



This project was funded by
The European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

LINK IT

Linking pre-departure and post-arrival support to facilitate the socio-economic integration for resettled refugees in the EU

What is LINK IT ?

LINK IT is an innovative project aimed at delivering better integration outcomes for Syrian refugees resettled from Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey to Germany, Portugal, Romania and the United Kingdom.

The project focuses on strengthening the link between pre-departure and post-arrival integration support for refugees.

LINK IT activities will aim to develop and pilot a pre-departure skills assessment tool to capture the skills profile of resettled Syrian refugees, organize information sessions to host communities, produce information videos sharing experiences of resettled refugees and offer tailored post-arrival support to refugees.



Preparing UK Host Communities

While Syrian refugees receive a pre-departure orientation about the UK prior to resettling here, it is equally important for host communities to understand more about the experiences and backgrounds of Syrian refugees. Lived experiences, both prior to and after the start of the conflict, greatly influence the expectations, cultural practices, and perspectives many Syrian refugees bring with them to life in the UK.

The **LINK IT** programme therefore seeks to further strengthen mutual understanding by providing orientation sessions to those working with refugees in host communities. The sessions are geared toward all those working to support Syrian refugee resettlement, including local authorities, civil society, health workers, educators, police, housing support, community/faith groups, and volunteers.



How do sessions work?

LINK IT sessions are delivered by experienced IOM resettlement staff and Syrian cross-cultural facilitators. Facilitators are happy to travel to you and offer sessions free of charge, although they may ask for your assistance in identifying and liaising with a venue in your area. All sessions are CPD certified.

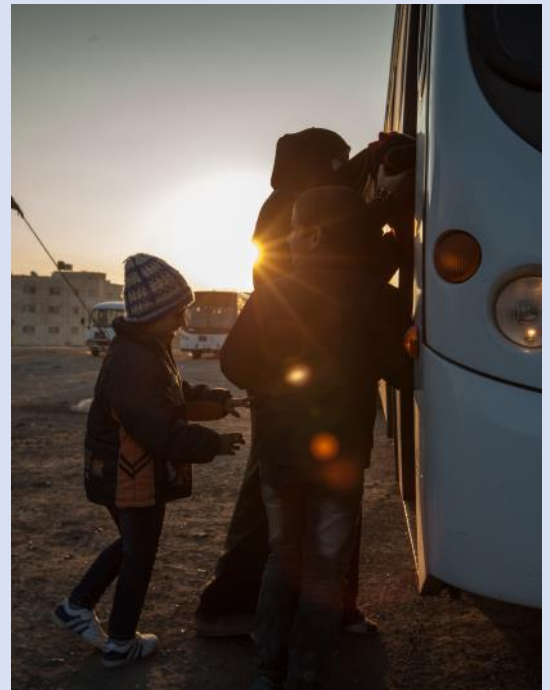
Sessions work best with groups of 20 to 25 participants, although larger or smaller groups may be accommodated depending on availability. Larger groups, however, may require longer sessions to allow time for additional questions and contributions.

What makes **LINK IT** sessions different?

While host community sessions offer key information on life in Syria both before and after the start of the conflict, unlike other information sessions, the **LINK IT** curriculum also provides opportunities for exploration of intercultural competencies, deeper cultural dimensions in Syrian communities, and resilience.

The average session lasts approximately 6 hours; however, modules are structured to be added or reduced to tailor each session to the needs and interests of participants. Duration and content may vary, and available modules include:

- ◆ Intercultural competency
- ◆ A general overview of Syrian history
- ◆ Syria's geography, demographics, religions and cultural groups
- ◆ Cultural traditions (etiquette, clothing, holidays, diet, family)
- ◆ Health and education systems in Syria
- ◆ Conditions facing Syrian refugees in the region
- ◆ Pre-departure services
- ◆ Cultural adjustment
- ◆ Case study and discussion of the experiences of a resettled Syrian family
- ◆ Rebuilding resilience



For more information or to set up a **LINK IT** host community session in your area, please contact Meredith Radke via telephone at 020 7811 6063, or via email at mradke@iom.int.

Get in touch