

The ETC provides
secure environment

Evacuated refugees spend a maximum of 6 months in the ETC.

UNHCR covers the costs of health-care, food and domestic items, psychological support, social services, education, recreational activities and language training. The Romanian Government is in charge of the administration, whilst social services are provided by the local non-governmental partner experienced in refugee assistance.

The ETC has family rooms and separate quarters for single men and women. The residents are provided three meals a day in accordance with international standards and their specific cultural needs. Individual cooking is possible as well.

The centre has a fully equipped medical department, recreational and sports facilities and rooms for training and leisure time activities.



Romania was
the logical choice

When UNHCR decided to establish an Evacuation Transit Centre in Europe, Romania was a logical choice as the Government has already proved its willingness and capacity to cooperate. Several humanitarian evacuations had already been successfully channelled through Romania.

1999

Relocation of 4,000 Bosnian Refugees for resettlement to the USA

2005

Emergency evacuation of 440 Uzbek refugees from Kyrgyzstan. They were later resettled to a number of EU countries, to Canada and the USA.

2008

In the course of 2008, 19 persons were already processed through the ETC, Most of them were cases too sensitive to be announced publicly so their protection is not jeopardised.



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés



Evacuation Transit
Centre for Refugees



UNHCR
The UN
Refugee Agency

United Nations
High Commissioner for Refugees
Representation in Romania

25 Strada Armeneasca
021042 Bucharest

Tel. +40 21 210 15 96
fax: +40 21 210 15 94
email: rombu@unhcr.org
www.unhcr.ro



Evacuation Transit Centre for Refugees

Timisoara, Romania

Europe's First Evacuation Transit Centre for Refugees is located in Timisoara, Romania. It provides temporary shelter to refugees who are in need of immediate



evacuation from their earliest asylum-countries. Such evacuations occur when refugees face life threatening situations: risk of being forcibly returned to areas where they would face persecution (refoulement) or residence in unstable, inhumane or dangerous conditions.



ETC allows for life saving evacuations

In such cases, UNHCR negotiates the resettlement of refugee groups to third asylum-countries. Resettlement preparations include the review of cases, medical screening, cultural training programmes, issuance of papers etc. In emergencies there is no time for lengthy procedures.



Therefore, UNHCR in cooperation with the Romanian Government established the Evacuation Transit Centre (ETC) in order to bridge the time gap between life-saving evacuations and well-prepared final resettlement to third countries.

Evacuation is a cooperative effort

The ETC is built on 20,000 sqm and comprises five buildings, having a reception capacity of 200 beds. The centre is located in the western Romanian city of Timisoara. Evacuation flights are arranged by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) through the Timisoara airport

Prior to the evacuation, UNHCR selects refugees who meet UNHCR resettlement criteria and submits the list to the Romanian Government. Simultaneously, the UN Refugee Agency conducts negotiations with various countries for the final placement of the evacuees.

The Romanian Ministry of Administration and Interior issues temporary identity documents for the evacuees.

UNHCR resettlement criteria

The most needy individuals are selected for resettlement because

- they face an immediate risk of refoulement
- they are survivors of violence and torture
- they have medical needs
- they are women, minors or elderly at risk