

National EMN-Conference 2013

## Reception systems for asylum seekers – a comparative perspective

Stockholm, 7 May 2013

### Background

In 2012, the number of asylum seekers coming to Sweden reached the highest level since 1992. In 2013, the numbers are expected to rise even further, from about 44 000 applicants in 2012 to about 54 000. This strong influx causes some considerable challenges, not only in terms of an efficient decision-making processes, but in particular also for the reception system for asylum seekers, which has to adapt to fluctuating and increasing numbers. For several years, Sweden has already faced a shortage of housing for asylum seekers – one example of a problem that will need to be further addressed. Further to this, the Swedish Migration Board and other actors have the ambition to facilitate the transition of asylum seekers from the reception system to either settlement and integration in municipalities, in cases of positive decisions on applications, or return to the countries of origin in cases of negative decisions.

This conference, which is organized in the framework of the European Migration Network (EMN) and related to one of the EMN study topics for 2013, will look into the evolution and the state of play of the Swedish reception system for asylum seekers and discuss its strengths and weaknesses in terms of quality, efficiency and flexibility from a variety of perspectives. In a second step, the Swedish system will also be analyzed in a European context by studying examples from other EU Member States, which have recently experienced similar challenges as Sweden in terms of rising numbers of asylum seekers from different parts of the world.

The Conference will be held on **7 May 2013** at Stockholm City Conference Centre, 'Music Hall' (*Musiksalen*) at *Norra Latin*, Drottninggatan 71b, Stockholm.

### Contacts

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## Programme, 7 May 2013

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**09:00 - 09:30**    **Arrival and registration**

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### *Session I: Introduction and background*

**Welcome and opening remarks** *Christer Zettergren, Swedish Migration Board*

Introduction to the Swedish reception system *Björn Bergström, Swedish Migration Board*

**09:30 - 10:30**    Providing accommodation to asylum seekers *Susanne Nilsson Marino, Swedish Migration Board*

Reception of unaccompanied minors in Sweden *Sara Heinig, Swedish Migration Board*

EMN-Study on the organisation of reception facilities in the EU member states: Background, expected contents and objectives *Sheila Maas, EMN Service Provider ICF-GHK/COWI*

*Questions and discussion*

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**10:30 - 11:00**    **Coffee Break**

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### *Session II: Other actors in the Swedish asylum process*

Role and experiences of local authorities in the asylum process *Johan Ward, Södertälje Municipality*

**11:00 - 12:30**    Experiences of local authorities with reception and care for unaccompanied minors *Barret D. Price / Jonas Håård, Örebro Municipality*

The perspective of NGOs on the reception system in Sweden *Ewa Hagberg, Swedish Red Cross  
Ulrika Persson, Save the Children Sweden*

*Questions and discussion*

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**12:30 - 13:30**    **Lunch**

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**Session III: European perspectives**

	Strengths and weaknesses of the Belgian reception system – how did Belgium deal with the reception crisis?	<i>Fanny François, Federal Agency for the Reception of Refugees, Belgium</i>
<b>13:30 - 14:30</b>	The reception system in France	<i>Elsa Benzaquen-Navarro, Ministry of the Interior, France</i>
	The reception system in the United Kingdom	<i>Magnus Gittins, Home Office Science, United Kingdom</i>
	<i>Questions and discussion</i>	

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**14:30 - 14:45 Coffee Break**

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**Session IV: Challenges in the future**

	Panel discussion:	<i>Johan Ward, Södertälje Municipality</i>
<b>14:45 - 15:50</b>	<b>Strengths and weaknesses of the Swedish reception system – the road ahead</b>	<i>Ewa Hagberg, Swedish Red Cross</i> <i>Adam Cwejman, Timbro</i> <i>Anna Wessel, Swedish Migration Board</i> <i>Susanne Nilsson Marino, Swedish Migration Board</i>

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**15:50 - 16:00 Conclusions and Goodbye**

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**Conference moderator:** Bernd Parusel, Swedish National EMN Contact Point

**About the EMN**

The European Migration Network (EMN) is an EU funded network, set up with the aim of providing up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information on migration and asylum for Institutions of the European Union, plus authorities and institutions of the Member States of the EU, in order to inform policymaking. The EMN also serves to provide the wider public with such information. The EMN was established by the European Council Decision 2008/381/EC adopted on 14 May 2008.

*For further information:*

EMN Sweden: [www.emnsweden.se](http://www.emnsweden.se)

EMN Europe: <http://emn.intrasoft-intl.com/html/index.html>