

Local authorities and legal pathways



Cities of
Refuge
research

Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research
Migration and borders working group

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We create Safe Harbours.

Since the formation of the movement SEEBRÜCKE in July 2018, many cities, municipalities and communes declared themselves to be in solidarity. They stand against the European isolationist policy, and promise to facilitate more refugees a safe arrival. This means they fulfil at least one of the [demands of SEEBRÜCKE](#).

On the morning of 14 June, the cities of Berlin, Detmold, Freiburg, Flensburg, Greifswald, Hildesheim, Kiel, Krefeld, Marburg, Potsdam, Rostock and Rottenburg am Neckar founded the alliance “Cities of Safe Harbours”. The cities thus confirm their willingness to accept additional refugees from the Mediterranean and are taking the first steps towards implementation. Since then, other cities joined the alliance.

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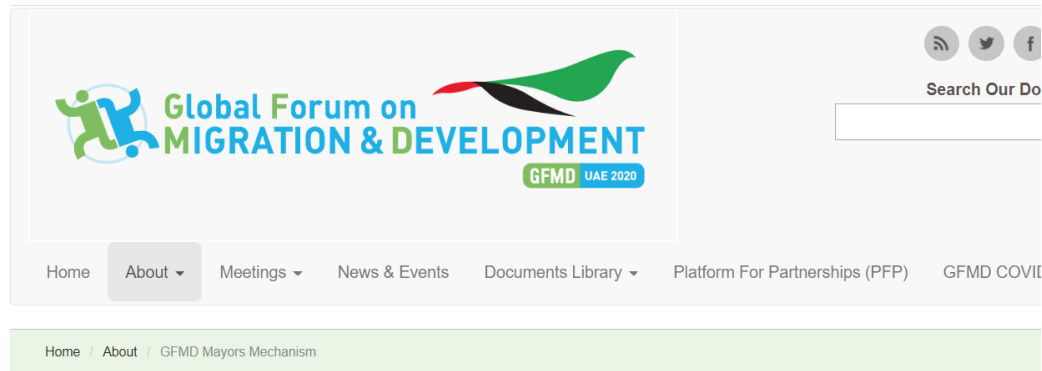
- Why?
- How?
- Examples
- Next steps

Cities are standing #WithRefugees
Is yours?



Why involve local authorities in legal pathways?

- Willing
- Able
- Well suited



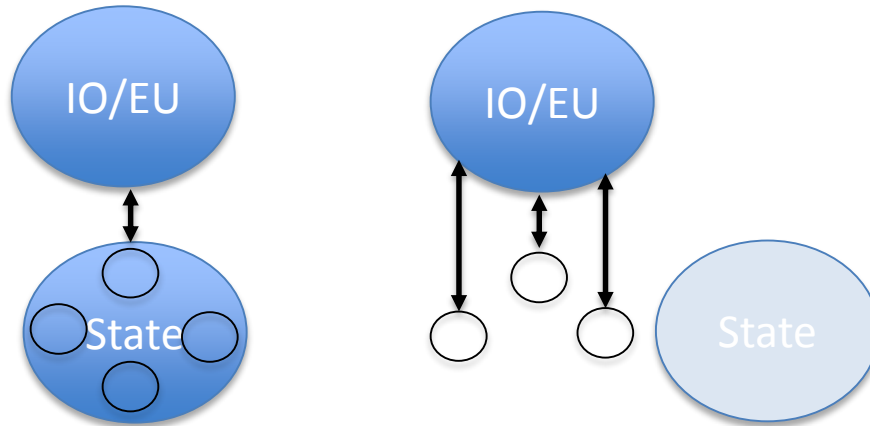
The GFMD Mayors Mechanism

Following the [growing emphasis](#) on the need for a whole-of-government and whole-of society approach to migration and development issues, the GFMD has recognized the value of involving local government authorities in GFMD discussions through **the establishment of a Mayors Mechanism in 2018**. First presented at the GFMD Preparatory Meetings in September 2018, the Mechanism was **launched officially** on 8 December 2018 in Marrakesh at the **Fifth Mayoral Forum Meeting**, held just after the close of the Marrakesh GFMD Summit.

The Mayors Mechanism is a means to formalize the relationship between the government-led GFMD process and the local authorities participating in the Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration, and Development ('Mayoral Forum'), an annual City-led dialogue launched in 2013 at the UN General Assembly's Second High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development (HLD). The Mechanism provides local authorities with **opportunities for peer-to-peer learning, networking, and exchange of practices**. It establishes a platform to interact with States, and provides an opportunity to bolster innovative solutions to shared challenges. It also aims to add depth to the GFMD deliberations by bridging existing divides between local realities and global policy discussions, and between

How to involve local authorities in legal pathways?

- Empowerment by international/European institutions
- Claiming (formal) space to make local migration policy
- The role of city society



Examples

- Seebrücke, Germany
- #500children, the Netherlands
- Complementary sponsorship UK and Ireland

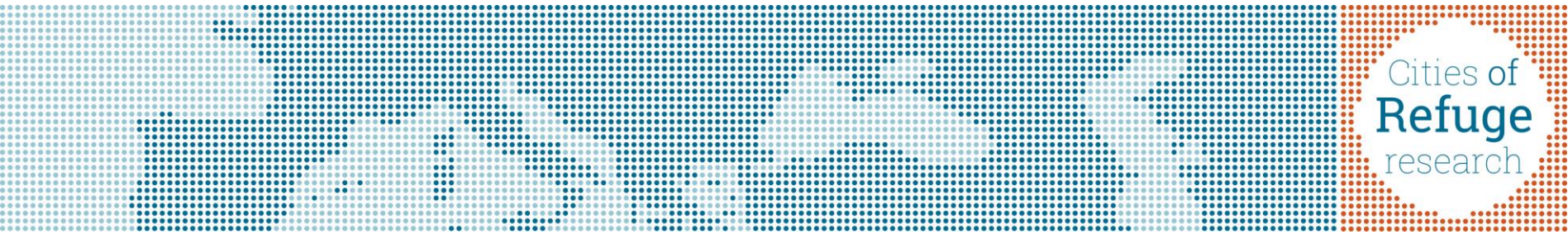


In conclusion

- Involving local authorities in efforts to create legal pathways has large practical, political and legal advantages
- Strengthening this role calls for explication of the formal responsibility of local authorities in this field
- And for the strengthening of ‘city society’ as coalitions of the willing



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