ECRE has been involved in resettlement advocacy for almost ten years, arguing for the importance of greater engagement in resettlement, and lobbying before the EU to adopt a Joint Resettlement Programme. We are pleased that a programme has been adopted for 2013. We have also supported coordination and exchange between our members as many are involved in resettlement at all stages of the process.

***Why do we advocate for resettlement?***

* Because resettlement is a **durable solution** for those whose life, liberty, safety, health or other human rights are at risk in the country where they sought refuge. In certain protracted displacement cases, there is really no other solution in sight.
* Because there is now, and will always be, a constant need for **emergency places,** and resettlement is often the only way to safety for certain vulnerable individuals.
* Because resettlement can **reunite families.**
* Because resettlement also has a ***strategic* use**: it can help unlock other solutions for those refugees that cannot leave but will remain in the region.
* Because resettlement has **a *symbolic* value**: it is a gesture of responsibility sharing with countries that host large numbers of refugees in the world.

***We advocate for MORE resettlement in Europe:***

* European countries know resettlement, it is **not a new concept.** Certain Member States have been resettling regularly for over 20 years. We believe that more countries can do that.
* Currently Europe resettles **only 5,500 individuals** **= 8% of the annual resettlement places globally. We can and need to do more than that. It is a question of solidarity with countries that have much less than we do and struggle to provide for and protect refugees.**
* Since last year, 6 leading organisations in the refugee field – [Amnesty International](http://www.amnesty.org/), [CCME](http://www.ccme.be/), [ICMC](http://www.icmc.net/), [IOM](http://www.iom.int/jahia/jsp/index.jsp), [Save Me](http://www.save-me-kampagne.de/) and [ECRE](http://www.ecre.org/) have launched the **RESETTLEMENT SAVES LIVES Campaign** which aims to increase the number of resettlement places offered by EU Member States in the coming years to 20,000 annually by the year 2020. We believe that working incrementally, it is possible to achieve this target. Commissioner Malmstroem has also expressed her support.

***We also advocate for BETTER resettlement in Europe:***

* It is not sufficient to just offer more places, and we should not overlook quality for the sake of quantity. Rather, ECRE has been advocating for better resettlement. What we mean by ‘better’ is resettlement that is **sustainable** and that *fully supports the individual to successfully start and continue a new life in the host environment.*
* There has been relatively little attention paid to the question of integration of resettled refugees and the sustainability of these programs. While in certain cases specialised support and services are necessary for resettled refugees, generally speaking the main need is to enhance the quality and broaden the scope of mainstream integration services, benefitting all refugees, including those resettled.

***Constructing the knowledge base: the Know Reset Project***

In order for advocacy to be effective, it is important to construct and maintain a solid knowledge base on European resettlement. And this is what the Know Reset project is doing.

Know Reset is a **comprehensive** overview of legislation, practices and capacities in the European Member States; it provides detailed information, country by country, on the legislative framework, the main state and non-state actors involved, the process of resettlement, the status and the rights granted, and the practices that support post-arrival.

Through the Know Reset project, for the first time a *comparative* analysis of resettlement standards and practices has been made available across Europe, with the aim to support the exchange of good practices and enhance cooperation.

Know-Reset aims to identify the needs and conditions necessary to increase and improve resettlement in Europe, and examines the potential for further development of capacities in Member States with ad hoc or regular programmes

Know-Reset also looks at countries that are not involved in resettlement with the aim to explore the scope and conditions that would allow engagement in the near future

Finally, the Know Reset website is a key, openly available resource for practitioners and researchers

We believe this type of background research is extremely important for policy makers and practitioners, and needs to be maintained and continued in the future. In addition, we see an important role for EASO to play in supporting information exchange, and are interested in exploring more concretely the ways EASO, NGOs and academia could collaborate for this purpose.

It has been a genuine pleasure to collaborate with the European University Institute on this project. We are keen to listen to the presentations throughout the course of the day and benefit from their insight. **I encourage you to be an active audience, both today and as we take resettlement efforts forward in the future to reach the goal of 20,000 resettlement places annually by 2020.**