

IFHP

IFHP Ones

Housing refugees programme 2015



International
Federation for
Housing and
Planning



“Shelter is a basic human right and necessity. The conditions in which people live determine to a great extent their health, well-being and ability to engage in gainful occupation, pursue self-improvement through education and recreation and in consequence attain a decent standard of living.”

(European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) Position Paper on Integration of Refugees in the Europe)

Foreword

The housing of refugees is one of the most urgent issues facing Europe as increasing flows of people from the Middle East, North and Central African conflict areas arrive at the European Union's (EU) borders. Accommodating such flows of people in both temporary and permanent housing is a major challenge in the EU. With many countries under pressure to provide social and affordable housing for their own populations and varying national measures and perspectives on how to provide adequate housing for refugees, the European response is to date somewhat fragmented.

The aim of IFHP is to identify challenges and look for solutions for the permanent and adequate housing of refugees in the EU. As an international professional community within housing and planning we believe that unbiased and politically detached perspectives are needed to render recommendations that better match the realities of the current situation.

In 2015 we conducted several activities with short deadlines;

- a status report on policies and procedures in 10 European nations
- a LAB with a statement highlighting considerations to be taken when working with housing refugees
- community building, inviting experts and professionals to engage, individuals and

organizations. We shook hands with ISOCARP leadership on working together on this urgent matter, as we also did with the leadership of European Council of Spatial Planners (ECTP-OEU)

- a conference in Berlin hosted by IFHP Council member Klaus-Peter Hillebrand

Thanks to Huibert Haaccou from The Netherlands, who as IFHP Council member is deeply engaged in making this happen. Thanks to Klaus-Peter Hillebrand in Germany, who as IFHP Council member hosted the IFHP Summit in Berlin and actively supports the programme.

Thanks to the European IFHP Council members and IFHP Community who with short deadlines respond, contribute and engage.

The conversation among housing and planning professional on Housing Refugees has begun. We will keep it going. But we depend on you and on each other. The matter is urgent, complex, confusing and difficult. We believe that we need to work together, as joint forces will enhance our chances for accommodating the challenges. Challenges that affect most Europeans. Challenges that people across the world know of as migrants.



Anette Galskjøt, IFHP CEO
January 2016

Index

Housing refugees programme 2015

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IFHP Ones are longer than
articles, but shorter than books.
They can be read in one day
– this is why we call them Ones

IFHP

**International
Federation for
Housing and
Planning**



Foreword



Summary



Blog



Housing Refugee Considerations



Activities 2015



Background



Contributors

Summary

The IFHP Housing Refugee Programme has in 2015 opened the discussion on how to provide adequate housing for refugees as the migrant “crisis” in Europe continues to divide political and societal opinions. Utilising IFHP member expertise, initial steps have been taken to formulate policy considerations for use by the wider housing and planning community. These steps have included an investigation into how exactly European nations currently house refugees, both on a temporary and permanent basis, a two day lab event in Deventer, Netherlands and presentation and feedback sessions in both Rotterdam and Berlin.

Reflecting on the resultant considerations posed by the IFHP it is clear that the provision of housing for refugees does not stand alone as an isolated challenge. For example, the role of integration services were deemed vital to help facilitate the creation of a ‘home’ rather than a ‘house’; a preclusive element integral to an individual’s transition into education, work and wider society.

In addition, throughout the programmes many conversations it has been noted that the housing needs of the native population should not be forgotten. All over Europe governments and municipalities face the shared challenge of providing affordable housing to a growing ‘low income’ segment of society. The act of housing refugees should not divert or counter housing provision for native populations; rather it should support and supplement an increased housing supply.

With this in mind, holistic rather than fragmented housing policies could go a long way to enable both the adequate housing of refugees and lower income populations and the facilitation of socially cohesive perspectives and practices. Key to help achieve

such holistic housing policies is a multi-agent approach. This was a key focus of conversations at the Lab in Deventer where a multi agent approach was proposed as a crucial aspect in honouring diversity in policy making at municipal, national and European levels.

Considering the actual construction of housing units, the role of regulation to enable fast, cheap and adaptive housing units was questioned. Acknowledging that regulation is vital to ensure safe structural components of a building, it was discussed whether some forms of regulation act as a barrier for adaptive and low cost housing construction. Introducing a degree of plasticity into some spatial housing regulations may facilitate the realisation of alternative housing options, contributing to an adequate housing response in a timely manner. Further, the role of ‘zones/zoning’ became a key topic, considering that their utilisation as a tool could encourage housing construction, rebuild or refurbishment that either creates, frees or repurposes new and existing housing stock.

Looking Forward to 2016

In 2016 the IFHP intends to apply for funds to facilitate continued activities on refugee, housing and integration issues.

Please go to the IFHP website: <http://www.ifhp.org/> topics to learn more about the housing refugee programme throughout 2016 and for information on how to get involved.



“It is clear that the topic we have been dealing with needs further deliberation and action from my partners in practice, but also in theory and understanding. No short and simplified answers!”

Thomas Knorr-Siedlow



IFHP Housing Refugees Blog

By December 2015 IFHP launched a blog with IFHP member Kria Djojoadhiningrat as the editor. The aim of the blog is to continue the urgent conversation on the future provision of housing and integration of refugees.

Join the conversation:
<http://housingrefugees.ifhp.org/>

Blog extracts:

“Turning our backs to refugees and their needs is to close ones eyes to the development of future generations of Europeans citizens. We hope that you will join us as we work to promote the need for better housing and integration solutions for all.” **Andriea Fidalgo**

“Among the most urgent considerations is housing of refugees. Here, extensive research informs us that housing needs to be considered along with access to other key services including education, services which promote employability, health and social care services. These are needed in order to assist refugees in not only finding routes out of poverty but to thrive.” **Dr Gina Netto**

“It is time to reflect and innovate the way Europe is dealing with the refugee and migrant influx. And luckily many feel the same way.” **Christina Krog**

Housing Refugee Considerations

IFHP Housing Refugee Considerations

Autumn 2015, IFHP conducted several activities on housing of refugees. Based on the preliminary findings the participants at a lab formulated seven considerations. These are as such the result of the investigations and meetings.

The seven considerations connect to three themes:

- Housing & Integration
- Housing Policy & Affordable Housing Allocation
- Zoning & Planning Regulation

To provide adequate and permanent housing for refugees it should be considered that:

Housing & Integration

1. Housing Pathways

It should be considered that housing and integration services are combined in a 'pathway' approach

To both refugees and the society in which they will integrate, a mutually shared perspective of development is crucial. For each refugee an illustrated pathway of access and integration into society, built upon an individual's dialogue and assessment with refugee reception and housing services could be created. By creating a combined housing & integration model – a pathway model – each person, may climb a ladder of development whereby both

housing conditions and integration standards improve step by step.

2. Matchmaking

It should be considered that matchmaking solutions could better respond to both refugees and municipalities' needs

It can be recognised that refugees housing requirements put extra pressure on the limited available housing stock in many European countries. To improve this situation matchmaking solutions could be found whereby hosting countries/municipalities can state their available housing stock as well as societal development needs. At the same time, refugees can state their housing requirements (single bedroom unit, family house etc) and social needs (access to kindergarden, schools, agricultural employment opportunities etc). With such information an assessment of the potential overlap and mutual benefits can take place between the hosting countries/municipalities and the individual refugee. Such a process can therefore be used to match suitable housing solutions and integration factors such as education, language, culture, job opportunities etc.

It is envisaged that such a consideration would facilitate and optimize the chance of positive integration of refugees in hosting communities, whilst simultaneously resolving societal issues that the host community may be facing.

Housing Policy & Affordable Housing Allocation

3. Housing Policy

It should be considered that a multi-agent approach is adopted to honour diversity in policy-making

Today a city's needs and challenges change in unpredictable and fast ways. It is required that housing is built at a faster pace to match demands. It should be considered to both explore new and revisit past options for accommodating people. Cities should to a greater extent apply a diverse approach working on several parallel strategies e.g.

- The availability of existing stock and building new stock
- Explore options for increasing housing supply, which may include the conversion of empty properties such as office buildings, churches, schools etc.
- Explore the possibilities of encouraging self-built housing by making land available and through supporting community involvement including refugees
- Consider developing more flexible accommodation options to match the needs now and in the near future. For example the majority of refugees arriving currently are single male, who within some certainty will be granted family reunification within the nearby future.
- Experiment with responsible relaxation of regulations without compromising on decency in accommodation or environmental aims to match the current acute needs.

Cities should also include the capacity of services such as education, employability, health services etc. All in all: This requires a multi-agent approach which involves important and relevant stakeholders in the community AND the community itself, including the local population and the refugees.

4. Affordable Housing

It should be considered that when providing permanent accommodation the demographic of the existing population should be taken into account

The affordable (social and private) housing sector accommodates many refugees. At the same time the affordable housing sector is increasingly in demand amongst the existing population. Such may lead to tensions as the existing population both in the areas and on the waiting list feels overlooked and overtaken. Screening processes and mapping of available housing stock are some of the available tools to apply. They will allow local authorities and actors to better understand and best allocate housing in accordance with the recognized demographics of refugee population and that of the existing population.

This consideration would improve significantly when applying a multi-agency collaboration within the housing industry, refugee integration services and community stakeholders.



Planning & Associated Regulation

5. Planning regulation

It should be considered that planning regulations allow for a certain degree of plasticity and flexibility within both spatial planning and housing regulation.

The broad characteristics and diverse backgrounds of refugee groups can be better considered and met, through a tailor made approach integrated into the planning process and practices. It is proposed that there should be room for manoeuvring within planning regulation to respond to the different needs of refugee groups at the various stages of affordable housing provision. Such flexibility could include the adaptation and/or the temporal wavering of regulations, helping to provide tailor made approaches and affordable housing solutions. It is envisioned that such flexibility will allow for faster and more adaptive housing solutions to be implemented within the permit of current planning regulation.

6. Reallocation of zoning

It should be considered that planning zones are reallocated to enable the increased provision of affordable housing.

Traditionally some European cities have developed upon a framework of planning zones that bound their use. Although today such zones are widely alleviated their influence and 'lock in' of function remains, acting to limit mixed land uses. Through the reallocation of planning zones such as commercial, industrial, recreational, business, etc., more opportunities to develop housing can be explored and realised. In addition the reallocation of zoning can create the conditions and opportunities for experimental land use. Such can include experimental/free planning zones (examples exist in Deventer: The Harbour area), that allow for the innovation in

new forms and planning of housing.

This measure is aimed at enabling innovation in both land use and building design to better respond to the specific housing needs of municipalities and cities, and differential groups of society, of which refugees are one. This is viewed as a tool, that helps provide mutual benefits for municipalities and cities in addressing their housing challenges whilst leveraging socioeconomic opportunities.

7. Associated building regulations

It should be considered that associated building regulations can be met under a phased programme.

Building regulations are the legislative frameworks for the construction, renovation and change-of-use of a building, establishing detailed technical and administrative requirements as well as minimum standards for building construction. These standards primary purpose is to promote public health and safety, fire protection, resource conservation, environmental integrity, and accessibility, i.e., the promotion of public safety through the application of uniform building standards. It is not disputed that such regulations are integral to sustain good building and societal standards, yet it is proposed that the attainment of such standards could be realised in phased steps. Such a program could allow for the incremental development of housing solutions according to the available resources of a local area or specific tenant group.

This consideration could help promote 'do it yourself' forms of housing provision, where actors could work to develop housing according to the required regulations over a longer period of time. Such would allow for more flexible housing solutions and for housing to be lived in whilst phased construction or renovation is taking place.



Shared learnings & perspectives of 2015

The IFHP developed a programme of activities specifically focused on identifying the most prominent housing challenges facing European countries as they deal with increasing migrant numbers arriving in their respective lands. This in collaboration with Danish Architecture Centre (DAC). As a neutral platform, the IFHP conducted knowledge reports, gathering its community of housing and planning experts to reflect and propose considerations to help improve both temporary and permanent housing solution for refugees. Presented at the IFHP Summit the resultant housing policy considerations are by no means final, their purpose looks beyond simply giving advice, acting to inspire further dialogues throughout IFHP activities in 2016. Following, you can read more about the activities in 2015.

Housing Refugees Policy Status Report, September 2015

As the first activity in the IFHP Housing Refugee Programme, the policy status report was written to engage the IFHP community, collating key literature review findings and refugee housing questionnaire responses from 10 European countries.

Key Findings

- EU member states are largely divided by the absence of a holistic European housing policy and differing national and regional policy and resources.
- Many EU member states face a housing shortage, particularly within the social and affordable housing sectors.
- Refugees face multiple obstacles in gaining access to adequate housing across the EU. Reasons for this include lower housing and social support subsidies as well as complex and differential housing allocation processes.
- Many EU member states experience a lack of social considerations when approaching the housing of refugees. This includes the poor coordination of housing and integration factors such as employment, education and training, health and social services.

Reflecting on the key findings the status report identified 3 key areas for further investigation; Housing & Integration, Housing Policy & Affordable Housing Allocation, and Zoning & Planning Regulations.

”.... people integrate well if they are received well and you avoid bottlenecks into permanent housing. Once there is a delay [...] then a 2 year backlog goes a long way to create a negative situation.”

Dr. Sue Lukes

The report concluded that the provision of refugee housing is not a fundamentally separate issue from that of domestic, social or affordable housing development. EU member states have significant opportunities to establish additional and varied housing options for all citizens when the housing of refugees is approached with an inclusive and ‘socially cohesive’ perception. Further, it was noted that the provision of permanent housing for refugee populations moves beyond concepts of housing as simply ‘infrastructure’ towards a multifaceted system that requires socially conscious, cross sectoral collaboration.

LAB, October 2015: Sharing perspectives on Housing Refugees

Hosted at the Living Green Center in Deventer, Netherlands the two day Lab was convened by IFHP Council member Huibert Haccou, Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at Saxion University and acting consultant for strategic public policy making and process management of spatial planning and the environment. 10 international participants representing Germany, Sweden, Netherlands,

Denmark, Portugal and the UK gathered to discuss the findings from the IFHP’s Housing Refugees Policy Status Report. Beyond the exchange of knowledge, perspectives, cases and processes the group acted to develop preliminary considerations for the improved provision of permanent refugee housing at the European level.

Housing Refugees – International Perspectives and Challenges?

Dr Sue Lukes, Director, Migration Work CIC, UK presenting via skype, began with the UK’s dependence on the private rental sector to deal with the extra housing demand caused by refugees. Housing and integration practices were described as disjointed but essential to ensure that housing succeeds as a tool to integrate and enable refugees to become valuable members of society. Additionally, partnerships between housing and education service providers were noted as crucial as much of the integration processes in society are conducted in and around schools, highlighting the need for a unified housing and education strategy. Lukes emphasized the need to learn from previous influxes of



refugees quoting,

"... people integrate well if they are received well and you avoid bottlenecks into permanent housing. Once there is a delay as was seen with the Vietnamese influx in the 1960's then a 2 year backlog goes a long way to create a negative situation."

Anna Horolets, Sociologist and Social Anthropologist and Assistant Professor at the Chair of Cultural Anthropology, University of Gdańsk, Poland, also presenting via skype, showcased the importance of leisure considerations in planning of adequate housing of refugees. It was noted that as refugees spend an increased amount of time within their dwellings, especially in the immediate stages of moving to a new location, housing as a space must allow for sufficient recreation. This is important not only to allow refugees to retain and express their cultural identities but also to allow for groups to gather, form relationships and take ownership of common meeting spaces. It was suggested that when planning housing for refugee tenancy, factors such as sound, air circulation and privacy should be considered. Anna pointed to the term embeddedness to summarise the role of recreation in housing, stating that housing must be integrated and connected thereby avoiding isolation and reinforcing the home as a 'safe haven'.

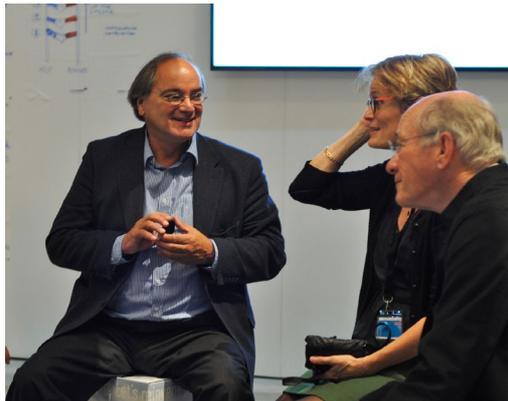
The study of extreme housing exclusion in the EU was then presented by **Gina Netto**, Associate Professor, Institute of Social Policy, Housing, Environment and Real Estate, Heriot Watt University, UK. Netto put forward that the refugee challenge often comes down to concentration or diffusion. In many European countries the dispersal of refugees is at the core of the general approach on how to deal with the migrant arrivals, and this takes place at a number of different levels from national to local. A fundamental reason for why refugees are 'dispersed' is that they are seen as burdens to society rather than opportunities. The result is that refugees are left vulnerable to segregation and racial discrimination, reinforcing negative perceptions of refugees that are used as reasoning to support further dispersal policies. Netto pointed to the misconceived perception that concentrated refugees form ghettos. Concentrating

refugees should instead be thought of as clustering, an opportunity where services can be tailor made to fit the needs of various societal groups in a more efficient manner. Netto introduced the need to broaden housing suppliers, with medium and smaller sized housing developers creating alternative models of development. One example, the Grow Home Concept from Canada represents the advantages of incremental house building and its appropriation for low income tenants (of which many refugees are).

Finally Netto highlighted the need to recognize community self-built housing as an important tool to provide affordable housing for diverse societal groups, including refugees. Although by number such forms of housing are not significant, their symbolism within refugee and native community groups goes a long way to enable integration and social cohesion, two key elements in successful housing provision.

Annesophie Hansen, Consultant at BL, Danish Social Housing Sector, Denmark followed by presenting the case of integrated cooperation in Denmark. Denmark works under a system of dispersal, whereby refugees are allocated housing based on the available services of an individual municipality. This ensures that housing is only given when strictly available. This is however conducted on an individual basis with no holistic plan at national level supporting municipalities in providing adequate social housing for refugees. New ideas being explored in Denmark include the use of shared apartments, integrating housing in industrial areas and novel low cost methods of construction.

Vivian Kreft, Corporate Communications & Marketing, BBU Association of Berlin – Brandenburg Housing Companies, Germany then moved to inform participants on the housing situation in Berlin. Berlin is a city that is facing huge numbers of incoming migrants. At the time of writing the city is expected to integrate over 50,000 refugees in 2015. Obstacles in Berlin for the construction of new housing stock include strict planning regulations and high building standards. As a result the city is building and will build both modular apartment structures and regular apartment units to cater for



the high demand of affordable living space by both refugees and the native population. Kreft noted that although this is acceptable for now, supporting infrastructure such as transport services must follow housing growth in order to ensure that tenants are adequately connected to services and places of employment, amongst other things.

Thomas Knorr-Siedow, Lecturer & Social Researcher, Urban Plus Berlin, Germany continued by presenting the housing situation in wider Germany. Taking point of departure from the stark statistics of incoming refugees and the opportunity and value that they bring, Knorr-Siedow noted that 70% of refugees are young men and 20-25% unaccompanied children, a demographic that should always be remembered when assessing housing needs and the methods and processes of integration. Ultimately, Knorr-Siedow noted, the refugee questions falls into the discussion of how to build a resilient society. Refugees, that will continue to arrive regardless of repressive measures of many peripheral European countries, can be used as an opportunity to build closer communities of resiliency and togetherness. To achieve this however, there must be support from both state and civil led initiatives.

The next presentation by **Hugo Priemus**, Emeritus Professor OTB Institute Delft, Netherlands focused on the Dutch perspective of housing refugees. Opening remarks included the fact that many European countries face the same challenges as the Netherlands in preventing the 'bottleneck' of refugees accessing permanent forms of housing. Such is it that currently 14,000 refugees are accommodated in temporary housing whilst awaiting the opportunity to move into permanent housing across the Netherlands. With the social renting market declining, stagnated social housing development and increasing foreign speculation and investment in social housing, rents have increased significantly across the Netherlands. Such increases have put social housing out of reach of many low income groups of society including refugees. Priemus suggests that to counter this there is a need for EU and national policies to facilitate the local scale intervention of civil society to help provide housing according to local needs and available resources.

The final presentation was given by **Olov Schultz**, Executive Advisor International Affairs, Boverket, Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, Sweden demonstrating the Swedish social housing system. Schultz highlighted that the refugee housing challenge is not necessarily to do with refugees but all groups of society whom require social and affordable housing. Many obstacles exist in current Swedish policy and regulation that act to limit the effective response to house low income groups of society (including refugees). Examples given were the strict building regulations and high environmental building standards that currently restrict low cost housing construction.

On-stage at ISOCARP 51st Congress, October 2015 IFHP presented the preliminary considerations for discussion at the ISOCARP congress where leadership from both organizations shook hands on together engaging in this urgent topic.

IFHP Summit Berlin, November 2015

IFHP Summit is the annual meeting for members and IFHP Community to share learnings throughout the year and discuss where this should take us in the year to come.

At the Summit the findings from the activities were presented. In addition presentations were made by Rolf Müller, Director of Group, Housing and Property in Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development and Dr. Jochen Lang, Director - Housing, Housing Construction, Urban Renewal, Social City, Senate Department for Urban Development and Environment, whom showcased the steps that Berlin are taking to facilitate and support new housing development. Ingo Malter, Managing Director Stadt und Land followed by presenting cases studies of housing developments.

Background Refugees worldwide

Refugees Worldwide

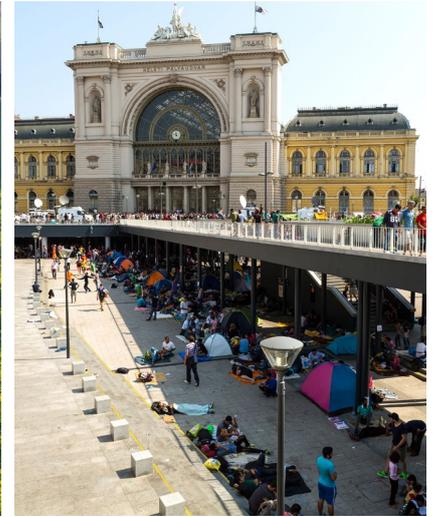
Why does IFHP engage in this topic? Presently in Europe it is refugees and issues related to their arrival and living in Europe. It is at the top of our mind every day. For the rest of the world it is called migration and migrants. One thing we know is that no matter what the status is called, people will be on the move for various reasons.

Global refugee overview

The constant development of people defined as refugees across the globe is a continued and tragic situation that sees no immediate end. According to the UNHCR Statistical Yearbook 2014, the world at the end of 2014, was home to 59.5 million displaced persons of whom 19.5 million were refugees and 1.8 million were asylum seekers. These figures are the largest since World War II and if collated into one nation would represent the 24th largest country in the world. There is no doubt that with the numerous ongoing global conflicts, these figures will have continued to rise throughout 2015.

Key facts (UNHCR 2014):

- 53% of all refugees worldwide came from just three countries: the Syrian Arab Republic (3.88 million), Afghanistan (2.59 million), and Somalia (1.11 million).
- Children under the age of 18 represented an average of 51% of the total refugee population.
- Some 626,500 asylum-seekers were either recognized as refugees (286,700) or granted a complementary form of protection (339,800) during 2014.
- The type of accommodation was known for 12.2 million (85%) of refugees worldwide. More than half of this number were living in individual or private accommodation (63%), while less than a third (29%) were reportedly living in planned/managed refugee camps.



European refugee overview

Europe as region hosts 21.6% of global refugees. According to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) as of 14 October 2015 - 606,348 migrants have arrived in Europe with Italy (137,313) and Greece (466,111) receiving the majority. Daily arrivals of over 7,000 migrants in countries such as Greece have been common place throughout the year putting extreme pressure on Europe's peripheral countries to provide essential humanitarian services. Migrants arriving in Europe are a mix of economic migrants and asylum seekers.

Migrants travel to Europe through a variety of routes, including boat crossings of the Mediterranean which have caused thousands of deaths; elevating the attention of European politicians, the wider European public and media. It is common that many of the migrants travelling within Europe seek asylum in the European Union (EU) countries of Germany, Sweden, Italy, France, United Kingdom, Austria, Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium and Denmark

where more favourable conditions, social support or family connections can be found. In 2014, Germany (202,815) and Sweden (81,325) received the most asylum applications. 2015 is expected to become a record year for further asylum applications as a consequence of the ongoing conflicts in Africa and the Middle East. According to the UNHCR as of November 2015, 760,000 asylum applications were made in Germany alone, largely owing to the country's 'open door' policy for Syrian asylum seekers. In Sweden, 190,000 asylum applications are expected in 2015, the most per capita of any EU country. Such unprecedented numbers of migrants travelling to Europe has triggered emergency talks between EU countries as to how best manage migrant numbers. Many countries have subsequently increased their refugee quotas for 2015 and following years. Such increases are widely accepted as progressive but many believe it is still not enough to adequately deal with the mounting humanitarian crisis.

Refugee Housing in the European Union

With such vast and sustained numbers of asylum seekers and refugees within the EU, member states are being severely challenged to find appropriate housing on both a temporary and permanent basis. Receiving migrants on an annual basis, European countries have various systems in place to register, process, hold and (if granted asylum) provide accommodation for refugees. European countries are not under a shared mandate regarding the set processes of how to house refugees, therefore each country's given capacity and procedures for housing refugees are set by the respective national governments. At the European level this denotes a fragmented and diverse picture of how each EU country provides refugee services and associated housing facilities.

Currently, temporary accommodation for refugees include tent camps, dormitories, public halls, vacant school buildings and shipping container structures. Owing to the emergency nature of the refugee crisis in Europe many countries are oversubscribed in providing temporary accommodation to migrants and asylum seekers. Consequently many asylum seekers are forced to share overcrowded formal facilities, search themselves for short-term 'private' accommodation or settle in informal camps and public spaces. As support services and charity organisations struggle to manage the high numbers of those in need, migrants are often subject to temporary accommodation for periods of months and even years.

Permanent accommodation, in the form of apartments and houses are generally acquired by those on the basis of successful asylum applications. Providing permanent housing for refugees falls under differential national laws and directives according to each individual EU state. For example, Denmark's national government require municipalities to find and provide permanent refugee housing based on the number of existing foreign nationals residing within each municipality. Municipalities are therefore forced to house refugees regardless of available housing units. In Norway, under a different system, the national government only mandate municipalities whom have existing vacant housing available for refugees.



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