

# Ad-Hoc Query from Greece, Italy and Luxembourg

Requested on 22th April 2016  
Compilation produced on 5th September 2016

**The role of urban areas and small cities in migrants' settlements patterns: policies and practices**



**Responses from:**

Responses from Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, Norway  
(19 in total)

**Disclaimer:** The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.

# 1. Background Information

A major issue in managing migration flows is the concentration of migrants in big cities. This may make it difficult to implement integration policies so much that some Member States have encouraged practices and policies aimed at a more widespread distribution of migrants across the country. This AHQ is intended to gain a better understanding of 1) the extent to which there is this concentration of migrants in large cities in Member States, and 2) what are the local reception policies and practices that are pursued by Member States in order to counter this concentration in relation to beneficiaries of international protection.

On the 77th EMN NCP meeting on 11th February, the GR EMN NCP announced that a transnational Conference will be held in cooperation with the IT EMN NCP entitled "Settlement patterns and migration in the receiving countries: a study on the patterns developed by migrants' settlement in urban areas or small cities- policies and best practices implemented to address ghetto formation and its impact in terms of social cohesion and public health and security" in order to identify possible reasons of the "phenomenon of ghetto" and to try to find adequate solutions to confront with this issue. In order to further discuss/explore this topic and to prepare this transnational Conference, the GR/IT/LU EMN NCP's would like to ask the following questions to the rest NCP's:

## Questions:

1. **Does your country faces the phenomenon of concentration of immigrant population in urban areas? If yes,**
  - a.) **What are the main problems that are recorded, due to this phenomenon, the concentration of immigrant population in urban areas?**
  - b.) **Describe the initiatives your country undertakes regarding**
    - urban development,
    - economic development and labour market growth,
    - cultural development (language, religion, etc),
    - Public transportation,
2. **If your migrant population is NOT concentrated in urban areas:**
  - a.) **Is there a concentration in certain rural areas or are migrants distributed, more or less, around the whole country.**
  - b.) **What are the main problems that are recorded, due to the phenomenon of the concentration of immigrant population in these areas?**
3. **Does your Member State have integration policies for beneficiaries of international protection with specific measures aimed at the distribution of these persons across the country? If yes:**
  - a.) **Who decides about such a distribution? The central government autonomously, the lower levels of government (regional or local governments) or all levels of government (central/regional and local) in consultation?**
  - b.) **If beneficiaries of protection are distributed across the country, are integration activities managed at a central/national level, or do they become the responsibility of local authorities (regional or local governments)?**
  - c.) **Is there a single integration model/approach applicable across the country, which lower government levels have to adopt, or does each level of government decide about the measures aimed at the integration of beneficiaries of international protection in full or partial autonomy?**
  - d.) **Is there any type of support (financial or other) given by the national government to the regional or local governments that take charge of beneficiaries of international protection? Please briefly describe this type of support (in cash or in kind)**

## 2. Responses

Country	Wider Dissemination	Response
Austria	Yes	<p>1. Yes. Immigration is especially an urban phenomenon. One half of the immigrant population lives in cities with a total of more than 100,000 residents.</p> <p>a. While conurbations face in particular the task of coping with the ensuing population growth and of avoiding the formation of social and ethnic ghettos, towns and smaller municipalities are in many cases concerned with maintaining the potential workforce in the region and with resolving the associated challenges to integration. 1b. - urban development: The preparation of master plans for integration, which are to be tailored to the specific local situation, as well as the appointment of officials responsible for integration. The varying regional distribution of different groups of immigrants and of residents with a migration background requires integration policy approaches that are differentiated according to region and target group. This needs to be considered when further developing policy instruments used in regional, housing and business site planning. - cultural development: To achieve a socially and ethnically heterogeneous mix in urban areas, suitable measures need to be taken to prevent any segregation of neighbourhoods. Community space is to be used to encourage migrants to participate in and interact with society, in particular within the framework of private associations and initiatives. - public transportation: This has to be evaluated at local level, as the cities and not the Federal State are responsible for this matter.</p> <p>2. N/A.</p> <p>3. No, because beneficiaries of international protection enjoy de facto equality with the majority of society and are allowed to move freely within the Member State (as well as within the EU). (Note: Such persons are distributed prior to the status decision as part of providing basic welfare support â responsibility: Federal Ministry of the Interior / Federal State and provinces) 3a. N/A. 3b. N/A. 3c. The Federal State has two integration models. The first is the National Action Plan for Integration, adopted in 2010, and the second, applying to beneficiaries of international protection, is the 50-Point Plan for the Integration of Persons Granted Asylum and Beneficiaries of Subsidiary Protection in Austria, adopted in 2015. Due to the principle of the Federated State enshrined in the Austrian Constitution as well as the fact that integration policy consists of horizontal issues, it is not possible to define requirements for the government authorities at other levels. 3d. Yes. Means-Tested Minimum Income is one monetary benefit in particular that is paid out by the Federal State to the provinces (as stipulated in an Agreement Pursuant to Art. 15 of the Federal Constitutional Act).</p>

		<p>This benefit includes a cash allowance and free health insurance coverage. The amount of Means-Tested Minimum Income for single persons is at least EUR 827, paid out 12 times a year. Persons living in cohabitation receive one-and-a-half times this amount, i.e. EUR 1,241.74. In addition to Austrian citizens, the group of persons entitled to this benefit includes EEA citizens working in Austria as dependent employees or who have resided in Austria for at least five years, third-country nationals who have legally resided in Austria for at least five years, and recognized refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior.</p>
Czech Republic	Yes	<p>1 a. Generally, foreigners prefer to live in large Czech cities. Nearly 50 % of all migrants live in Prague, Czech capital, itself. Even if immigrants prefer to live in large cities, their concentration there does not cause any large problems. Even beneficiaries of humanitarian protection tend to live in urban areas à one of the difficulties can be seen in securing housing for them in such areas. According to the recently undertaken study by Charles University in Prague, there are neither any cases of segregation from the side of foreigners, nor occurrence of closed migrant communities.</p> <p>b. N/A However, municipalities with large concentration of foreigners can apply for a grant for the realization of an integration project.</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. No, there are no specific measures regarding the integration policies for beneficiaries of international protection in this matter. Generally, the field of integration of beneficiaries of international protection is based on the State Integration Programme (SIP). A new concept of SIP was approved by the Government on November 20, 2015. It is a follow up to the already existing assistance provided to beneficiaries of international protection. The history of the programme goes back to 1993. The new concept reflects the anticipated increase in number of authorised persons (a person who has been granted international protection in the form of asylum or subsidiary protection and at the same time participant of SIP) in the programme. The aim of the programme is to facilitate the integration of beneficiaries of international protection (who enters the programme) à especially in the areas of Czech language courses, facilitation of the access to the labour market, education and vocational training and the area of housing.</p> <p>a. For each authorized person, an individual integration plan is elaborated. The area of housing is one of the key areas of integration services. The offered services for example include securing housing in the form of a lease (or accommodation) agreement if accommodation is connected with employment for the period of at least 1 year, the possibility of reimbursement of input costs: deposit, payment of first, alternatively second lease, furnishing the flat with necessary basic equipment. The Ministry of the Interior (MoI) via SIP decides on the distribution of beneficiaries of international protection across the country. The MoI takes into account work possibilities and the needs of the authorized persons; however, if the authorized person refuses the proposed accommodation, then it is up to the beneficiary of international protection to secure housing himself/herself. Thus, it is important to say that the person himself/herself has the last word in this matter. Also, the participation in SIP is voluntary.</p> <p>b. Generally, the integration activities are managed at a central level à i.e. the Ministry of the Interior is responsible for this area. However, providers are from the local sphere, including municipalities.</p> <p>c. Not in the sense of the question, but as already mentioned above, the Czech Republic does have a single integration model for beneficiaries of international protection à SIP (see 3.a).</p> <p>d. Not in the sense of the question. However, according to the previous concept of SIP, which still applies and is thus in force in cases when the housing was provided by the end of 2015 (the commitment is valid for 3 years, i.e. at the latest by the end of 2018), municipalities could apply for grants in cases when these municipalities for example provided housing for the beneficiaries of international protection. The subsidy could also be used for example for the development of infrastructure etc. According to the new concept of SIP, the non-governmental organizations are provided with the money from the central level. Currently, the Caritas of the Czech Republic has been selected as the general provider of integration services.</p>

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Estonia	Yes	<p>1. There does exist the phenomenon of concentration of immigrant population in urban areas. Based on the 2011 population census 87% of foreign nationals lived in urban areas. Out of them 47% in the capital city Tallinn. Also, a study of the Ministry of the Interior which mapped the profiles of third-country nationals who arrived in Estonia during 2009-2014, indicated that 59% of new immigrants went to live (at least the first place of residence) to Tallinn (capital city), 9% to Tartu (2nd biggest city in Estonia) and 5% to Narva (3rd biggest city in Estonia). Furthermore, there is a large concentration of non-Estonians, mainly ethnic Russians, living in the eastern part of Estonia (Ida-Viru County). Most of them are first or second generation immigrants. 1a. There is not so much a problem with the newly arrived immigrants, who live in urban areas. For them the main obstacle might be the lack of language skills, especially when dealing with state/local government. More problems are with the first and second generation immigrants, who live in the eastern part of Estonia and have not integrated to Estonian society. Most of this area is Russian speaking and in Russian media sphere, the unemployment is higher there, etc. All these factors have complicated the integration process and therefore, more emphasis in the integration policy development has been focused on this area and this group of people. 1b. No information.</p> <p>2. No.</p> <p>3. The Ministry of Social Affairs or an agency within the area of government of the Ministry of Social Affairs, which is responsible for the settlement of a beneficiary of international protection in the territory of a local government, shall consider inter alia the proportional allocation of beneficiaries of international protection among the local governments (Act on Granting International Protection to Aliens Â§ 73 (2)). In addition, the state of health of a beneficiary of international protection, the place of the residence of the relatives by blood or marriage and other significant circumstances, like considering the housing and employment opportunities in a local government are taken into account. 3a. All levels are involved in the process. The Ministry of Social Affairs or an agency within the area of government of the Ministry of Social Affairs shall organize the settlement of a beneficiary of international protection in the territory of a local government in an agreement with the local government. Where necessary they have the right to involve a representative of the Ministry of the Interior in the proceedings for agreement with a local government. A beneficiary of international protection may participate in the selection of the local government most suited to him or her.</p> <p>b. Integration activities (adaptation courses for newly arrived immigrants, language learning, support person etc) for beneficiaries of international protection are organized on the national level.</p> <p>c. Single approach. The Ministry of Social Affairs or an agency within the area of government of the Ministry of Social Affairs shall conclude a contract with the local government or a legal person governed by private law for the admission of the beneficiary of international protection and for providing following services to them:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) finding housing;</li><li>2) obtaining social and health services;</li><li>3) organizing for translation and the Estonian language instruction;</li><li>4) obtaining information concerning his or her rights and duties;</li><li>5) resolving other issues. 3d. Financial support is provided to local governments only in the case of relocation/resettlement of refugees.</li></ol> <p>In other cases, the cost that incurred by a local government or a legal person governed by private law are covered from the state budget. The following costs are covered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) one-time expenses related to the entering into a rental contract of a dwelling granted for use to a beneficiary of international protection;</li><li>2) costs of the Estonian language learning offered to the beneficiary of international protection during up to two years;</li><li>3) cost of translation services offered to a beneficiary of international protection during up to two years.</li></ol>
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Finland

Yes

1 a. What are the main problems that are recorded, due to this phenomenon, the concentration of immigrant population in urban areas?

- Lack of suitable accommodation for a reasonable price in the metropolitan area.
  - Immigrants' concentration at certain areas may reduce the value of the area and drive away the native population.
  - Concentration of foreign language speaking students in certain schools may pose challenges for teachers. Often the same schools are attended by a higher than average percentage of native students with socially disadvantaged students.
  - According to PISA 2012, when performance of students in schools with less than 15% students compared with schools with 15 % or more students with an immigration background, the performance was only slightly lower for native students (9 points) and for first generation students (5 points), but it was remarkably lower for second generation students (24 points) in schools with a higher concentration of students with immigration background.
  - Due to the native parents' concern for a lower school achievement (which as shown above is not remarkable), families may move to a better school districts.
- 1b. Describe the initiatives your country undertakes regarding - urban development:
- Cities try to offer the immigrants accommodations from different areas.
  - Some cities provide certain schools in neighborhoods with high concentration of migrant population and socially disadvantaged native population so-called positive discrimination (affirmative action) financial support which the schools are able use in the way they prefer themselves (e.g. hire extra teachers, organize extra curricular activities etc.).
  - economic development and labour market growth: - All the immigrants with the residence permit are entitled to an integration education which aims to labour market. Also some cities organize entrepreneurial counseling for residents with an immigration background.
  - cultural development (language, religion, etc):
  - Information about the Finnish society and language courses are already offered in the reception centers. Immigrant and ethnic associations may apply for funding for activities that aim for maintenance and strengthening of various cultural and linguistic backgrounds.
  - Public transportation: - Well-functioning public transportation enables living outside the urban areas.

2. N/a

3. Does your Member State have integration policies for beneficiaries of international protection with specific measures aimed at the distribution of these persons across the country? Yes. The state, represented by regional actors called Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY Centres), negotiates with various municipalities across the country in order to make municipalities to give a municipality placement for quota refugees as well as for asylum seekers who have received the residence permit. Municipalities are encouraged by financial compensation and other support. Each municipality which receives financial compensation is liable to produce an integration program which is a plan on the role and activities of various actors to support the integration of new comers. If yes: 3a. Who decides about such a distribution? The central government autonomously, the lower levels of government (regional or local governments) or all levels of government (central/regional and local) in consultation? Municipalities decide independently on the municipality placements for the international beneficiaries. However, each individual has the right to choose his / her place of residence and they may freely move away from the offered municipality placement.

b. If beneficiaries of protection are distributed across the country, are integration activities managed at a central/national level, or do they become the responsibility of local authorities (regional or local governments)? Integration activities are managed by the local authorities. The Centre of Expertise in Integration operates as part of the Ministry of Employment and the Economy. Its tasks include training of professionals on the local level, as well as the creation of cooperation networks among the actors involved in integration across occupational and geographical boundaries.

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c. Is there a single integration model/approach applicable across the country, which lower government levels have to adopt, or does each level of government decide about the measures aimed at the integration of beneficiaries of international protection in full or partial autonomy? The Act on Integration of Immigrants is binding across the country. Municipalities have autonomy to decide about the measures aimed at the integration of beneficiaries of international protection as long as they follow the Act on Integration. Also The Employment and Economic Development Offices (TE Office) located in the municipalities play a central role in the labour market integration of migrants and their activities are also regulated by law. The Centre of Expertise in Integration offers support on integration activities at local levels and in such way it may harmonize the integration activities in different municipalities.

d. Is there any type of support (financial or other) given by the national government to the regional or local governments that take charge of beneficiaries of international protection? Please briefly describe this type of support (in cash or in kind) Municipalities that have made an agreement on offering municipal placements to refugees and beneficiaries of international protection are given compensation by the national government. Compensation is: - 2300 €/year / person older than 7 years - 6845 €/ year / person younger than 7 years The duration of compensation is 4 years for quota refugees and 3 years for other beneficiaries of international protection. In addition the following compensation is paid according to actual costs:

- special expenses in the social and health care
- interpretations costs

- income support The amount of beneficiaries of international protection is taken into account in the central government transfers that are paid according to the amount of school age immigrants.

In addition the Ministry of Employment and the Economy is financing integration education and the Education Board is financing preparatory education. In the year 2015 the Ministry of Employment and the Economy decided to pay 20 000 € to those municipalities that offer a municipal placements for a 20 persons refugee group, as a minimum, for the first time or for the first time after 4 years. This was done in order to speed up the assigning of refugees to municipalities. In addition municipalities are entitled to a one-time supplementary compensation for all the beneficiaries of international protection who have received a municipal placement in the municipality during the year 2015. The supplementary compensation is: - 700 € / person older than 7 years - 1428 € / person younger than 7 years. The supplementary compensations are financed by a separate allocation paid by the EU according to the amount of quota refugees taken into Finland. Intention is to direct these allocations to the municipalities in future, too.

France	Yes	<p>1. Yes, France faces the phenomenon of concentration of immigrant population in urban areas, especially in Paris. In 2012, 90.1% of immigrants were living in large urban spaces, compared to only 81.9% of the non-immigrant population. The difference is even bigger when focusing on major urban centers (79% compared to only 56.8%). Regarding Paris urban center, 38.2% of the immigrant population were living there compared to only 17.1% of the non-immigrant population. Data source: Champ France, source Insee, 2012 population census, complementary exploitation 1a and 1b : We are still waiting for an answer from the competent services.</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. € Beneficiaries of international protection (BPI) are free to choose where to settle. But, when leaving the Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers (CADA), once they have obtained the status of BPI, if s/he needs to be hosted in a Temporary Accommodation Centre (CPH), there might be a distribution across the territory (national orientation). € Regarding BPIs who are beneficiaries of resettlement or relocation programs, they are hosted across the country depending on available housing dedicated to resettled or relocated persons. € Please note that the asylum law (29th July 2015) creates guidelines on accommodating asylum seekers throughout the country in order to avoid regional concentrations. Consequently this might have an impact on the installation of the person once recognized as a BPI. Although it is too early to determine the impact of this process.</p>
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		<p>a) For BPIs, there is no distribution except for the most vulnerable ones hosted in CPHs. The request to be hosted in a CPH is addressed to the National Direction of the French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII). It is the only one able to make a decision and to propose an orientation according to availability. The BPI is not compelled to accept. But, in case of a refusal, s/he will not be offered another place in a CPH (Article L. 349-3 of the Code on Social Action and Families CASF). The local and regional level do not orientate BPIs in CPHs anymore (Decree n°2016-253 2nd March 2016). Regarding resettlement and relocation programs, two Prefects have been nominated to supervise and coordinate the distribution across the national territory of these persons who will be recognized as BPIs at their arrival in France. The distribution is made according to availability and the will of voluntary cities to host the beneficiaries.</p> <p>b) Integration activities are managed at a national level by the OFII. A common set of integration activities is provided by regional branches of the OFII across the territory. Indeed, BPIs have access to various schemes under the Reception and Integration Contract (CAI which will become Republican Integration Contract, CIR from 1st July 2016) such as language and civic trainings, etc. At the departmental level, CPHs coordinate further integration activities for BPIs by signing a cooperation agreement with actors involved in the integration process, such as the French employment agency - Pôle Emploi, the Local sickness insurance fund à CPAM (caisse primaire d'assurance maladie) and the Family allowance fund à CAF (caisse d'allocation familiale) (Article R. 349-2 of the Code for social action and family à CASF / code de l'action sociale et des familles). In addition to these integration activities, at the local level and on a voluntary basis, associations have implemented other schemes for newly arrived immigrants, BPIs included. They can receive support from the State for their socio-professional integration projects thanks to the dedicated financial program (called BOP 104 funding).</p> <p>c) According to the law of the 20th November 2007, BPIs must have an equal access to an individualized support for access to employment and housing. Thus, integration schemes are similar across the country. Nevertheless, implementation modalities appear to be slightly different depending on the actor involved. Decree n°2016-253 (2nd March 2016) on CPH is a first step towards the harmonization of practices and more equity in the current process. It also promotes exchanges between public offices and operators who intervene quite often in an isolated manner for a very specific public.</p> <p>d) Regarding CPH, yes, their funding is governed by Article R. 314-1 to 2 of the CASF (in cash). The BOP 104 is a national and deconcentrated funding given to associations or operators working towards the integration of newly arrived immigrants, BPIs included. Regarding resettlement and relocation programs, there is a financial support allocated to municipalities for every creation of an accommodation or mobilization of housing (1000€/place à BOP 303). An additional financial aid is allocated to local associations in charge of supporting relocated BPIs (BOP 177).</p>
Germany	Yes	<p>1. No findings. The responsibility comes within the Länder and local authorities. A research would be too comprehensive in the frame of an ad-hoc query. Germany's upcoming Integration Act is in the legislative process. At current conclusions upon the topic cannot be given.</p> <p>2. See question 1</p> <p>3. Beneficiaries of international protection who receive basic provision pursuant to the German SGB II (social security statute book) can be obligated by the local provider for basic provision to a residence requirement .</p> <p>a. At current the local provider for basic provision</p> <p>b. Integration activities such as language courses for beneficiaries of protection are managed on governmental level (Integration course e.g.)</p> <p>c. No findings 3d. No findings</p>

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Greece	Yes	<p>1. The GR EMN NCP has already prepared a questionnaire that will be distributed to the biggest municipalities in Greece, as the main urban areas that a possible "spatial segregation" of migrants or "ghettoize" in certain areas maybe occur. The questions of this AHQ, on behalf of the GR EMN NCP, will be answered after the completion of the questionnaire mentioned above. The results of the questionnaire and the compilation of this AHQ will be presented in both events of the transnational Conference that the GR and IT EMN NCP's are organizing with the contribution of the LU EMN NCP.</p> <p>2. - 3. -</p>
Hungary	Yes	<p>1. YES. Immigrants tend to choose certain cities in relation with their reasons of immigrations. The biggest population of immigrant lives in the capital of the country and the county centres are also a destination (universities, bigger factories). The place of accommodation of forced migrants (refugees, beneficiaries of international protection) influenced by their own social-national network: they tend to choose cities or part of cities where other members of their nationality live in order to use the benefit of social cohesion of nationality. For instance, Chinese citizens live in certain districts of the capital. The number of foreign nationals is not as high as it would implicate problems. We cannot really refer to any record in this regard. Most of the cities where migrants live in a concentration the public transportation companies introduce a bilingual (English-Hungarian) version of information dissemination. Refugees are entitled to free travel on public transports.</p> <p>2 a. N/A. b. N/A.</p> <p>3. NO. There is not any organized distribution of beneficiaries of international protection across the country. a. N/A. b. N/A. c. N/A. There is no such a model currently. However local family support centres facilitate the integration of beneficiaries of international protection through an official contract. d. (There were two projects financed by European Refugee Fund that helped towns on the countryside to integrate beneficiaries of international protection. Beneficiaries could apply to the projects through the whole country. That contained cash support to the families and some in-kind contribution to the towns such as reconstruction works, cost of special services to the beneficiaries.)</p>
Latvia	Yes	<p>1. -</p> <p>2. According to available data immigrant population is concentrated more or less in whole country. Mostly it depends on living condition (work, accommodation). Nevertheless asylum seekers are located in two main areas: the Asylum Seekers Reception Centre at Mucenieki and the Centre of Detained Foreigners at Daugavpils. The Asylum Seekers Reception Centre at Mucenieki is located in Ropaži municipality which is one of the municipalities located close to the capital (approximately 20 km away from Riga).</p> <p>3. Latvia has developed an Action plan for Movement and Admission in Latvia of Persons who Need International Protection (hereinafter - Action plan). Action plan was supported by the Cabinet of Minister on 3rd of November 2015 and approved by the Cabinet of Ministers on 2 of December 2015 . The Action Plan includes three lines of action: - resettlement, relocation; - reception of asylum seekers (accommodation); - socio-economic inclusion measures. Ministry of the Interior is managing first two actions: selection of persons and resettlement, relocation as well as reception of asylum seekers and accommodation. Ministry of Culture, as well as Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Welfare, Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development are responsible for socio-economic inclusion measures.</p>

		<p>Coordinating body for refugees and persons with alternative status on socio-economic inclusion through the employment aspect is the State Employment Agency. The Action Plan doesn't contain specific activities for distribution of these persons across the country.</p> <p>a. Who decides about such a distribution? The central government autonomously, the lower levels of government (regional or local governments) or all levels of government (central/regional and local) in consultation? According to the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia – Everyone residing lawfully in the territory of Latvia has the right to freely move and to choose his or her place of residence. The spreading of immigrant population in Latvia mainly depends on two factors: employment and accommodation.</p> <p>b. If beneficiaries of protection are distributed across the country, are integration activities managed at a central/national level, or do they become the responsibility of local authorities (regional or local governments)? Ministry of Culture is coordinating integration policies. Ministry is coordinating action on social integration and the development of civil society: develops national policy for the integration of society and civil society development; ensures the integration of public policies coordinated implementation; promotes an enabling environment for civil society development etc. In order to ensure co-ordinated activity of public administration and civil society organisations in the field of third-country nationals/immigrant integration, to provide support in different fields and to promote greater understanding about immigration issues within the Latvian society and its influence on the development of Latvia, Ministry of Culture distributing integration activities across the country.</p> <p>c. Is there a single integration model/approach applicable across the country, which lower government levels have to adopt, or does each level of government decide about the measures aimed at the integration of beneficiaries of international protection in full or partial autonomy? According to Action Plan there is single integration model in different levels. Action Plan consist from 48 activities total/ finances allocated to 28 of them. In the implementation of the plan there are 11 ministries, municipalities, Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments, NGOs involved.</p> <p>d. Once a person is granted a refugee or subsidiary status, he will receive an allowance of EUR 139. Latvian refugees benefit is likened to a living wage and the cost of the state budget. With this allowance person will pay for rent of accommodation, buy food and other daily necessities. Refugee will receive 139 euro monthly allowance for a year, but person with alternative status for nine months. This is done with an aim to encourage people to quickly find a job and get back on their feet. If a refugee status is granted to the whole family, the allowance of 139 euros will be paid to the head of the family, but each next family member will be able to get the support of 97 euros (or 70% of 139 eur). If a family with that income will get a status of low-income family, it will be able to apply to local government for additional benefits intended for such families. However, the costs that will go to municipalities when a refugee family will get the status of low-income persons, will be compensated by the state. A person with refugee or alternative status are also able to receive social services. More information about the social benefits see <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1117&amp;langId=en">http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1117&amp;langId=en</a></p>
Lithuania	Yes	<p>1. The population of foreigners in Lithuania is rather small. According to the data of 2016, there were 41 thousand foreigners living in Lithuania. 50 percent of them were living in the Vilnius municipality, 12 percent in Klaipeda and 10 percent in Kaunas. Lithuania has not faced the phenomenon of concentration of immigrant population in urban areas so far.</p> <p>2. The majority of foreigners is concentrated in the 3 biggest city of Lithuania - Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipeda. There are no big issues related to concentration of immigrant population in rural or urban areas.</p> <p>3 a. Lithuania has no formal mechanism for distribution of beneficiaries of international protection. Every refugee decides where to go, usually where s(he) could find work or has friends or relatives.</p> <p>b. After the initial integration at the refugee reception center refugees go to the municipality. Assistance from the central/national government is provided for 12 more months at the municipal level. Later a refugee becomes a responsibility of the regional and local government.</p> <p>c. There is a national integration strategy managed by the Ministry of Social security and labour in cooperation with non-governmental organization.</p> <p>4. No.</p>

**Ad-Hoc Query:****The role of urban areas and small cities in migrants' settlements patterns: policies and practices**

Luxembourg	Yes	<p>1. Yes. In Luxembourg, the phenomenon of concentration of immigrant populace in urban areas exists but it also occurs in rural areas in certain municipalities around the country. These phenomena include not only underprivileged migrants from a socio-economic point of view but also migrants belonging to higher socio-economic categories. Different studies analyze residential behaviors depending on the different nationalities. The main factors that can explain this situation are the cost and availability of housing in Luxembourg. Luxembourg City has a large majority of non-Luxembourgish residents. In certain neighborhoods a percentage of non-Luxembourgish residents of between 80 to 90% would exist. Certain concentrations live in very specific blocks of an individual neighborhood. In other cities, such as Esch-sur-Alzette, Differdange and Dudelange have residential areas with significant concentrations of immigrants in a precarious socio-economic situation. 1a. What are the main problems that are recorded, due to this phenomenon, the concentration of immigrant population in urban areas? A major challenge exists at the level of social cohesion due to the fact that inhabitants with different cultures and origins tend to live next to each other and their social networks are rather homogeneous. This risk is amplified due to the spatial impact of socio-economic inequalities. The presence or absence of accessible housing and the associated cost, determine in part, the concentration of certain categories of the population in some neighborhoods and municipalities. 1b. Describe the initiatives your country undertakes regarding - urban development, - economic development and labour market growth, - cultural development (language, religion, etc), - Public transportation, In the framework of the spatial planning policy, and in order to meet the challenges brought because of the strong economic and demographic evolution of Luxembourg, the Grand Duchy is in the process of developing the sectorial master plan (called Primary Master Plans). These plans, developing in the areas of transport, housing, landscape and economic activity areas, focus on the four main areas for action of spatial planning (urban and rural development, economy, transport and environment and natural resources. They have a direct impact on the territorial organization and land use at national level and constitute instruments that allow the framing of the durable spatial development of Luxembourg at medium and long term.</p> <p>2. See answer to Question 1.</p> <p>3. No. There is no specific integration policy for beneficiaries of international protection according to where they live inside the country. However, with regard to international protection applicants, the Luxembourg Reception and Integration Agency and the Association of Luxembourg Towns and Municipalities (SYVICOL) raise awareness among local elected officials of the need to increase the housing offer. The main objective is to obtain that these municipalities put at the disposal of the government buildings and terrains addressing in order to address this housing shortage. The circular n° 3324 of the Ministry of Interior of 24 November 2015 to the local administrations on reception and integration of beneficiaries of international protection establishes that the government would implement a coordinated policy between the State and the municipalities on the reception and integration of beneficiaries of international protection. In order to do that the government has developed a package of measures. These financial and administrative measures target in one hand the reception and integration of beneficiaries of international protection and on the other hand they allow the access to affordable housing to beneficiaries of housing aid. The housing park of the municipality (which can be owned by the municipality or rented by the municipality from private owners) is rented to beneficiaries of housing aid benefits and to beneficiaries of international protection in equal conditions. 3a. Who decides about such a distribution? The central government autonomously, the lower levels of government (regional or local governments) or all levels of government (central/regional and local) in consultation? With regard to the housing of international protection applicants, the decisions are taken jointly between national and local authorities. b. If beneficiaries of protection are distributed across the country, are integration activities managed at a central/national level, or do they become the responsibility of local authorities (regional or local governments)? Beneficiaries of international protection do not benefit from any specific integration measures. Municipalities can benefit from national co-financing in the framework of the development of the Communal Integration Plan (plan communal d'intégration à l'PCI). These plans can contain integration measures for beneficiaries of international protection. The Ministry of Family, Integration and of the Greater Region supports the local projects of integration and/or the programmes for the reception of international protection applicants.</p>
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Netherlands	Yes	<p>1. The phenomenon of concentration of immigrant population in urban areas is strongly recognized in the Netherlands. Please see the attached Excel file for an overview of the distributions of migrants across the Dutch municipalities. Scientific evidence suggests that a significant concentration of migrants hinders the integration of certain groups; however, the overall effects on integration seem to be small. The most important predictors for integration appear to be individual attributes.</p> <p>2. not applicable</p> <p>3. The Netherlands has no specific policy measures targeting the distribution of migrants: The freedom of an individual to choose his/her place of residence is given a higher value. In general there are no specific policies targeting only the migrant population. Policy instruments are of a generic nature. The only exemption from this principle concerns the naturalization for TCNs, which includes a civic integration examination. The examination consists of a language test, a knowledge test on the Dutch society, and a test promoting the orientation on the Dutch labour market.</p>

**Ad-Hoc Query:**

**The role of urban areas and small cities in migrants' settlements patterns: policies and practices**

Portugal	Yes	<p>1. 1. Yes, mainly in Lisbon (surrounded area) and Algarve.</p> <p>a. â The main problems recorded are: unemployment, precarious economic situation, constraints due to the regularization in the country, discrimination in the labour market (racial and ethnic), lack of a support network to take care of the children and lack of interpersonal contacts, financial exclusion, low income, and difficulties concerning housing. We also may mention Sensitive Urban Areas (ZUS) because of crime (serious group violence or drug trafficking and illegal arms trade), causing local clashes and resistance to security forces.</p> <p>b. â Regarding urban development, Portugal has taken some measures such as promoting immigrantsâ integration into housing policies (measure 32 of PEM â Strategic Plan for Migration) and urban regeneration by restoring and conserving old and/or dilapidated buildings, which is a general initiative, directed to the entire population and not only to the immigrant community. Considering economic development and labour market growth, Portugal foresees to create and implement a specific plan to attract foreign investment, to develop an offer which includes tax benefits, co-financing commitments, easy access to immigrantsâ visas and logistic support. Furthermore, Portugal not only intends to promote the improvement of work conditions and the immigrantsâ integration in agricultural labour market but also support the descendantsâ transition to labour market. Finally, concerning cultural development, the adopted measures are: promote intercultural education since age 3; include the subject of interculturalism in teacher training and value schools with good practices (keep on giving intercultural stamp); promote, through municipalities, initiatives to value cultural diversity; develop Portuguese language courses at higher levels (B1 and B2) to prepare immigrants for the official exam; strengthen Portuguese language teaching and consolidate Portuguese as a second language courses; promote cultural activities with the immigrant community, especially vulnerable environments.</p> <p>2-</p> <p>a. â</p> <p>b. â</p> <p>3- No. These people are placed where itâs available for them to stay. Portugal has a set of integration measures provided for PEM â Strategic Plan for Migration, which aims to consolidate the integration work, to empower and fight against discrimination, regarding a better mobilization of immigrantsâ talent and skills and valuing the cultural and religious diversity. Furthermore, the Plan also aims to enhance social mobility, to decentralize immigration policies and search a better link with employment policy and with the access to a common citizenship. The integration activities are put in practice by the associations responsible for the beneficiaries of international protection and they are financed by national and European protocols and agreements.</p> <p>a. â</p> <p>b. See answer to question</p> <p>c. See answer to question</p> <p>d. See answer to question 3.</p>
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Slovak Republic

Yes

1. Based on the statistical data about the employment of foreigners in the Slovak Republic, the migrant population is concentrated mainly in urban areas mostly due to better job opportunities as well as due to the presence of migrant communities (the capital and cities with significant foreign investments).
  - a) Considering the low numbers of immigrant population in Slovakia, it is not possible to speak about the phenomenon of ghettos. Only certain streets in the capital city could be considered as areas with high concentration of foreigners. The Migration Office has recorded some experience with social exclusion of some persons with granted subsidiary protection living in the same lodging house (e.g. not attending the Slovak language classes, unemployment, and involvement in some criminal activities).
  - b) One of the cross-cutting topics of the Integration Policy of the Slovak Republic is also the role of the self-governing regions within the integration process. These regions should be active in creating conditions for the civic engagement of foreigners at the local level. At the regional level, only one self-governing region (Košice) has its own regional conception of integration of foreigners. At the local level, several cities (e.g. Zvolen, Michalovce, Bardejov) prepared strategic documents on the integration of foreigners. However, also those cities which do not have any strategic documents or specific action plans, implement measures and approached which are recommended in the Integration Policy of the Slovak Republic. In the period from the beginning of April 2014 until the end of June 2015, based on the recommendations of the Integration Policy, the Association of Towns and Communities of Slovakia (ZMOS) implemented the project titled Building capacities of municipalities on the local level in area of integration policy (BUK). Seven towns (Banská Bystrica, Dolný Kubín, Prievidza, Senec, Svidník, Snina a Michalovce) participated in this project and prepared its local strategies for the integration of foreigners based on the communication with the target group. The project included mostly simple and low-threshold measures which were aimed at the availability of the Slovak language classes, availability of information in another foreign language, defining communication tools between the target group and the management of the town, raising awareness among the general public about other cultures and other nationalities, etc.
2. N/A
3. No. Such a mechanism has not been formally defined yet. Decision-making about granting the permanent residence also depends on accommodation capacities which the state has or which the state is offered (from municipalities). Due to the low number of migrants, nor the Integration Policy of the Slovak Republic and neither the Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic include measures focused on the distribution of persons with granted international protection across the territory of the Slovak Republic. Currently, a State Integration Program for Persons with Granted International Protection is being prepared. In the meanwhile, the distribution of persons with granted international protection across the territory is in the competence of the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior in cooperation with the non-governmental organisation which is implementing the integration project. All levels of governance consult the distribution while the person with granted international protection has the right to choose whether he/she agrees with his/her placement in certain region of Slovakia in case he/she receives in-kind or in-cash support in his/her integration process or this person can decide on his/her own in case he/she choose not to receive in-kind or in-cash support.
  - a) The integration activities are coordinated at the central level – the responsible authority is the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic in cooperation with the non-governmental organisation which is implementing the integration project as stated above.
  - b) See above.
  - c) No, see above.
  - d) No. Currently, there is no form of support from the government to the regional or local governments responsible for the persons with granted international protection.

**Ad-Hoc Query:**

**The role of urban areas and small cities in migrants' settlements patterns: policies and practices**

Spain	Yes	<p>1. See below</p> <p>2. In general the immigrant population has established in those geographical areas where the labour market has needed labour force, in some cases in urban areas (services, construction services, home services, etc) but also in areas where agricultural activity, particularly, has been an attractive industry for foreigners. As a result there are people either in rural and urban areas which details are set forth below: Regarding the territorial distribution, considering the distribution by regions, we see that the distribution is higher in Catalonia, Madrid, Valencia and Andalusia totaling almost 70% of foreigners. As differences it shows that Catalonia foreign population is more masculinized than the other three, although the trend is that men predominate in all the regions. To consider incorporation in the territory, it shows that the immigrant population has been distributed throughout the territory being based in big cities, in medium-size cities, in peri-urban areas, this is municipalities between 5.000 and 50.000 inhabitants, which are at a higher distance of 20 km, of towns more of 50.000 inhabitants; and in the very rural areas. There has also been a concentration by nationality of origin which is explained by the fact that immigrants are involved in family and friends networks. The proportion of immigrants has increased especially in suburban areas and to a lesser extent on the islands of population and the Canary Islands and Ceuta y Melilla. Immigrants have greater presence in urban areas which generally correspond to larger municipalities. In the migrant population men predominate slightly over women, especially in smaller municipalities, although this trend has been towards equal representation in every areas. The areas with the highest rate of migrants are in the Eastern half of the country, especially in the Mediterranean corridor, the Ebro Valley, Madrid and surroundings area and all the corridor that runs from Madrid to Valencia, Alicante and Murcia. By contrast, in the western half of the Peninsula, even the southwest it shows that the percentage of migrants is much lower. As regards the urban space, the incorporation of people of foreign origin to urban spaces has led to changes in its philosophy and dynamics emerging new realities in neighbourhoods and businesses, diversifying services and markets. This process has led to new situations in most of the cities characterized now by level of multicultural representation. The Spanish cities with the largest population have seen intensified its cultural diversity and some of their quarters are characterized by a fusion component among diversity, art and leisure, even constituting a new tourist attraction. Within large cities like Madrid or Barcelona, suburbs have grown in outlying areas and with low provision of infrastructures, or very central and damaged, where the rate of foreign population is over the national average, the confluence of these circumstances has hindered sometimes the local community. According to some studies, the residents of Spanish origin tend to distinguish between the rejection of the presence of foreigners in the abstract, and acceptance more or less distant, of some concrete migrants that they know personally. There is a contrast between the perception of the majority population of indistinct and stereotyped neighbourhood (as migrants in general, or as Moroccans, Colombians, Romanians,) and the opinion formed of individuals with whom they have a personal relationship as neighbours, co-workers or friends. Meanwhile, migrants wish to overcome this rejection becoming known to gain the trust of the Spanish. The problem is that stereotypes created in the Spanish community as a result of negative experiences are much more spread than negative or neutral experiences. As solutions that have worked and that must be prized there are neighbourhood mediation services to stop conflicts; meeting activities and mutual understanding and the adequate provision of infrastructure and public services. All these actions are covered by government actions, from different levels and objectives, as well as from various ministries, autonomous regions and municipalities. Regarding the rural environment taking into account the 22 Spanish provinces most affected by depopulation in the last century, a decrease in the rate of depopulation is observed in the first decade of the XXI century. The data show that the root cause of this reduction in depopulation is the strong pace of growth of the resident population born abroad. The contribution of the foreign population mainly composed of families, has affected towns and regions with low population density, some endangered, allowing the maintenance of the economic activity and the public services. Both urban and rural habits, the presence of people of foreign origin and their transnational links with the countries of origin have generated a new interest in the Spanish population to approach the reality of those countries, through countless workshops, festivals, fairs and cultural encounters. Throughout the decade, regional and local integration plans have favoured those actions and have searched adequate formulas and adapted to their circumstances to act in favor of social inclusion for the entire population. As regards the adjustment between supply and demand in the public services of welfare, the rapid increase of the resident population in Spain has produced imbalances in the supply of some public services being their consequences very varied.</p>
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It is clear that the demand has increased to certain services (housing, healthcare, kindergarten, public services) that has been solved with budgetary efforts from the Public Administrations to supply more means and adjust the public services to the specific demand, efforts that have decreased as a result of the budgetary restrictions derived from the economic crisis of the last years and that have impacted in the social policy. Schools and Secondary Schools have included the issues about cultural diversity and the reality of the countries of origin of the foreign students in their curriculum, opening spaces to develop values of respect and knowledge of different realities. New and increasing resources have been included to support foreigners students joining the compulsory educational system in Spain. This process has not been without conflict and insisted the risk of deterioration of the quality of teaching. As expected the highest percentages of foreign students are concentrated in the autonomous communities where there is a larger population of immigrant origin but also Murcia, Navarra and the Balearic Islands. One of the goals is to equate access to state higher level of education of the Spanish youngster with those of the foreign youngster. It is also fair to note that the Spanish Universities aware of the diverse reality have adapted their academic curricula to the new situation by implementing expert courses, masters, doctoral theses, research projects, new degrees and job orientations that undoubtedly have contributed to improve integration processes. In another basic resources, healthcare, health workers have also changed their guidelines for care, incorporating its cultural diversity and broadening their knowledge of endemic diseases from other latitudes and hemispheres, for which there have been numerous training and educational outreach programs and have implemented cultural mediation services and interpretation in different languages by various Autonomous Communities. Although the health needs of migrants are not different from the native by group of age, some studies have detected a more intensive use of hospital emergencies; this use is adjusted in time, according to the operating guidelines of the National Health System are better known. It should also be said that as with other services, a part of the immigrant population middle-income and high is also a client of health services provided by private insurers. In order to meet the demands of the entire population the Autonomous Communities must ensure that the allocation of health resources is proportional to the size of the demand, raise awareness to the public about the responsible use of care and quality of care is insured, incorporating aspects of diversity in usual practice. Also in regard to social and political participation, immigrants have generated a strong social capital, both through the establishment of organizations of mutual aid, cooperation, cultural awareness and friendship, created during this decade and established throughout the national territory, as by joining existing organization and associations. Furthermore and in addition to the incorporation and immigrants to all kinds of associations, they have opened new spaces for immigration within organizations of the third sector of social action existing, which have established specific lines of action on immigration. These organizations mobilize thousands of volunteers and employ a large number of technicians host programs, social and intercultural intervention aimed at preventing and combating poverty, exclusion, and discrimination, improve employability, access and maintaining employment in the context of the economic crisis. This technical personnel operates offering assistance and support to reorient personalized itineraries for people to find the best options within the new market situations. It is in this area where the policy of integration of immigrants holding the General Directorate of Migration (under the General Secretariat of Immigration and Emigration) develops, which aims to promote the full integration of foreigners in the Spanish society, within a framework of coexistence of identities and cultures and no restrictions other than respect for the Constitution and the Law. The General Directorate for Migration awards annual grants to the social non-profit entities, also finance programs aimed to fund programs that promote social and labour integration of the immigrant people and covering various aspects as follows: a) Comprehensive reception programs for the care of the basic needs and support for the integration of the immigrants. b) Programs co-financed by the European Social Fund under the operational program of "Social Inclusion and the Social Economy" : Programs to improve employability, especially through the design of individualized itineraries for social and labour insertion (both employed and self-employed or self-employment in rural areas with low population density, through personalized selection processes, training and support. The aim of these programs is to identify local economic opportunities for immigrants from third countries and implementation of production processes in this field, programs aimed at supporting actions for professional diversification, including the creation of services that provide information, advice, support, document translation and formalities necessary for the recognition of qualification and validation of the studies in the country of origin, awareness programs and promoting equal treatment and non discrimination in the work place

**Ad-Hoc Query:**

**The role of urban areas and small cities in migrants' settlements patterns: policies and practices**

(awareness of employers to overcome prejudices in hiring, support for diversity management in the Company, awareness against racism and xenophobia in the workplace, promotion of equal treatment with the native population, etc. c) Programas co-financed by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund such as: Information, guidance and advice on the host society and language learning programs for youth and children in the education system, in particular, educational programs, extracurricular, promotion and health prevention, promotion of equal treatment and non-discrimination in the host society and programs aimed specifically at women. In particular the comprehensive integration programs also exist in neighbourhoods with significant presence of immigrants and designed to promote the integration of third country nationals, dialogue, peaceful coexistence, social inclusion and diversity management; it's neighbourhoods whose social, demographic, economic, and housing characteristics could hamper social life standard. These programs are also co-financed by the Asylum, Immigration and Integration Fund.

3A. In Spain the host system includes both ways of applicants: asylum-seekers and beneficiaries of international protection, because national legislation provides for the possibility of maintaining the services and program offered once granted protection or subsidized protection. Therefore the data provided below include both groups, not just those who have already been recognized with some form of international protection. During the past 2015 came to Spain a total of 11.118 people who applied for international protection, to be distributed throughout the Spanish geography, anyway there were more applicants in Madrid, Catalonia, Andalucia, Valencia and Melilla. Reception and integration competence of international protection applicants is specifically attributed to the central government, specifically the Ministry of Employment and Social Security (MEYSS) through the Sub-Directorate of Integration of Migrants, under the General Directorate of Migrations within the General Secretariat of Immigration and Emigration. Services and programs are carried out throughout the national territory, the network of reception places and supplementary services are distributed all over the national territory while it is true that there are regions that concentrate a greater number of resources (Madrid, Andalucia, Catalonia and Valencia). The Social Work Unit of the Ministry of Employment and Social Security channels the applicants and beneficiaries of the vacancies in each resource as well as user profile, the existence of informal networks or employment opportunities. Asylum-seekers and refugees are authorized to live anywhere in Spain without restrictions, but to receive the material reception conditions must reside in the municipality assigned by the Social Work Unit.

b. Reception and integration programs of asylum-seekers represent a state response to Spain's obligations under international responsibilities in international protection. Royal Decree 343/2012, of 12 February, on Organic Basic Structure of the Ministry of Employment and Social Security lays down in article 8 that is a competence of the General Secretariat of Immigration and Emigration to develop the policy of the Government in foreigners, migration and migration. To develop this policy, article 9.1 of this Royal Decree attributes to the General Directorate of Migrations, management body under this General Secretariat, among other functions, the development and management of the comprehensive reception system and migrants integration, asylum seekers, refugees, stateless, people under the temporary protection system and other status of subsidized protection. Also this General Directorate has authority to manage subsidies on integration of immigrants, the managements of Public Management Centres (CAR, CETIS), collaboration with public and private entities whose activities are related to the host ensuring integration and management activities, funding and actions plan of the European Union that affect them. However although the reception and integration system belongs to the state level, without being delegated this responsibility to the Autonomous Communities or Municipalities applicants or beneficiaries of international protection enjoy certain services that are responsibility of regional and local authorities if they meet the legal requirements. General social services such as education and health care, that they enjoy depend on the Autonomous Communities and the Municipalities.

c The interaction model is established from the central government, being the competent the Ministry of Employment. To fulfill the purposes of reception and integration of this group the Ministry of Employment and Social Security has two ways of intervention: 1) A network of shelters, that include: -the Public Migration Centres, dependent on the General Directorate of Migrations consists of: \* Reception centres for refugees (CAR), intended to accommodate applicants and beneficiaries of international protection, as well as beneficiaries of temporal protection in Spain. There are four centers, two of them located in Madrid and the others in Seville and Valencia.

		<p>* Centers for temporary stay of migrants (CETI), designed to meet immigrants accessing irregularly in Spain and located in the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla. They can also accommodate asylum seekers for whom access to that form of protection.</p> <p>* Other host centers subsidized by the Ministry of Employment and managed by NGOs. There are shelters available in all the regions throughout the national territory.</p> <p>2) Ancillary services necessary to support integration measures to facilitate the recipients cope in the new environment and access to Jobs and integration into the host society, subsidized by the Ministry of Employment. Among these services, social intervention, psychological care, legal assistance, translation and interpretation or support for employability. There are also subsidized programs in different autonomous communities.</p> <p>d. There is no direct funding from the central government to autonomous or local governments. The reception system for applicants or beneficiaries of international protection is funded entirely by the Ministry of Employment, mainly through the budget allocated to the General Secretariat of Immigration and Emigration. Part of the Budget is funded by the Fund of Asylum, Migration and Integration (FAMI) and the European Social Fund (ESF). The budget is intended to the management and maintenance of Public Migration Centers dependent on the central government and NGOs and subsidized entities to carry out the actions of reception and integration of migrants and beneficiaries of international protection.</p>
Sweden	Yes	<p>1a. Main problems are overcrowded neighborhoods, socio-economic differences, higher unemployment rates and lower school results etc. compared with other neighborhoods. 1b. Urban development – The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning is the national agency for urban development. Economic development and labour market growth – a lot of measures including fast tracks for new arrivals in shortage occupations. Government objective that Sweden will have the lowest unemployment rate in the EU by 2020. Cultural development (language, religion, etc) – early measures for asylum seekers, i.e. basic Swedish courses and online-learning and mapping of skills and experience for asylum seekers. Swedish for immigrants (SFI) and civic orientation courses for new arrivals with residence permit. Public transportation</p> <p>2. NA</p> <p>3a. Asylum seekers and new arrivals can choose where to settle. New legislation approved as from 1 March 2016 that forces all municipalities to settle migrants granted asylum.</p> <p>b. Integration activities are managed at national level by legislation (the Establishment Act) and the Public Employment Service (PES) but implemented by the PES at local level. Municipalities are responsible for Swedish language training (SFI) and civic orientation courses (minimum 60 hours in the mother tongue) for new arrivals with residence permit. The regional level (County Administrative Boards) are responsible for monitoring local integration measures.</p> <p>c. Municipalities and County Administrative Boards (regional level) have to follow and implement national legislation and integration policies.</p> <p>d. The government compensates municipalities with a lump-sum for the reception of asylum seekers and new arrivals. Increased funds for compensation to municipalities for special costs for the reception of newly arrived immigrants. A new form of placement and standard reimbursement for unaccompanied minors and young adults has been introduced to lower the costs. Increased funds to municipalities and civil society for refugee guides and family contacts to carry out early measures for asylum seekers. Funds to County Administrative Boards to create preparedness and reception capacity in municipalities.</p>

**Ad-Hoc Query:**

**The role of urban areas and small cities in migrants' settlements patterns: policies and practices**

United Kingdom	Yes	<p>. 1a. Main problems are overcrowded neighborhoods, socio-economic differences, higher unemployment rates and lower school results etc. compared with other neighborhoods. 1b. <math>\hat{\text{c}}</math> urban development <math>\hat{\text{a}}</math> The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning is the national agency for urban development. <math>\hat{\text{c}}</math> economic development and labour market growth <math>\hat{\text{a}}</math> a lot of measures including fast tracks for new arrivals in shortage occupations. Government objective that Sweden will have the lowest unemployment rate in the EU by 2020. <math>\hat{\text{c}}</math> cultural development (language, religion, etc) <math>\hat{\text{a}}</math> early measures for asylum seekers, i.e. basic Swedish courses and online-learning and mapping of skills and experience for asylum seekers. Swedish for immigrants (SFI) and civic orientation courses for new arrivals with residence permit. <math>\hat{\text{c}}</math> Public transportation</p> <p>2. NA</p> <p>3a. Asylum seekers and new arrivals can choose where to settle. New legislation approved as from 1 March 2016 that forces all municipalities to settle migrants granted asylum. 3b. Integration activities are managed at national level by legislation (the Establishment Act) and the Public Employment Service (PES) but implemented by the PES at local level. Municipalities are responsible for Swedish language training (SFI) and civic orientation courses (minimum 60 hours in the mother tongue) for new arrivals with residence permit. The regional level (County Administrative Boards) are responsible for monitoring local integration measures. 3c. Municipalities and County Administrative Boards (regional level) have to follow and implement national legislation and integration policies. 3d. The government compensates municipalities with a lump-sum for the reception of asylum seekers and new arrivals. Increased funds for compensation to municipalities for special costs for the reception of newly arrived immigrants. A new form of placement and standard reimbursement for unaccompanied minors and young adults has been introduced to lower the costs. Increased funds to municipalities and civil society for refugee guides and family contacts to carry out early measures for asylum seekers. Funds to County Administrative Boards to create preparedness and reception capacity in municipalities. For example the 'migrant worker towns and countryside' areas which received high numbers of migrants from EU accession countries. Different types of migrants are likely to have impacts in different types of areas <math>\hat{\text{a}}</math> there is therefore no straightforward link between migrant numbers and impacts of migration as it will depend very much on the type of area and type of migrant. With regard to impacts of types of migrant, this research suggests: Legitimate international students and non-European Economic Area (EEA) skilled workers are likely to have low impacts on public services and social cohesion, including a lower demand on most services than an average UK resident. The impacts of the Low-skilled migrant workers are likely to be mixed. For example, they are regarded as bringing economic benefits to some sectors, particularly in times of economic growth, but can also have higher impacts on health, housing and social cohesion. Negative impacts will be greater for illegal workers, as they will often live in poor conditions, not contribute taxes, and poorly integrate with the community in which they live. Asylum-seekers and refugees are likely to have the highest impact on services compared with other groups, because of their particular circumstances and levels of need, particularly in the area of health care. Evidence from the literature and discussions with Local Authorities undertaken as part of the research suggest that the history of migration to an area will have a major role in the consequent impacts of migration, particularly in terms of social cohesion. Negative impacts will be greater for illegal workers, as they will often live in poor conditions, not contribute taxes, and poorly integrate with the community in which they live. Asylum-seekers and refugees are likely to have the highest impact on services compared with other groups, because of their particular circumstances and levels of need, particularly in the area of health care. Evidence from the literature and discussions with Local Authorities undertaken as part of the research suggest that the history of migration to an area will have a major role in the consequent impacts of migration, particularly in terms of social cohesion. For example areas that have previously had little experience of migration but are faced with higher numbers (<math>\hat{\text{a}}</math> Asylum Dispersal Areas<math>\hat{\text{a}}</math> and <math>\hat{\text{a}}</math> Migrant Worker Towns and Countryside<math>\hat{\text{a}}</math>) may experience the most noticeable impacts. On the other hand, impacts may be less in high migration areas with a longer history of migration, which are already more ethnically diverse (for example, <math>\hat{\text{a}}</math> Superdiverse London<math>\hat{\text{a}}</math> and <math>\hat{\text{a}}</math> Diverse Conurbation Centres<math>\hat{\text{a}}</math>), and where Local Authorities have more experience in dealing with the challenges and needs of a diverse population. Please see the report at the below link for more information <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/210324/horr72.pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/210324/horr72.pdf</a></p>
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T2. N/A

3. Does your Member State have integration policies for beneficiaries of international protection with specific measures aimed at the distribution of these persons across the country? If yes:

- a. Who decides about such a distribution? The central government autonomously, the lower levels of government (regional or local governments) or all levels of government (central/regional and local) in consultation? The UK does not have a specific integration distribution policy for beneficiaries of international protection. However, the manner in which both asylum dispersal policy before an asylum claim is considered and resettlement policy operates could be considered to have an impact on the distribution of individuals. Asylum seekers are generally free to live where they wish, but if they are destitute and require accommodation they will receive this on a no choice basis, with decisions being made by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI), as part of the Home Office. UKVI disperse destitute asylum seekers around the UK ensuring a reasonable spread amongst UK local authorities that are subscribed to the scheme. The UK’s asylum dispersal policy aims to disperse destitute asylum seekers away from the main ports of entry to urban centres across the UK, in part to reduce any burden on the South East of England and London. The Home Office maintains an active partnership with local authorities across the UK to plan for the most appropriate dispersal of asylum seekers taking account of community cohesion, social welfare and safety factors to disperse destitute asylum seekers to available housing sourced by their contracted housing providers. Asylum seekers who are granted refugee or other status in the UK are entitled to unrestricted access to the labour market and have broadly the same rights and benefits as British nationals and other lawful residents. These rights include freedom of movement, but if individuals have previously been accommodated by UKVI as asylum seekers they are usually only able to access social housing from the local authority in that area. The asylum dispersal policy therefore probably influences where many individuals will settle. Beneficiaries of international protection who are resettled under the Gateway Protection Programme (GPP) and Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) are also distributed across the UK, but by a similar but separate mechanism from the asylum process. Both of Resettlement schemes have established their own voluntary agreements with UK local authorities to accommodate individuals. Local authorities and devolved administrations communicate to The Home Office’s Syrian Resettlement Team (VPRS) or the Home Office’s Resettlement Operations Team (GPP) the resources they have available to resettle individuals. On this basis, the central government teams aims to distribute beneficiaries evenly across the local authorities that participate in the schemes to minimise the burden on services in individual areas.
- b. If beneficiaries of protection are distributed across the country, are integration activities managed at a central/national level, or do they become the responsibility of local authorities (regional or local governments)? As part of both resettlement schemes, participating local authorities sign a contract with central government which obliges them to provide certain forms of integration support including orientation, accommodation, caseworker support, assistance with registration and access to local services and language courses. However, the manner in how these integration measures are provided will differ between local authorities. For example, arrivals under the VPRS in Northern Ireland are provided with a 5-day orientation and welcome course where they receive information on the area and immediate opportunities to register with many local service providers at the same time, including healthcare.
- c. Is there a single integration model/approach applicable across the country, which lower government levels have to adopt, or does each level of government decide about the measures aimed at the integration of beneficiaries of international protection in full or partial autonomy? In 2012 the Department for Communities and Local Government set out the national integration strategy for England, which is aimed at the integration of all individuals living within the country. This was based around the principles of common ground, responsibility, social mobility, participation and empowerment, and tackling intolerance and extremism. Within this strategy, local authorities are able to determine how they structure the integration of beneficiaries of international protection.
- d. Is there any type of support (financial or other) given by the national government to the regional or local governments that take charge of beneficiaries of international protection? Please briefly describe this type of support (in cash or in kind) Those granted refugee status or humanitarian protection in the UK have unrestricted access to the labour market and broadly the same rights and benefits as British nationals and other lawful residents.

**Ad-Hoc Query:**

**The role of urban areas and small cities in migrants' settlements patterns: policies and practices**

		<p>Refugees that have passed through the asylum system receive no specific support from the national government through local governments. Local authorities participating in both resettlement schemes receive financial support depending on the number of beneficiaries they are resettling. Below is an outline of the funding for the VPRS: VPRS - Funding for local authorities participating on the scheme is set out per resettled person and varies according to age group. Funding is also different for individuals in their first year of resettlement, compared with years two - five. The funding for year one of an individual's resettlement is provided through the Overseas Development Aid (ODA) budget, with the EU not contributing any amount. This is detailed in the table below : Costing Area (Å£) Adult benefit claimant Children 5-18 Children 3-4 Children 0-3 Local authority costs 8,520 8,520 8,520 8,520 Education 0 4,500 2,250 0 Primary medical care 600 600 600 600 Secondary medical 2,000 2,000 2,000 2,000 TOTAL 11,120 15,620 13,370 11,120 *Payments of Å£1,000 for Special Educational Needs will also be made in respect of every child between the ages of three and 18 years. The funding for years two - five will be allocated on a tariff basis over four years and taper from Å£5,000 per person in year 2 to Å£1,000 per person in year five. This funding will include both integration support, such as additional English language training, as well as social care. Additional funding will also be made available for particularly vulnerable cases that require extra support</p>
Norway	Yes	<p>1. Answer is complex. See ** below. In Norway immigrants count for about 16,3 % of the population (2015). The share of refugees of the immigrant population is 28 per cent, which is about 3,6 per cent of the whole population (<a href="http://ssb.no/befolkning/artikler-og-publikasjoner/flyktninger-i-norge">http://ssb.no/befolkning/artikler-og-publikasjoner/flyktninger-i-norge</a>). Immigration to Norway has been among the most extensive in Europe, with the consequences of increasing the population in rural areas after 2009, after years with - out-moving- of young people and aging. When studying residential segregation in urban areas, one has to take into account the diversity of the immigrant population both in terms of residence permit and origin. Oslo is the most segregated urban area in Norway. A third of the population has immigrant background (2015). In five of 15 city districts, about 50 per cent of the population have immigrant background. On the neighbourhood level the share is higher, up to 70 - 80 per cent. Since the age structure differs between the majority population and the immigrant population, some schools have no children with majority background. In Oslo, children have to go to their nearest school. However, parents can apply for change of school. Both parents of majority and minority background ask to move their children to other schools with a greater percentage of majority children. One important characteristic of the immigrant neighbourhoods in Oslo is that they are diverse when it comes to country origin. This means that there are no - China towns- as such, in the city. Still, there are some concentrations. For example in Oslo, there are two city districts which house about 20 per cent of the entire population of Pakistanis in Oslo. We find about the same pattern for Tamils. (Aalandslid, Statistics Norway) **The housing market in Norway and Oslo is characterized by home-ownership. This is also the case in the immigrant dense areas. Housing prices are high. Even though Norway has relatively high employment of immigrants, their earnings are generally lower than the average of the majority. This has consequences for their purchasing power in the housing market and contributes to sustaining the ethnic segregation in Oslo. It also influences their possibilities for improving their housing and neighbourhood situation. **Other problems are related to segregated schools, and lack of everyday social relationships between majority and minorities which is important for language learning as well as gaining an understanding of socio-cultural exchanges. Another problem is that there is still little appreciation in the larger society of how intercultural dialogue can benefit society as such. (Susanne S- ,holt) In Norway, refugees have historically been settled all over the country: a few here, a few there. If there were any issues with the settlement pattern, it was that previously many did not want to live in rural, isolated districts and moved into urban areas as soon as they could manage. In more recent years (past 10) refugees have been required to complete a 2 year introductory program in the municipality where they are first domiciled; partly because of this, fewer move into the urban areas even after the courses have been completed. In a report produced by Statistics Norway in 2013, about secondary movements among refugees living in Norway between 2001 - 2010 (Monitor for sekund- rflytting: Sekund- rflytting blant flyktninger bosatt i Norge i 2001-2010) ** they found a pattern of increasingly less internal migration in Norway among the refugees. Every cohort studied moved a little less than the previous one. Especially migration in the first year after settlement has declined. In the subsequent years the migration increased again. Once the refugees have completed their obligatory introduction course, they are free to move where they want without any loss of rights. Of the 5 100 refugees who were domiciled in 2006, 76 per cent were still living in their first municipality of residence five years later, as of January 2011. This is the highest share in any cohort of refugees who are registered (figures date back to the 1995 cohort).</p>

The largest groups in the study were from Iraq, Somalia, Afghanistan and Eritrea. Refugees from Iraq were the largest group in the beginning of this period but the number had fallen by 2010. The largest group came from Eritrea in the two last cohorts from 2009 and 2010. There is a correlation between size of municipality and share of refugees who still live in their first municipality of residence. A higher share moves from the smallest municipalities and the \*\* largest municipalities retain the highest share of refugees. At the same time, it seems that when only a few refugees are settled in a given municipality, the municipality is more likely to retain all of them. In the late 60s and early 70s a significant Pakistani population moved into the Oslo area. Because those first families brought more family members who introduced yet new immigrants into their families over the years, there is a fairly large Pakistani population in the Oslo region today. However, this in and of itself is not considered a problem. However, the schools located in the neighborhoods where the immigrant population first settled were wrought with educational challenges, not least of all ensuring that the children learned to speak Norwegian well.

2a. Not a yes/no answer. Immigrants and refugees in all family constellations live dispersed throughout the country. There are refugees in all municipalities except for 18 out of 430. Still, the tendency is that refugees live where many other immigrants live, that is, in Oslo and some other cities along the coast. However, this is not always the case. The largest shares of refugees are found in some small and peripheral municipalities in the North like Vadsø, Nesna and Hattfjelldal and the city of Drammen close to Oslo, where their share is between 11 and 7,5 per cent of the whole population. ¶ In Oslo, where about a third of the population has immigrant background, about 6-7 per cent of the residents have refugee background. ¶ Studies of ethnic residential patterns in rural municipalities does not confirm segregation, as is the case in Oslo.

3a. The Norwegian Directorate of Integration and Diversity (IMDi) is the national responsible authority for the resettlement of refugees and asylum seekers in Norwegian municipalities. Furthermore, it is a competence center and a driving force for integration and diversity. The directorate co-operates with immigrant organizations and associations, municipalities, government agencies and the private sector. It provides advice and implements government policy. IMDi's work is put in practice through research and development, administering grant schemes (including integration grants and grants for projects), documentation (including the National Introduction Register (NIR)), information and guidance through web portals, publications, networks, etc. The resettlement of refugees and asylum seekers in Norway follows several steps. The National committee for settlement, is an agreement between the Norwegian Government represented by the Ministry of Children and Equality, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, the Ministry of Local Government and Modernization and the Municipal Sector represented by the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS). The Committee is a selection of representatives from the government and the municipal sector, chaired by IMDi. It studies the current asylum prognosis and in light of the settlement needs, sets the national number of needed settlement places in the municipalities, as well as suggests mechanisms to secure settlement. The main aim is fast resettlement, which is the governing factor in IMDi's settlement work. After the number is set, IMDi's regional offices in collaboration with the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS); the national representative as well as their regional offices, sets the number of needed places in each municipality. The numbers are based on the demography in the municipality, internal migration, labour and housing market, the municipality's experience with integration and settlement and the quality of such work. IMDi sends a request yearly to municipalities all across the country with a determined number of places and an estimate for the following year. In the recent years to meet the international need for resettlement, the request has been sent to all 428 municipalities in Norway. The request letter does not separate quota refugees from asylum seekers from asylum centres in Norway. It does, however, set a specific number for unaccompanied minors since this groups requires specific apparatus in the municipality. Settlement in Norway follows a voluntary model. It is entirely up to each municipality to choose whether to settle refugees and to either meet IMDi's requested number or to set a lower or higher number. Bigger municipalities do have a higher capacity of receiving and settling refugees as they have the right apparatus and the experience. However, in the light of the Syrian crisis being broadcasted so widely in the media, involvement in local communities has risen. This had led more than 70% of the 428 municipalities to decide on settling refugees and by consequence guaranteeing a somehow equal distribution throughout the country. When the municipality decides to resettle refugees, IMDi's regional office distributes refugees to the municipalities in the region.

b. Once resettled the beneficiaries of protection become the municipalities responsibility. It is up to the municipality to implement measures to activate integration of the new residents. As a national competence center, IMDi is present to guide municipalities in their integration work, by giving advice and initiating incentives. IMDi organizes conferences, meetings and learning workshops with municipalities, where relevant and pertinent issues are discussed and handled. Volunteering is an important value in Norwegian Society. Half of the Norwegian population is involved in volunteering. Municipalities use volunteering as a tool for integration, either by organizing their own volunteer groups or by cooperating with volunteer organizations.

c. The Introduction Act is a national model applicable across the country. All settling municipalities must provide introduction programs for newly arrived immigrants. The program is run by the municipality with IMDi supervision and support. The program is an individually adapted plan that is drawn up for each participant formulated on the basis of an identification of her or his training needs. The purpose of the Introduction Act is to increase the possibility of newly arrived immigrants participating in working and social life and to increase their financial independence, thereby increasing each individual's integration potential.

d. The national government, through IMDi, offers numerous subsidies to encourage settlement, the most important being the Integration Grant. Municipalities receive the integration grant for a period that extends over 5 years for the settlement of refugees and asylum seekers. As part of the integration grant, there are additional grants for settlement of persons of the age of 60, settlement of persons with known severe disabilities and/or behavioral problems, grants for children's (0-5) participation in kindergarten. The grant aims to help local authorities to implement a systematic and active settlement and integration work, and thereby to activate newly arrived migrants in the labor market. Furthermore, IMDi offers a number of grants aimed at volunteering and integration, such as:

- Grant for integration projects run by volunteer organizations in reception centers (asylum centers): The grant is intended to encourage integration activities for residents in reception centers.
- Grants to voluntary activities in local communities: The grant aims to help create greater confidence and sense of belonging to Norwegian society.
- Operating grants to local immigrant organizations: The purpose of the grant is to contribute to strengthening immigrant populations' participation in organizations and in social networks.
- Grants to voluntary activities in local communities: The purpose of the grant is to create meeting places and activities in communities across different population groups. These measures should be related to integration and inclusion of people with immigrant backgrounds.
- Grants for work against forced marriage, genital mutilation and severe social control of youth: The aim of the grant is to encourage NGOs to prevent forced marriages, female genital mutilation and severe limitations of youth freedom by working for change of attitudes and practices in relevant environments. The purpose is to prevent female genital mutilation being carried out on children with residency in Norway and increase the opportunity for young people to make their own decisions when it comes to choosing a spouse/partner.
- Information and guidance measures / memoranda of understanding with NGOs: The aim is for the immigrants to receive information that is tailored to their needs. Especially newcomers will need knowledge of and insight into Norwegian society. Many need an additional guidance to strengthen their participation in the communities. The grant will contribute to strengthening NGOs work on the integration of refugees and immigrants in the local communities.
- Grants for mentor and trainee programs for persons with immigrant backgrounds: The purpose of the grant is to increase the opportunity of persons with immigrant backgrounds to use their expertise and knowledge. The grant is therefore aimed at businesses by encouraging them to develop mentoring or trainee programs for the target group. Through such programs, persons with an immigrant background have the opportunity of entering the labor market, develop their careers, put in use their expertise, as well as to strengthening their networks and gain insights into new work areas and businesses. Meanwhile, businesses can gain new knowledge and new experiences.

Sources: - IMDi: [www.imdi.no](http://www.imdi.no) - The Norwegian Government: [www.regjeringen.no](http://www.regjeringen.no) See attachment for further details and reference from research project

