

EUREMA (2010-2011)

A pilot project for intra-EU re-allocation of beneficiaries of protection from Malta

The background facts

- Some 15 000 arrivals since 2002 (1500 so far in 2011). More than 90% arrived by sea, rescued.
- Estimated 1500 people perished at sea this year alone.
- 56 % found to be in need of international protection.
- Malta is the smallest country of the European Union.
- Malta responsible for a large search and rescue region.

Malta Search and Rescue Region



The context in Malta

- Asylum system in place since 2001
- Detention policy
- Poor reception conditions
- Limited progress with local integration
- The Dublin II framework
- EU call for support for states faced with particular pressures

The EUREMA pilot project

- Objectives:
 - Implement principle of solidarity among states
 - Identify resettlement solutions for people in need
 - Improve situation for those who remain in Malta
- Participating states: France, Germany, Hungary, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and the United Kingdom. Target: relocation of 255 individuals. Supported by IOM, UNHCR.
- Project co-funded by the EU under the ERF
Total budget EUR 2.4 million

The relocation process

- Agreement on criteria and procedures
- Pre-screening and pre-selection
- Selection missions by Member States
- Departure preparations, travel
- Integration support in receiving countries

The outcomes

- 228 individuals departed from Malta.
- A second call for support for Malta in March 2011: Preparations for EUREMA II underway.
- Bilateral support initiatives continue.
- Around 1200 individuals have so far benefited from resettlement/relocation from Malta.

Some issues

Positive impact, but:

- Effective?
- Fair?
- Broader scope?
- Target future arrivals of asylum-seekers?
- Not a fix for Dublin II