

NATIONAL
STAKEHOLDER
REPORT

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Implementation of the Global Compacts on Refugees (GCR)

ASYLUM



National Stakeholder Reports aim to inquire the **stakeholders' response to the evolving EU policy agenda** and **assess the unmet needs** in EU Member states. They also offer a key opportunity to bring the recently ReSOMA briefs and outputs on each topic to the attention of the relevant actors at national level. As such, the reports play a key role in linking the current EU policy agenda with the debate and recent developments on migration, asylum and integration within Member states.

In the second year of ReSOMA, the consultations underpinning the reports were conducted via the ReSOMA online platform in order to mobilise the community of experts (the "Expert Database") through thread discussions.

Download this document and learn more about the Research Social Platform on Migration and Asylum at: www.resoma.eu

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How can the EU contribute to the implementation of Global Compact on Refugees?

By Peter Scholten & Zeynep Kaşlı

The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), adopted by the UN General Assembly on 17 December 2018, represents the **international reference framework for planning and monitoring policy responses** to address refugee situations in the future. The EU and its Member States are now confronted with the question of how GCR will be implemented both internally within the EU and externally with its global partners.

As ReSOMA [ask the expert brief](#) mapping the existing research in this field shows, albeit its legally non-binding nature GCR offers an important step for durable solutions, namely strategies and instruments which could provide both humanitarian and development assistance. In our ReSOMA [expert interview](#), Dr. Jean-François Durieux, Prof. Geoff Gilbert and Dr. Volker Türk highlight that:

- it is necessary to expand existing resettlement programmes, by involving additional countries in global resettlement efforts and offering establishment of complementary pathways for admission in EU territory;
- various actors must get involved in the implementation of the Compact, including the private sector, local authorities, relevant international organisations, international financial institutions and academia.

Key issues and controversies further highlighted in previous ReSOMA briefs on [EU's role in implementing GCR](#) as well as ECRE's [policy note](#) include:

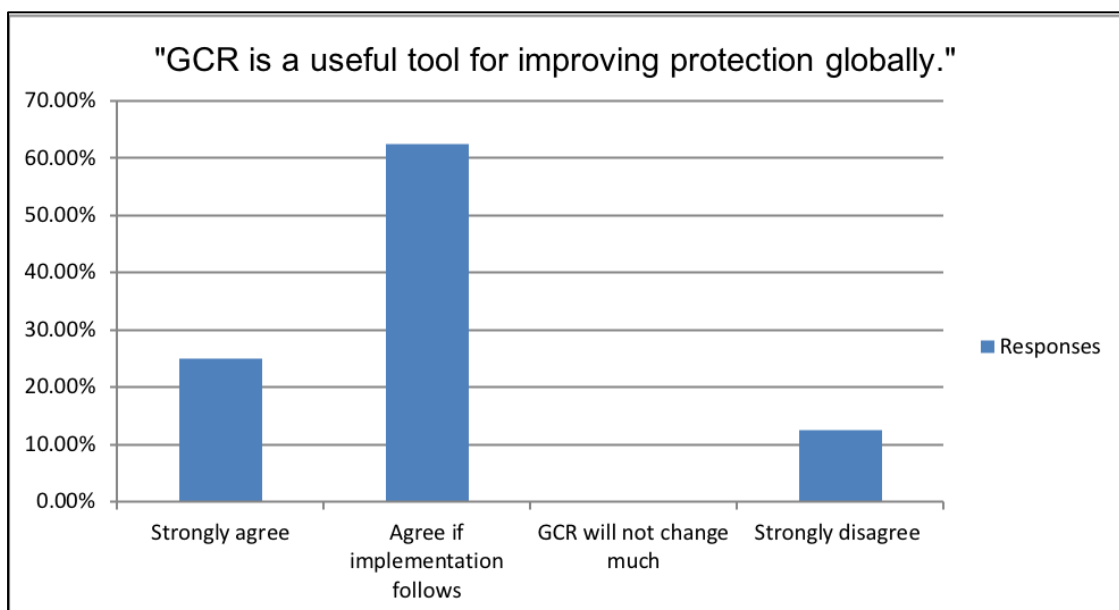
- Ambitious goals on resettlement as part of the pledging process and lack of political will among EU member states to meet them.
- Resettlement being subordinated to a migration management logic, instead of being a protection tool and expression of solidarity
- The need to ensure consistency between EU policies and the human rights and international protection at the basis of the GCR.
- The need for evidence-based independent monitoring of the GCR which cover all relevant dimensions of refugee protection.
- Involvement of the European Parliament in the reporting process on implementation, in particular on the use of EU funding for GCR goals.

This report summarizes the online discussions via the ReSOMA web portal and survey conducted via the SurveyMonkey platform. The questions for both the online discussion and the survey have been developed based on the needs and specifications of the ReSOMA

stakeholder partners and were launched over the course of late June and early July. During that time, experts, who are already registered to the ReSOMA Expert Database, received invitation e-mail to take part in both the online discussions and the surveys. Further promotion was carried out from the ReSOMA twitter account. As a privacy measure, survey responses cannot be matched with Expert Database Profiles whereas the comments posted on the platform match with the name and the institution of each commentator. Summary reports include only the names of the organizations as the comments reflect the views of affiliated institutions.

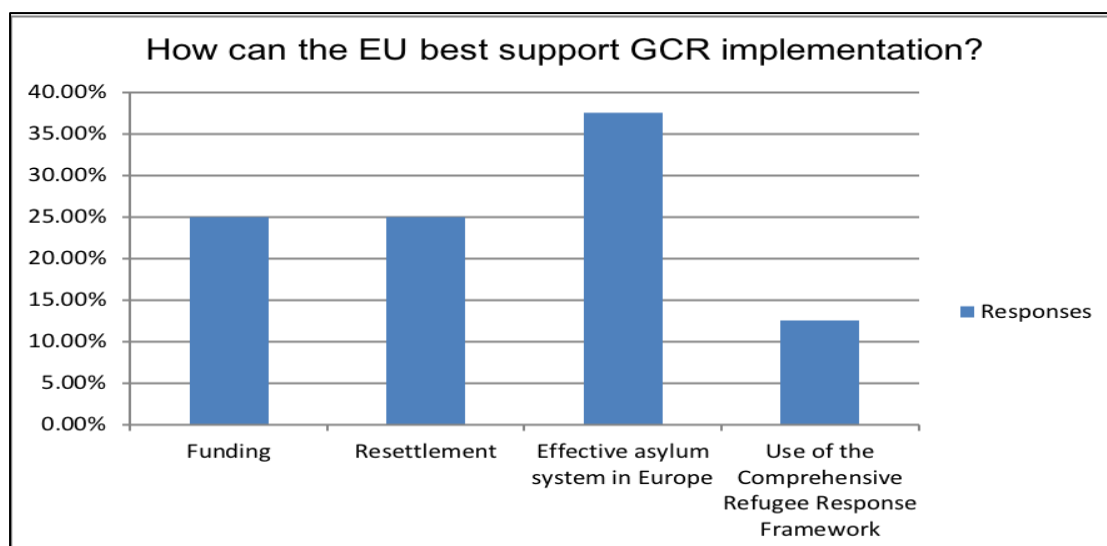
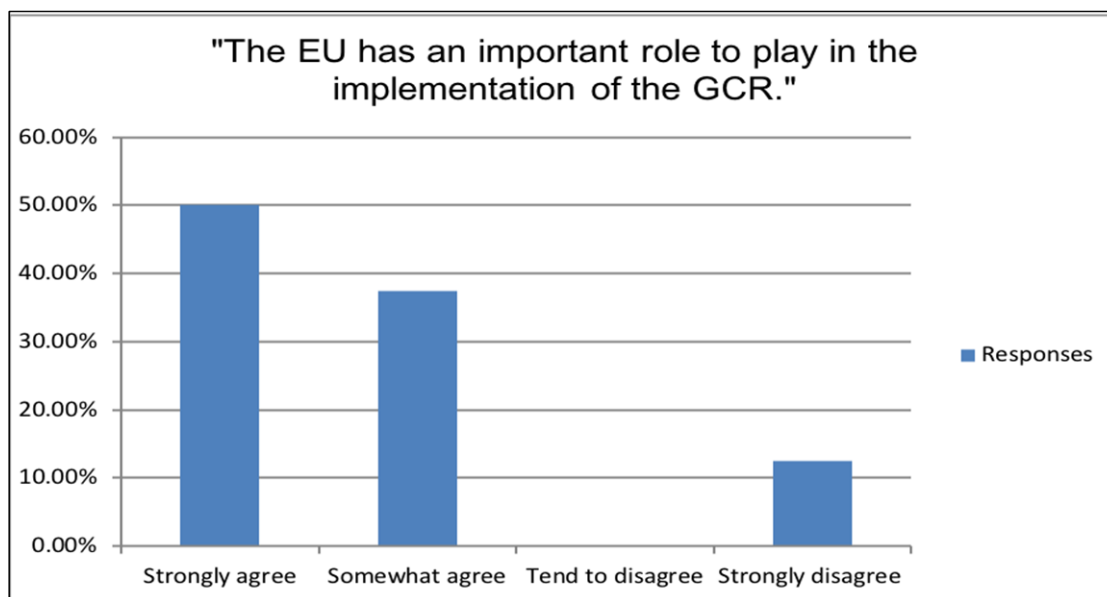
During the online discussions, the respondents were asked to provide input on the following three topics: (1) key elements to be addressed to facilitate the implementation process of GCR; (2) policy actions to ensure that needs are addressed and (3) the role of the EU and other actors. The response rates for this topic in both the survey (N=8) and online discussion (only one input) remained very low.

While majority of survey respondents (N=8) think that the GCR is a useful tool for improving protection globally, no specific feedback is provided on the key elements, the needs of local and national actors and related policy actions to ensure the implementation of GCR. The chart below presents the percentage of answers chosen.



The role of the EU and the other actors

As the two charts below show, majority of the survey respondents are of the opinion that the EU has an important role to play in the implementation of the GCR whereas there are diverse views on how the EU could best support the process. The charts present the percentage of answers chosen.



As the above chart shows, the use of the comprehensive refugee response framework that was used during the crisis in 2015 is the least preferred option on EU's support for implementation. It also stands in stark contrast to option of effective asylum system in Europe. In the same line as the survey respondents, ECRE stresses the use of the EU funding for asylum and social inclusion in Europe and for monitoring violations taking place in MENA and at the EU's borders. Moreover, ECRE suggests that the European Commission, the European External Action Service and Member States should systematically involve

refugee-led organisations in policy discussions in Europe and elsewhere. ECRE recalls the EU's commitment to support lives in dignity and self-reliance in line with the vision set out in the EU's Global Strategy, the Lives in Dignity Communication and the Lisbon Treaty itself.

This entails better access to asylum in Europe, expansion of safe routes, effective implementation of family reunification. As already mentioned in ECRE's report, in the light of the preparations of the 2019 Global Refugee Forum to address accountability issues, the Commission, Member States and MEPs is expected to develop pledges for the Forum, such as resettlement commitments, cover all objectives in the GCR and support involvement of civil society, particularly refugee-led organisations. This requires establishing a reporting process in which the EU and Member States provide updates on the progress towards their implementation of commitments which requires the European Parliament involvement in supporting and monitoring EU funding spent on GCR implementation.



ReSOMA

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ReSOMA - Research Social Platform on Migration and Asylum

is a project funded under the Horizon 2020 Programme that aims at creating a platform for regular collaboration and exchange between Europe's well-developed networks of migration researchers, stakeholders and practitioners to foster evidence-based policymaking. Being a Coordination and Support Action (CSA), ReSOMA is meant to communicate directly with policy makers by providing ready-to-use evidence on policy, policy perceptions and policy options on migration, asylum and integration gathered among researchers, stakeholders and practitioners.

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