



“People need to get dignity and a safe place to bring up their children. This will lead us to a stable society.”
Marc Calon

How to promote better policies for successful integration?

The housing perspective

Sorcha Edwards, Secretary General

Large scale migration towards Europe

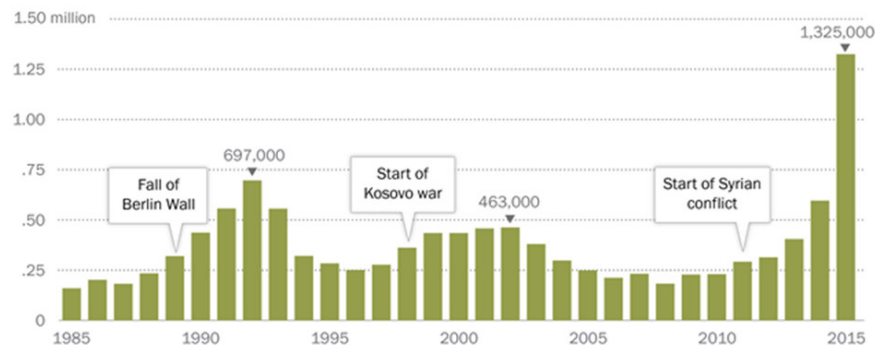
- * Warzones
- * Poverty
- * climate change / drought
- * demographic change
- * *More and more difficult to agree on common measures*



Number of asylum seekers in Europe 1.3 million in 2015

Number of asylum seekers in Europe surges to record 1.3 million in 2015

Annual number of asylum applications received by EU-28 countries, Norway and Switzerland, 1985 to 2015



Note: "Europe" consists of the EU-28, Norway and Switzerland. Asylum seeker definitions varied by European country prior to 2008. Numbers for asylum applications since 2008 are based on first-time applicants and do not include appeals or transfer of applications between countries. See [methodology](#) for more details. Data on asylum applications is missing for some countries in some years. See [Appendix A](#) for list of countries with missing data. All countries that are part of the EU today are included in previous years' data even though several were not part of the European Union in earlier years. Rounded to nearest thousand.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of Eurostat data, accessed June 22, 2016.

"Number of Refugees to Europe Surges to Record 1.3 Million in 2015"

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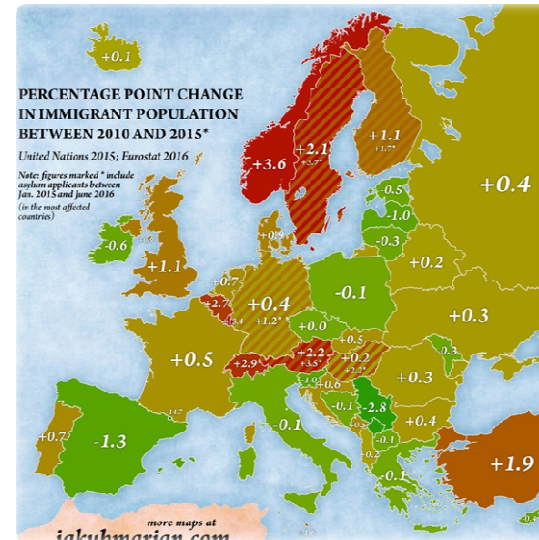
Last update 2016

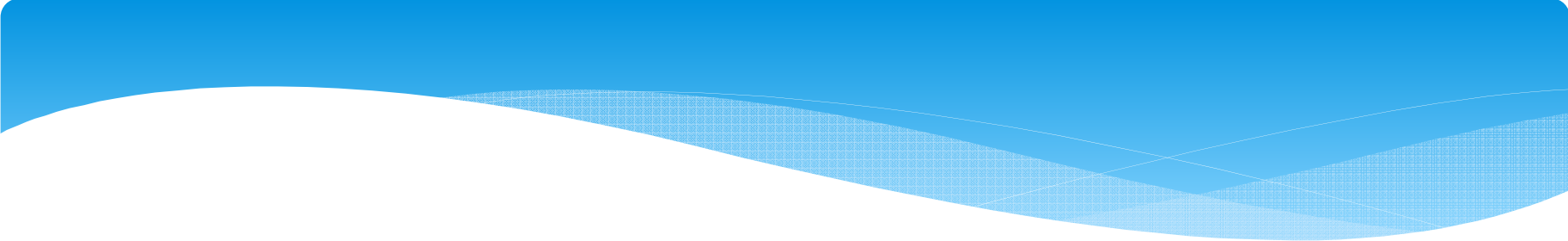
- During the first quarter of 2016 (from January to March 2016), 287 100
- During the second quarter of 2016 (from April to June 2016), 305 700

Where do the majority of immigrants come from?



How that number has changed in the past five years?





Asylum seeker: who claim to be a refugee and s/he is waiting for the refugee status to be accepted or rejected.

Migrant: who moves from one place to another in order to live in another country for more than a year.

- many reasons behind (work, seeking a better life)

A refugee: who has fled armed conflict or persecution and who is recognised as needing of international protection because it is too dangerous for them to return home. They are protected under international law by the 1951 refugee Convention.



Response of the EU

No EU policy on Housing, nor on Integration

The EU can act according to the Common European Asylum System

EU soft law- in order to assist Member States in a financial and structural way

new Action Plan on integration

“access to adequate and affordable housing is crucial for third-country nationals”

Main challenges



- * Preventing social exclusion (Stigmatisation)
- * Ensuring full and equal access to decent living (Medium & Long term Housing)
- * Quality of accommodation- minimum but flexible (standards)
- * *Emergency mobilisation of resources and Comprehensive programmes needed*

Affordable housing providers in many countries are already delivering solutions

- * Understanding residents' needs –providing early support (employment/training/advice on welfare support and care provision)
- * Strengthen local acceptance and preventing extremist reactions
- * Continuously safeguarding the liveability of neighbourhoods and fighting segregation
- * Cooperation with other service providers, local authorities
- * Working with volunteers
- * Exchange with policy makers (role of Urban Agenda)

Non a single linear pathway into extremism

- * **“The drivers conducive to radicalisation may include:**
- * perceived injustice or humiliation reinforced by social marginalization
- * xenophobia and discrimination
- * limited education or employment possibilities
- * a strong sense of personal or cultural alienation
- * criminality
- * political factors as well as an ideological and religious dimension
- * unstructured family ties, personal trauma and other psychological problems.
- * These factors can be exploited by recruiters who prey on vulnerabilities and grievances through manipulation or be reinforced, on the contrary, by self-isolation.”

Tackling extremism and stereotyping



- * Long term strategy is to work on the perceptions and representations of migrants and refugees. In this regard NGO, Housing Associations, Civil Society, local-national-regional authorities and media coverage are the best allies to shout down the existing stereotypes and reinforce cohesion.

Mechelen case: two-pronged approach

- * success came from a two-pronged approach: Tough on crime, soft on integration
- * Strategy: shift the city budget towards policing, installing surveillance cameras and cleaning up the streets, while also fighting segregation and social exclusion.
- * This close scrutiny is backed up by sports clubs, the local mosque and a non-governmental organization battling Islamist propaganda.
- * One local boxing club helped convince three local youngsters planning to go to Syria to stay home.
- * Social workers have worked hard to make connections with mothers too shy or scared to talk to authorities to explain how important it is to keep a watchful eye on their kids online activities.

What positive steps can Housing companies take to tackle radicalisation and the threat of terrorism?

Inspiring practices

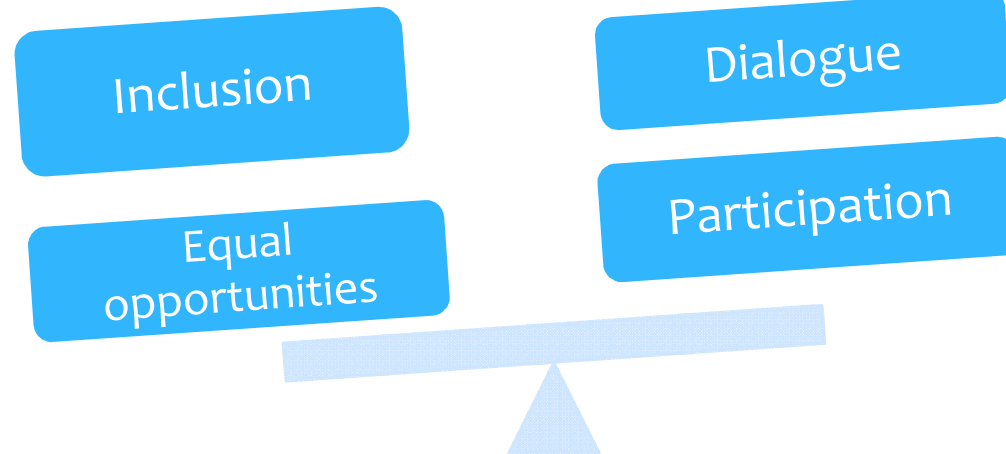
Social housing helps people live in dignity and maintain trust within and between communities



Part of the daily job of social housing providers is to understand residents' needs and provide early support, which could take various forms: from employment and skills training to advice on welfare support and direct care provision

“Kill it with kindness”-Denmark

Social housing organisations tackling the tensions between communities through:

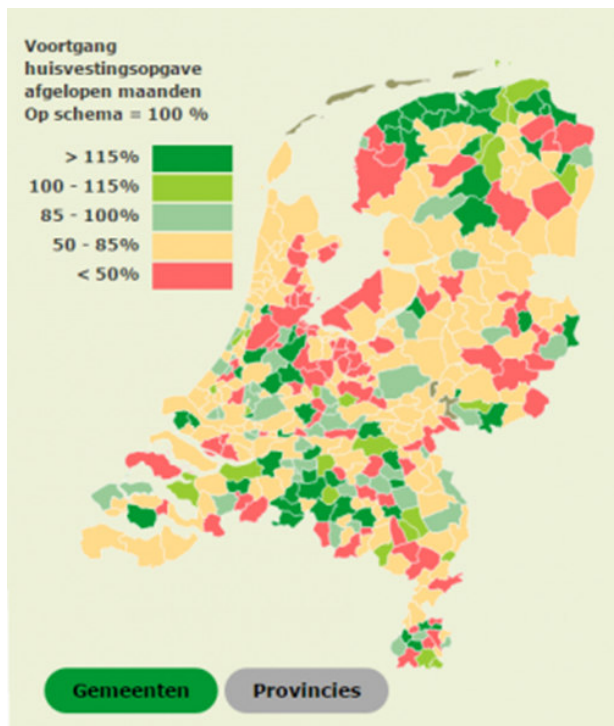


Horton Housing Association In Bradford



- * Local government, private landlords, schools, training center & training providers
- * Aim: to make sure people coming to the city are given a warm welcome.
- * Operations: providing high quality accommodation for people being discharged from hospital that are homeless or living in inadequate housing.

"Home Again" platform accelerates the housing for refugees



- * Dutch Municipalities received a task from the central government
- * Providing housing to legalized refugees
- * each municipality has a minimum housing quota (Amsterdam -740 refugees)

Accelair programme In Lyon, France

forumréfugiés
www.forumrefugies.org



- * Launched in 2002 by **Forum Réfugié**
- * Aim: fostering social and professional integration of refugees through providing access to employment, training and housing.
- * It is **partnership project**: all stakeholders related to refugees –such as housing & employment.
- * Developing actions that can help to **overcome the obstacles** which prevent refugees from having access to their rights.

Social sustainability in the Swedish public housing sector

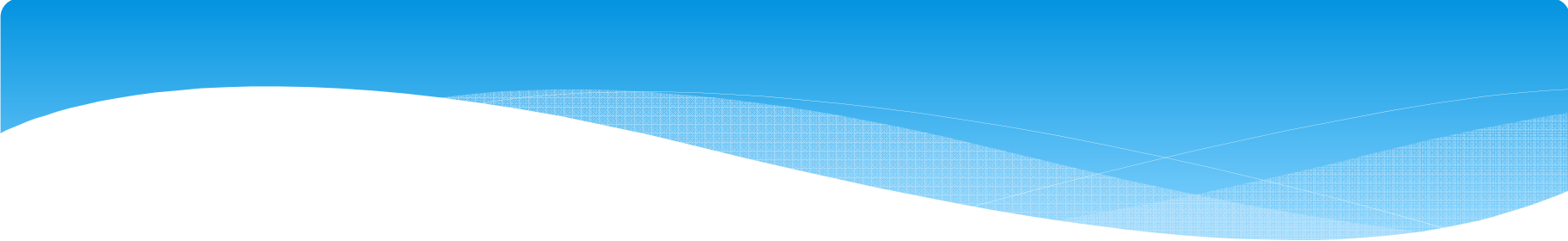
- * Help with homework
- * Welcome jobs
- * Language café
- * Security hosts
- * Cycling school
- * Restaurant school
- * Social procurement
- * Street art boards
- * Mural painting
- * Urban farming
- * Language friend
- * Domestic science
- * Sponsoring athletics clubs
- * Democracy projects
- * Socially sustainable renovation work
- * Summer jobs
- * Practical workplace introduction programmes
- * House rabbit boarding
- * Artist commune
- * Work experience places



Ghent to test
discrimination on
home rental market

5 cities will test new ideas and solutions to facilitate the integration of migrants and refugees.

- * The cities of **Antwerp** and **Munich** will focus on housing. In Antwerp, young unaccompanied refugees who have reached the age of adulthood but are no longer able to benefit from social protection will have the opportunity to take part in a housing scheme where they are matched with young local citizens (buddies) and given training and job opportunities.
- * In **Munich**, new apartments will be shared by refugees and local citizens where common spaces will be co-designed, integrate cultural and training activities with the development of self-governance mechanisms.

- 
- * The City of **Bologna** will look to foster the social, cultural and economic inclusion of migrants integrating different services in a new refurbished centre and allowing migrants to acquire new skills and build micro-enterprises for community services in the neighbourhood.
 - * Asylum seekers' entrepreneurial skills will be capitalised in the City of **Utrecht** combining community housing and learning activities.
 - * The City of **Vienna** will create a one-stop-shop for refugees that will bring together municipal services with grass roots initiatives through new forms of social cooperatives.

Housing standards I

- * Accommodating such flows of people so high and in very little time, in both temporary and permanent housing's is a challenge for the EU and the member states.
- * Difficulty to maintain and improve building standards: Poor or inadequate housing implies a risk associated to health and safety.

Housing standards II

Regarding the newly built houses, the issue lies in ensuring the quality requirements which involves not only high building costs but also long procedures to get a building permit.

Accommodating 6-10 peoples in a hostel room should not be an option even for a short period. The question of how that has an impact on housing allowances can be raised.

Thirdly, the problem of empty buildings being awaited for future use (ex. former offices) should be tackled as well.

Obstacles into the labour market for refugees

social obstacles

Impact of Economic crisis

Skills gaps

Time access to the labour market

Competence recognition

Language skills

access to housing is prerequisite to enter the labour market

- * DG ECFIN highlights:

- Inaccessible rental markets and a shortage of social housing may not only limit the chances of finding proper accommodation but also of integrating in the labour market.
- Stock of affordable housing is low and prices are high in several countries.

Current EU Regulation on the access of asylum seekers to the labour market

- * already provides full access
- * Member States have to ensure implementation- no later than 9 months
- * BUT - issues: discrimination, lack of qualifications and difficulties in the recognition of qualifications acquired in a third country
- * Recent EP Report suggests a quicker process and proper implementation (recommends access) within maximum 6 months

Next steps-What we need...

- * A holistic approach -policies have to deliver concrete results at a much faster pace
- * Cities should have greater policy input at national & EU level
- * Initiatives required to avoid marginalisation through housing
- * Ensure quicker access of refugees to the labour market – proper implementation on national level

Better use of EU funding

- * ESIF & AMIF available, but... direct access needed to funds
- * Clear need to get more support for building affordable homes more quickly
- * Flexible EU budget to allow cities and housing providers to deal with changing needs



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