if resettlement can be considered an external dimension of European migration policy, this process does not end at the border. Rather, resettlement entails particular forms of reception, placement and dispersal as well as integration practices that refugees are confronted with once they arrive in their resettlement country. These practices should thus be understood in the context of the resettlement regime as a whole.

In this paper we map out where and how values (here understood as ideas about how something should be) and norms (expectations or rules that are socially enforced) are transmitted within this regime. 'Value transmission' is here understood in a broad sense, taking into account the values that are directly transmitted through information and education programmes, as well as those informing practices and actors' decisions. Identifying how norms and values figure in the resettlement regime aid us in further understanding decision making processes, policy making, and the on-the-ground work of practitioners that influence refugees' lives. An important finding in this literature review is that vulnerability is a central notion in international refugee protection, and even more so in resettlement. Ideas and practices regarding vulnerability are, throughout the resettlement regime, in continuous tension with those of security, integration, and of refugees' own agency. The literature review and our discussion serve as a point of departure for developing further investigations into the external dimension of value transmission, which in turn can add insights into the role of norms and values in the making and un-making of (external) boundaries/borders.

The material for this paper has been collected and reviewed as part of the Horizon 2020 project NOVAMIGRA - Norms and Values in the European Migration and Refugee Crisis<sup>1</sup>. The initial version of this paper (Deliverable 3.4, a confidential document for internal use within the project only) was the first of a two-part deliverable on the external dimension of European norms and values. The initial version contained contributions from our project partners at the Centre for Migration Studies (CeBaM), Adam

---

<sup>1</sup> Information about the project and further publications available here: <https://novamigra.eu/>

Mickiewicz University in Poland, Elżbieta M. Goździak, Izabella Main, Izabela Kujawa in the form of fieldwork material. This fieldwork material, together with our own from various countries, will be part of our analysis in the second part of this deliverable – a forthcoming (2021) report on best practices of value transmission in resettlement (Deliverable 3.5).

### **Key Words**

Norms and values, Resettlement, European Union, vulnerability, regime, migration, policy, refugee protection, borders, boundaries, integration

### **Biographical Notes**

**Franziska Böhm** has worked as Research Assistant in the NOVAMIGRA project between 2019 and 2021 and is based at the Malmö Institute for Studies of Migration, Diversity and Welfare at Malmö University. She holds a Master of political science and global studies from Lund University. Her research focuses on questions of values and norms in integration, migration, and gender equality, as well as the analysis of international policy regimes and ethnographic fieldwork.

**Ingrid Jerve Ramsøy**, PhD in International Migration and Ethnic Relations (IMER), is a researcher at Malmö Institute for Studies of Migration, Diversity and Welfare (MIM) at Malmö University. Her PhD thesis (2019) investigated the exchange of values and care in the global care work market between Bolivia and Spain from an ethnographic perspective. She has worked in the NOVAMIGRA project between 2019 and 2021, investigating the role of norms and values in the Swedish resettlement system and integration field, and is co-founder of the IMISCOE supported network ‘Norms and Values in Migration and Integration’ (Novami).

**Brigitte Suter** is Associate Professor in International Migration and Ethnic Relations at the Department of Global Political Studies at Malmö University. Her latest research projects include the mobility of highly skilled migrants in the global economy and the role of norms and rights in the field of migration and integration. She has worked in the NOVAMIGRA project between 2018 and 2021 and is co-founder of the IMISCOE supported network ‘Norms and Values in Migration and Integration’ (Novami).

### **Contact**

[franziskamboehm@gmail.com](mailto:franziskamboehm@gmail.com)

## TABLE OF CONTENT

INTRODUCTION .....	5
BACKGROUND: Large arrival of asylum seekers in 2015 and the renewed demand for legal pathways to protection.....	9
The International Refugee Protection Regime: The UNHCR, the EU and member states .....	10
The EU and resettlement .....	11
Key developments .....	12
ANALYSIS: Norms and values in the resettlement process .....	13
Selection procedure .....	13
Selecting the most vulnerable/the most deserving .....	13
Projecting and defining resettlement needs .....	14
Identifying individuals .....	14
National criteria through intrinsic political motivation and values.....	15
Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) .....	20
Content and pedagogy: What to convey and how to convey it.....	21
Reception .....	22
Placement and dispersal .....	23
Private and community sponsorship.....	25
CONCLUDING DISCUSSION .....	27
BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	32
ANNEX .....	39
Resettlement Process in Sweden .....	39
Influence of the Covid-19 Pandemic.....	40
Resettlement Process in Germany.....	41
Influence of the Covid-19 Pandemic.....	43

This paper is available for Open Access Download on:

<https://doi.org/10.24834/isbn.9789178771776>