



# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS: POSTER SESSIONS

MCAA ANNUAL  
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# FOREWORD

## Dear Members,

This Book of Abstracts collects the posters presented at the Annual Conference of the Marie Curie Alumni Association which took place online on 5-7 March 2021.

For each poster, a page includes an abstract, an image of the poster, and information about the author(s) and their organisation(s). Posters are categorised under nine areas:

- Chemistry
- Economics
- Engineering
- Environmental Sciences
- Life Sciences
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Social Sciences, Humanities & Arts
- MCAA Chapters

The MCAA wishes to thank everyone who showcased their posters at the first-ever online Annual Conference event. All members and non-members are encouraged to submit posters for future Annual Conferences and General Assemblies.

The abstract authors may be contacted via the MCAA web portal.

Sincerely,  
The MCAA 2021 Conference Committee



# SOCIAL SCIENCES, HUMANITIES AND ARTS

## Private sponsorship of refugees.

### Insights and lessons from Canada's experience

In 2019, Canada resettled 30,100 refugees, overtaking the United States and Australia in the number of refugees admitted that year. About three in five refugees who have arrived in Canada over the past decade have been admitted under the private sponsorship program.

Private sponsorship was formalised by the 1976 Immigration Act, drawing on the will of private individuals to identify and support refugees financially and emotionally for one year by taking responsibility for their resettlement and integration. Ever since then, more than 350,000 refugees have been privately sponsored to resettle in Canada.

#### Objectives

This research aims to analyse Canada's experience in resettling refugees through the support of private sponsors. It elaborates on the outcomes and challenges of Canada's program and explores its transferability in Europe.

#### Results

The Canadian program of resettlement of refugees has been a considerable success. It is considered more suitable than the government-assisted sponsorship program as it ensures a smoother and long-term integration of refugees. However, government priorities and inadequacy of services offered could limit the intake of refugees through this program and could potentially threaten the successful integration of refugees.

Is private sponsorship transferable to Europe? Canada's program is a product of unique and favourable domestic circumstances, which could make it inappropriate for other countries lacking such conditions. However, the literature on policy transfer shows that policy-makers can learn from the observations of policies in foreign systems. Some aspects of Canadian program may be potentially desirable for European countries: it provides ordinary people with a direct channel for proactive

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**PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP OF REFUGEES**  
INSIGHTS AND LESSONS FROM CANADA'S EXPERIENCE  
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**Background**  
In 2019, Canada resettled 30,100 refugees, overtaking the United States and Australia in the number of refugees admitted that year. About three in five refugees who have arrived in Canada over the past decade have been admitted under the private sponsorship program. Private sponsorship was formalised by the 1976 Immigration Act, drawing on the will of private individuals to identify and support refugees financially and emotionally for one year by taking responsibility for their resettlement and integration. Ever since then, more than 350,000 refugees have been privately sponsored to resettle in Canada.

**Objectives**  
This research aims to analyse Canada's experience in resettling refugees through the support of private sponsors. It elaborates on the outcomes and challenges of Canada's program and explores its transferability in Europe.

**Results**  
The Canadian private sponsorship program for the resettlement of refugees has been a considerable success. It is considered more suitable than the government assisted sponsorship program as it ensures a smoother resettlement and long-term integration. However, government priorities and inadequacy of services offered could limit the intake of refugees through this program and could potentially threaten the successful integration of refugees.

**Is private sponsorship transferable to Europe?**  
Canada's program is a product of unique and favourable domestic circumstances, which could make it inappropriate for other countries lacking such conditions. However, the literature on the policy transfer shows that policy-makers can learn from the observations of policies in foreign systems. Some aspects of Canadian program may be potentially desirable for European countries: it provides ordinary people with a direct channel for proactive engagement in the resettlement process; it represents a safe and legal alternative to irregular migration; it promotes the faster and easier integration of refugees; it reduces the government costs and enhances the resettlement capacity; it promotes the regionalization of refugee resettlement.

**Private Sponsorship factsheet**

1976-2020	350,000 refugees welcomed through PSR
1976-1980	34,000 Indochinese refugees privately resettled
1980-1998	40,000 Polish refugees arrived through PSR
1982-2018	9,000 refugees from Iran privately sponsored
1988-2018	63,000 Iraqi, Afghan and Somali refugees
2004-2018	17,000 Syrian refugees privately sponsored
2015-2020	35,000 Syrian refugees resettled through PSR
2015-2019	2 million Canadians personally involved
2021-2023	67,500 refugees planned to be resettled
2020	123 organizations signed sponsorship agreement

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