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**Ad-Hoc Query on 2022.33 ORGANISING FLEXIBLE CAPACITY FOR HOUSING IN THE
CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION**

Requested by Luxembourg on 30 June 2022

Compilation produced on 20 September 2022

**Responses from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia,
Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg,
Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden plus Norway (25 in Total)**

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1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The inflow of applicants for international protection can be subject to rapid, substantial changes, for example, driven by developments in third countries. Together with other factors, this can lead to pressures on housing capacity in the context of providing reception. To manage these changes in the demand for housing, Member States need to be able to both quickly upscale their capacity to provide accommodation for all those in need and to downscale it when necessary, for example by utilising accommodation centres and related human resources for other purposes.

Reception Conditions Directive 2013/33/EU aims at ensuring common standards for the reception of applicants for international protection in the Member States.[1] The Directive serves as legal framework for the EU MS in the provision of housing for international protection applicants. Provision of housing is one of the 'material reception conditions', next to food, clothing and several financial allowances.[2]

To ensure comparability this inform only covers the provision of housing to international protection applicants. Housing of other groups (i.e. beneficiaries of international protection and persons whose application for international protection has been rejected) are included in so far as they are housed in the same premises and therefore impact on the housing capacity for applicants for international protection. For these groups, relevant legal instruments include the 1951 Refugee Convention, Qualification Directive 2011/95/EU, the Return Directive 2008/115/EC, and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

In recent months, with COVID-19 travel restrictions being lifted and the high influx of Afghan and later persons who fled Ukraine, it has become apparent that maintaining flexible housing capacity remains a challenge for reception systems across Member States and observer countries. While contingency planning constitutes an important tool in preparing for crisis situations, the last years have shown that even without crises, such flexibility is required. The inflow of applicants for international protection can change rapidly within a very short timeframe and is not always related to a clear triggering event. At the same time, housing capacity can also be subject to pressure as a result of limited outflow from accommodation centres. This latter pressure can be due to factors such as a

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lack of regular housing, backlogs in the processing of asylum applications, or limited returns, which may require Member States to adapt their housing capacity accordingly.

This inform aims to collect information that can support policymakers to better organise their respective reception systems, in a flexible manner, and whilst anticipating a further changing inflow in the future. It also aims to inform the public, particularly as housing of applicants for international protection is a frequent topic of public and political debate.

In September 2020, as part of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, the European Commission proposed a Regulation to address situations of crisis and force majeure in the field of migration in September 2020[3] and a recommendation for a Migration Preparedness and Crisis Blueprint.[4] In doing so, the European Commission drew attention to the need to handle crises effectively, by introducing mechanisms to relieve the pressure on the migration systems of some Member States. These proposals underline the need for Member States to have the tools to set up a flexible reception system, to prevent crisis situations and quickly respond to increased pressure. The 2016 Reception Conditions Directive Recast proposal from the European Commission included an obligation for the Member States to draw up, and regularly update, contingency plans setting out the measures foreseen to be taken to ensure adequate reception of applicants in cases where the Member State is confronted with a disproportionate number of applicants (Article 28).

The EMN has conducted two previous studies in this area. The study 'The Organisation of Reception Facilities for Asylum Seekers in different Member States' (2014) provides for an extensive overview of pressure experienced by Member States and measures taken to ensure flexible reception capacity. The study 'Changing Influx of Asylum Seekers 2014-2016' (2018) offers an overview of measures taken as a response to the changing influx of applicants for international protection in 2014-2016. Where possible, this Inform will strive to draw comparisons to these reports, and to reflect on whether measures taken after the 2015-2016 crisis are still being used.

Relevant outputs have also been published by the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA). The 2022 Overview of the reception organisation of EU+ countries (Situational Update No. 8) provide important information on the types of housing provided by Member States in the context of reception, which authorities are responsible for capacity management (i.e. deciding on the number of places

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and opening or closing of reception facilities), and the use of dispersal systems versus allocation. The 2018 Guidance on contingency planning in the context of reception provides examples of creating extra capacity when needed, e.g. by keeping an empty facility or through prearranged contracts with external service providers. Together with the measures noted in the 2014 and 2018 EMN studies, these can be used to provide NCPs with background information for drafting a response to the Inform.

[1] Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection.

[2] Article 2g, Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection.

[3] European Commission, Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council addressing situations of crisis and force majeure in the field of migration and asylum Brussels, 23.9.2020 COM(2020) 613 final 2020/0277(COD).

[4] Commission Recommendation (EU) 2020/1366 of 23 September 2020 on an EU mechanism for preparedness and management of crises related to migration.

We would like to ask the following questions:

1. How does your Member State determine the housing capacity that will be needed for a forthcoming time period (i.e. how is the number calculated and by whom, and for which period the calculation is normally done)?

2. Does this number include a margin (for example to anticipate fluctuations in the need for accommodation)? Y/N If yes, please explain how.

3. Please describe any pressures that your Member State may have experienced in relation to the housing of applicants for international protection during the period 2017-2021 and briefly explain possible reasons for such pressure. [e.g. high influx, procedural backlogs, lack of outflow to residential housing or other forms of accommodation by beneficiaries of international protection, limited returns of rejected applicants for international protection, reduction of capacity, budgetary constraints]

4. What flexibility measures has your Member State taken when there was (a prospect of) insufficient housing capacity to accommodate applicants for international protection (2017-2021)? Please check the applicable box(es):*

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Available choices: Budget flexibility (to increase the budget when necessary), Employing more case-workers or temporarily (re-)assigning (former) case workers to speed up decision-making in asylum procedures, Fast-tracking asylum procedures, Application of different standards/modalities of reception conditions in emergency situations (e.g. housing in tents/containers/gyms), Provision of financial vouchers/allowance to cover costs of private accommodation, Regional/local distribution of applicants for international protection throughout the territory, Housing in private settings / host families, Creating extra capacity within an active accommodation centre, Additional accommodation centres acting as buffer capacity, Reserving an area to build extra housing capacity to accommodate applicants for international protection, Prearranged contracts with external service providers (e.g. private companies, NGOs, hotels), Contingency clauses in contracts with external service providers

5. Have any of these measures been important and/or successful in meeting the additional demand for housing of applicants for international protection? In your answer, please explain why and according to whom they have been important and/or successful, and specify whether they are national or regional/local measures.

6. Has your Member State experienced (a prospect of) surplus housing capacity between 2017-2021? Y/N

7. If you answer yes to Q6, has this been addressed in a way that it still ensures flexible housing? Y/N If yes, please explain how (e.g. temporarily using excess space/accommodation for other purposes during the period of surplus housing capacity)?

8. How is outflow to housing and other forms of accommodation organised in your Member State once the international protection status is recognised?

9. Has outflow by beneficiaries of international protection presented a challenge for the capacity to house international protection applicants in your Member State? Y/N Please explain.

10. Has outflow by rejected applicants for international protection presented a challenge for the capacity to house international protection applicants in your Member State? Y/N Please explain.

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11. If you answer YES to Q.9 and/or Q.10 concerning challenges, have there been any good practices identified in your Member State? Y/N. If yes, please describe them.

12. Concerning the beneficiaries of temporary protection, have your Member State applied any of the flexibility measures mentioned in questions 4-5? Y/N. If yes, which ones?

We would very much appreciate your responses by **26 August 2022**.

2. RESPONSES

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| | | Wider Dissemination ² | |
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|  | EMN NCP Austria | Yes | 1. |

¹ If possible at time of making the request, the Requesting EMN NCP should add their response(s) to the query. Otherwise, this should be done at the time of making the compilation.

² A default "Yes" is given for your response to be circulated further (e.g. to other EMN NCPs and their national network members). A "No" should be added here if you do not wish your response to be disseminated beyond other EMN NCPs. In case of "No" and wider dissemination beyond other EMN NCPs, then for the Compilation for Wider Dissemination the response should be removed and the following statement should be added in the relevant response box: "This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further."

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| | | <p>The reception system in Austria follows the principle of shared responsibilities, which means that the tasks are shared between the Federal State and the Federal Provinces. The Agreement between the Federal State and the Provinces on Basic Care - Art. 15a B-VG; short: GVV, regulates the responsibilities of the Federal State and the Provinces regarding the provision of material reception conditions including accommodation. During the admission procedure, the Federal State is responsible for the provision of material reception conditions and only organized housing is provided. With the admission to the asylum procedure, the responsibility for the provision of material reception conditions (including accommodation) passes to the Provinces. The conclusion of contracts with service providers for the accommodation in the Provinces is the responsibility of the respective Province. (Source: https://www.bmi.gv.at/303/start.aspx) Applicants of international protection and others (eg such as beneficiaries of temporary protection), who can not provide for themselves (financially) and/or live with family/friends, are taken care of within the basic care system. The Federal and Provincial Government Coordination Board meets regularly to ensure ensures an ongoing exchange of information between the Federal State and the Provinces. (Source: https://www.bmi.gv.at/303/start.aspx) According to Art 3 para 4 of the GVV, the Federal State is responsible for creating buffer capacity to manage accommodation shortages in the Provinces. Souce: Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>2. In Austria, the necessity for housing capacities is regularly evaluated. In case of need, federal reception facilities can either be shut down/temporarily closed or reactivated. Souce: Ministry of the Interior</p> |
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| | | | <p>3. Austria was confronted with the challenges to find adequate housing and to ensure the provision and adequate care for people with special reception needs. The volatility of migration flows and especially the high influx of applicants of international protection in 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic (incl eg the need of isolation areas) and the unpredictability of further developments represented an additional challenge. Souce: Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>4. Additional accommodation centres acting as buffer capacity, Another flexibility measure is the evaluation of rental contracts of potentially available premises. At the beginning of the period 2017-2021, a decline of the migratory flows was recorded. As a reaction to this decline, federal reception facilities were closed either temporarily or permanently. The COVID pandemic in 2020/21 led to an increasing need for reception facilities, therefore temporarily closed federal reception facilities were reactivated. Source: Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>5. The aforementioned measures were both important and successful. Souce: Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>6. Please see answer to question 4. Souce: Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>7. Please see answer to question 4. Souce: Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>8.</p> |
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| | | <p>As mentioned in Q1, the responsibility for providing material reception conditions is passed from the Federal State to the Provinces once the applicant is admitted to the asylum procedure.</p> <p>Accommodation in the context of material reception conditions is provided as long as the person belongs to the target group of the GVV, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • beneficiaries of subsidiary protection (Art 1 para 1 subpara 3) as well as • persons who were granted asylum status in Austria within the first four months after the decision <p>Source: Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>9. Please see answer to question 8. Source: Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>10. Please see answer to question 8. Source: Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>11. The flexible system of opening/closing federal reception facilities is a good practice in Austria. Source: Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>12. Yes, multiple flexibility measures have been applied: Budget flexibility; housing in private settings/host families; creating extra capacity within an active accommodation centre as well as additionally opening new federal reception facilities. Source: Ministry of the Interior</p> |
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|  | EMN NCP Belgium | Yes | <p>1. Simulations of the reception needs are elaborated by the Cabinet of the Secretary for Asylum and Migration in collaboration with the administration and concerned asylum authorities. To determine the necessary housing capacity, Belgium considers historical data on arrivals and departures during a reference period (usually at least 12 months). For inflow, annual and seasonal calculation mechanisms are applied to the averages of the previous months. For outflow, various criteria are considered, such as the workload of the various decision-making institutions and the number of decisions that can be made per month (both positive and negative). The proportion of persons appealing a negative international protection decision (by the office of the commissioner general for refugees and stateless persons - CGRS) and the number of AIPs not staying in a reception centre ("no-shows") are also taken into account.</p> <p>2. Given the operational reality, the reception centres should ideally not exceed a 94 % occupancy rate. The arrival centre - where new asylum seekers stay for a brief period before going to a reception centre - ideally has a maximum of 70% occupancy rate. Reception centres for unaccompanied foreign minors should ideally stay at 75%. The simulations remain dependent on unpredictable fluctuations caused by crises such as the COVID crisis, and the unrest in Afghanistan and Syria. Various scenarios are used (e.g., high or low influx depending on ongoing crises) to determine the impact of a range of factors on occupancy and the required reception capacity.</p> <p>3. Belgium has experienced various sources of pressure on its mission of providing reception to applicants for international protection: high influx (also from unaccompanied foreign</p> |
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| | | <p>minors), procedural backlog due to Covid-19, political blockages (barrier to the opening of new reception facilities, reduction of capacity).</p> <p>4. Application of different standards/modalities of reception conditions in emergency situations (e.g. housing in tents/containers/gyms), Provision of financial vouchers/allowance to cover costs of private accommodation, Creating extra capacity within an active accommodation centre, Additional accommodation centres acting as buffer capacity, Prearranged contracts with external service providers (e.g. private companies, NGOs, hotels)</p> <p>5. None of these measures has proven 100% effective as Belgium is still facing a reception crisis. Asylum authorities are however developing a dynamic buffer policy to build a flexible and resilient network.</p> <p>6. N</p> <p>7.</p> <p>8. Persons receiving an international protection status are transferred from a collective reception place to a Local Reception Initiative (LOI/ILA), with individualised housing, managed by the Public Welfare Centre (OCMW/CPAS). The transition period is 2 months and can be renewed twice for one month. During the transition period, the beneficiaries of international protection are prepared for living an independent life and for participating in society. To accomplish this, they receive financial support and information on rights and</p> |
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| | | | <p>responsibilities in a broad range of domains, such as employment, education, housing, health, and social security.</p> <p>9. Belgium is currently coping with a housing crisis, which makes it difficult for everyone to find accommodation and is causing a (housing) rent increase. Because of this crisis, recognised refugees stay longer - in their transition period - in Local Reception Initiatives. As recognised persons stay in these places for a longer period, these places cannot be used for other AIP</p> <p>10. No. When applicants for international protection receive their order to leave the territory, and do not introduce a subsequent application, they leave the reception facility.</p> <p>11. The transition to social aid is a good system to promote the inclusion of the recognised persons in the Member State. However, it does not seem the most effective practice during crises (saturation of Local Reception Initiatives places).</p> <p>12. Y. Regional/local distribution of applicants for international protection throughout the territory; Housing in private settings/host families; Creating extra capacity in a new accommodation centre; Budget flexibility (to increase the budget when necessary)</p> |
|  | <p>EMN NCP Bulgaria</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>1.</p> |

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| | | | <p>The state authority responsible for the reception of asylum seekers is the State Agency for Refugees with the Council of Ministers (SAR) which is also the authority responsible for conducting the procedure for international protection. Asylum seekers are accommodated in the territorial units of the State Agency for Refugees, except for persons who submit a subsequent application for protection and do not belong to a vulnerable group. They have the right to food and shelter; to social assistance in the amount for the Bulgarian citizens; to health insurance, medical assistance and free medical care under the conditions and procedure for the Bulgarian citizens; to psychological help; to translator or interpreter.</p> <p>The Agency operates two types of reception facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • transit centers - for registration, accommodation, medical examination and conducting proceedings for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person and proceedings for granting international protection; • registration and reception centers - for registration, accommodation, medical examination, social and medical assistance and conducting proceedings for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person and proceedings for granting international protection to foreigners; for accommodation of foreigners who have applied for asylum. <p>In two of the centres there are separate safety areas for unaccompanied minors, providing 24/7 care and specialised services for children.</p> <p>Accommodation outside the reception centres is allowed under the law. Applicants for international protection, if they have financial means for this purpose, may reside at an address they indicate.</p> |
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| | | <p>The transit and registration-and-reception centres of the State Agency for Refugees are established and closed by the Council of Ministers, on a proposal by the Chairperson of SAR and in coordination with the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Interior, the Minister of Labour and Social Policy, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Regional Development and Public Works, the Chairperson of the State Agency for National Security and the Mayor of the relevant municipality.</p> <p>2. The necessity for reception capacity is regularly evaluated.</p> <p>3. At the beginning of the period 2017 - 2021, a decline of the migratory flows was recorded. From the middle of 2020, the number of asylum seekers in the Republic of Bulgaria began to increase significantly. This trend continued in 2021. In 2021, 10,999 applications for international protection were submitted by third-country nationals. For comparison, for the whole of 2020, 3,525 applications for protection were submitted.</p> <p>4. N/A</p> <p>5. N/A</p> <p>6. During 2017 – 2021, the reception capacity was sufficient to accommodate persons seeking international protection. The COVID pandemic in 2020 and 2021 led to an</p> |
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| | | <p>increasing need for reception places. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, premises have been set apart in the registration-and-reception centres of SAR where newcomers could be observed until the end of the quarantine period.</p> <p>7. N/A</p> <p>8. The foreigner who has been granted international protection is obliged, within 14 days of the receipt of the decision granting international protection, to appear at the municipality of the city/town where he will settle in order to be entered in the population register. The local administration receive into their territory and enter in the population registers beneficiaries of international protection and their families, and provide them with an opportunity to exercise their rights. The terms and procedure for the signing, implementation and termination of the integration agreement is determined by an ordinance issued by the Council of Minister.</p> <p>9. Beneficiaries of international protection have the rights of the Bulgarian citizens with few exceptions. Beneficiaries of international protection are offered to sign an integration agreement with a mayor of the municipality. The agreement will regulate their rights and obligations, as well as the rights and obligations of the relevant state or municipal authorities. According to the Ordinance, the housing of a foreigner can be carried out both in municipal property and in dwellings that are state or private property.</p> <p>10. No</p> |
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| | | | <p>11. N/A</p> <p>12. Budget flexibility (to increase the budget when necessary), Application of different standards/modalities of reception conditions in emergency situations (e.g. housing in hotels, houses) Housing in private settings / host families /hotels/ recreational facilities Additional accommodation centres acting as buffer capacity Contracts with external service providers (e.g. companies, NGOs, hotels)</p> |
|  | EMN NCP Croatia | Yes | <p>1. The existing housing capacities for 700 international protection applicants within the two Reception centers managed by the Ministry of the Interior proved to be sufficient at the moment. Considering the new migrant trends and the fact that the majority of EU member states have abolished or significantly reduced epidemiological measures, which led to the strengthening of the dynamics of the movement of migrants, the Republic of Croatia will increase its accommodation capacity in the coming period primarily by reconstructing and renovating the existing two Reception centers. The possibility of opening a third facility in the coming period is also being considered. It should be pointed out that the duration of stay of applicants for international protection in accommodation facilities is very short, since the Republic of Croatia is mostly considered a transit country.</p> <p>2. /</p> |


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| | | | <p>3. Within the framework of the four-year period (2017-2021), the Republic of Croatia successfully coped with the challenges related to the accommodation of persons who requested international protection. We would like to highlight the period from the spring of 2020 when an epidemic of the COVID-19 virus was declared in most of the states of the EU and very restrictive epidemiological measures were adopted. All applicants for international protection were placed in isolation upon arrival in the Reception centers to prevent the possible spread of the disease, which meant that the Reception centers had to be partially converted into quarantine, which resulted in a reduction in accommodation capacity. With the abolition of epidemiological measures at the beginning of 2022, a significant increase in the number of applicants for international protection was recorded compared to the same period last year, which represented a kind of pressure on accommodation capacities, but despite this, the existing capacities proved to be sufficient for adequate and quick accommodation of all applicants</p> <p>4. Application of different standards/modalities of reception conditions in emergency situations (e.g. housing in tents/containers/gyms), Creating extra capacity within an active accommodation centre, Reserving an area to build extra housing capacity to accommodate applicants for international protection</p> <p>5. So far, the Republic of Croatia has not had the need to establish additional accommodation capacities, but in the coming period it plans to increase the capacity for the reception and accommodation of applicants for international protection.</p> <p>6. NO.</p> <p>7. /</p> |
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| | | | <p>8. By allocating housing units for use for a 2-year period.</p> <p>9. No. The capacity to house beneficiaries of international protection is 70 housing units.</p> <p>10. Persons who no longer have the status of international protection applicants do not have the right to be accommodated in facilities intended for the accommodation of international protection applicants.</p> <p>11. /</p> <p>12. /</p> |
|  | <p>EMN NCP Cyprus</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>1. Cyprus' Asylum Service with the directions of the Ministry of Interior assess the number of the new arrivals on a yearly basis according to the situation and the data from neighboring countries.</p> <p>2. No.</p> <p>3. Due to the massive influx of migrants in the Republic of Cyprus together with the limited returns of rejected applicants for international protection there was pressure on housing capacity for applicants until today.</p> <p>4. Fast-tracking asylum procedures, Application of different standards/modalities of reception conditions in emergency situations (e.g. housing in tents/containers/gyms), Provision of financial vouchers/allowance to cover costs of private accommodation, Additional accommodation centres acting as buffer capacity</p> |


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| | | <p>5. Both quarantine areas at First Reception Centre POURNARA and the new Accommodation Centre LIMNES were important national measures to manage the situation of the pandemic and the high influx in the country</p> <p>6. No.</p> <p>7. N/A</p> <p>8. There is no Reception Strategy yet to allocate either the applicants or recognized refugees. Most of the applicants and the recognized refugees they find their own housing.</p> <p>9. No.</p> <p>10. Yes, due to the fact that there was no Predeparture Return Centre in the country.</p> <p>11. The Republic of Cyprus submitted an application for upgrading the Accommodation Centre LIMNES for applicants of international protection to EU standards and build a Predeparture Return Centre for rejected applicants that are in process of repatriation.</p> <p>12. No.</p> |
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|  | EMN NCP Czech Republic | Yes | <p>1. Housing for applicants for international protection and persons that have been granted international protection is administered by the Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior (SUZ MV). Housing capacity in the Czech Republic responds immediately to the actual influx. SUZ MV has a fixed capacity (extras included) and if needed we could flexibly increase this capacity by renting from private owners.</p> <p>2. YES. As mentioned on Q1, SUZ MV has the option to use our fixed capacity or rent from private owners if so needed.</p> <p>3. Between 2015 and 2016, the number of applicants for international protection had increased compared to the previous years (for example, in 2013 there were 707 applicants, in 2015 this had more than doubled to 1 525). After that, the numbers had mostly stayed the same. Due to the high numbers of applicants, the existing housing capacities had been renovated and new housing capacities had been purchased. Since 2020, the number of applicants has decreased due to the covid-19 pandemic, and housing capacities have had to be set aside for quarantine.</p> <p>4. Budget flexibility (to increase the budget when necessary), Creating extra capacity within an active accommodation centre</p> <p>5. No</p> <p>6. No</p> <p>7. N/A</p> |
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| | | <p>8. Beneficiaries of international protection can voluntarily apply for participation in the State Integration Programme (SIP). One of SIP's key components is the right to stay in one of the four "Integration Asylum Centres" for up to 18 months. The support of social workers is provided and only a budget-friendly rent is paid. One obligation exists – the beneficiary must attend free Czech language courses. After this stay or, alternatively, a stay in private accommodation is completed, the beneficiary can (again, on the condition they are the Programme participants) gain support to start living on their own in a common rental apartment. This happens on the basis of individual integration plan. They profit from special individually-approved budget enabling them to cover first two monthly rents and deposit, including 2 months' cost for electricity, gas and other related items.</p> <p>9. Yes. There had been a nationwide shortage of available flats for affordable rent, especially in larger communities even before the current conflict in Ukraine and the resulting influx of refugees after February 2022. Since then, this issue has only intensified. Hence, also the outflow of Integration Asylum Centres has slowed down. In limited volume, we can provide a short-term provisional stay in one of the Residential Centres provided the capacities enable it (as their main purpose is accommodating applicants for international protection).</p> <p>10. No</p> <p>11. The State Integration Programme (see question 8) has proven to be an effective tool, particularly the assistance with accommodation in the form of state-owned housing capacities.</p> |
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| | | | <p>12. YES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget flexibility (to increase the budget when necessary) • Application of different standards/modalities of reception conditions in emergency situations (e.g. housing in tents/containers/gyms) • Housing in private settings / host families |
|  | EMN NCP Estonia | Yes | <p>1. The housing capacity is modelled by the Social Insurance Board taking into account the general trends within the reception capacity throughout previous years. The calculation is needed for budgeting purposes. Initially the calculation period is 3 years, but the calculations are revised on annual basis.</p> <p>2. Yes, a small margin is included by keeping in mind the regular capacity. All capacities are tied to budget requirements.</p> <p>3. Prior to 2022 there have been no major pressures. Overall our reception centre contracts foresaw accommodation for 100 people, certain flexibility has been integrated into the new contract since the beginning of 2022. In the light of Ukrainian crisis, the housing capacity has been modelled on the basis on inflow of migrants, current outflow from the accommodation sites and possible other circumstances that might be affecting the flows (e.g winter, overall situation in the neighborhood, housing market etc). Modelling is regular in order to enable better planning.</p> |

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| | | <p>4. Budget flexibility (to increase the budget when necessary), Application of different standards/modalities of reception conditions in emergency situations (e.g. housing in tents/containers/gyms), Additional accommodation centres acting as buffer capacity</p> <p>5. Before the mass influx of Ukrainian nationals, there was no need for special measures. Mass influx UA nationals required immediate additional accommodation space. At peak time, we accommodated more than 6500 people at a time. In order to provide immediate preparedness for mass influx private sector was engaged, particularly tourism sector, as it was able to take people in 24/7 and all basic needs were already covered. Service provision proved difficult due to different locations across the country, eventually a ship was procured, which enabled to house more people at one place and thus also safeguard that relevant services can be provided in a more coherent and cost effective manner (e.g relevant information days, migrant trainings etc).</p> <p>6. No.</p> <p>7. N/A</p> <p>8.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person is counselled on possibilities on how to find housing in Estonia (e.g real estate portals, house viewings etc) • The case worker assesses whether person might need additional assistance or is more independent. |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Per law the person is also entitled to one time off rental agreement support (which is today up 1200 EUR) to cover the costs related to signing the agreement related costs (deposit, one month in advance etc). <p>So far the housing market has been easy to access, but with the current economic situation and also influx of UA refugees, the outflow from temporary accommodation is becoming more challenging.</p> <p>9. Each person who is not able to move out from the reception centre/accommodation facility takes up somebody's place who might need it. Staying in temporary housing structures is not a sustainable solution for the person in question or for the member state. It would require us to create additional temporary locations. At the same time the number of beneficiaries of international protection has been small in the referenced timeperiod and thus has not presented a big challenge for the capacity to house applicants for international protection.</p> <p>10. No, the number of rejected applicants has been relatively small. Overall rejection results in return, be it assisted voluntary return or expulsion. There have been few exceptional cases where the return has not been successful, the few number of people have been referred to shelters run by the municipalities. Should there be increase in such cases, then certainly more sustainable solutions are needed as shelters have limited spaces.</p> <p>11. No.</p> <p>12. Budget flexibility (to increase the budget when necessary) - depending on the government's decision.</p> |
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| | | | <p>Employing more case-workers or temporarily (re-)assigning (former) case workers to speed up decision-making in asylum procedures - especially for temporary protection procedures.</p> <p>Application of different standards/modalities of reception conditions in emergency situations (e.g. housing in tents/containers/gyms). For example a ship was procured, which enabled to house more people at one place and thus also safeguard that relevant services can be provided in a more coherent and cost effective manner (e.g relevant information days, migrant trainings etc).</p> <p>Additional accommodation centres acting as buffer capacity,</p> <p>Prearranged contracts with external service providers (e.g. private companies, NGOs, hotels) – with the mass influx of Ukrainians the aim is to have prearranged contracts with external service providers (hotels etc.)</p> <p>Contingency clauses in contracts with external service providers</p> |
| + | EMN NCP Finland | Yes | <p>1. In Finland, the estimate for housing capacity for the following year is done in the (previous) autumn by the Finnish Immigration Service. Several different sources are used in the calculation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Migration trends and flows are analysed. For instance based on the previous years' distribution of applicants between EU member states, an estimate for Finland is calculated. Migration trends in countries of origin and countries of transit are followed. Country of origin information (COI) from the most common countries of origin and transit countries is analysed. Information sources include e.g. the Finnish Border Guard reports, the Integrated Situational Awareness and Analysis (ISAA), International Organization for Migration (IOM) return/departure statistics, EUAA and GDISC Prognosis network. Migration trends are also followed through media and social media analysis. - Housing trends of applicants in Finland are taken into account. E.g. at the moment |

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| | | | <p>over 34 % of applicants are accommodated in the reception centres and over 60 % in private accommodation. In addition an estimate is calculated for applicants in prison and (children) in foster care. (For next year's estimate seasonal workers accommodated on farms etc. have been taken into consideration as nearly all of them are Ukrainian citizens. Some temporary protection beneficiaries (TPB) have been accommodated through so called "municipality model", in which municipalities get compensated for accommodating TPBs. This model is however only used for TPBs. If seasonal workers stay and register for temporary protection they will be accommodation through the municipality model and will thus have little impact on reception centre capacity next year).</p> <p>- In addition to the above, numbers of current new applications, returns, negative decisions, expired applications and repeat applications are taken into account. All of the above information is entered into an excel sheet, which calculates the required housing capacity for the current year and an estimate for the following year.</p> <p>2. Yes, the aim is to have a specific occupancy rate at the reception centres (accommodation centres). Previously this was 90 % occupancy rate per reception centre, but this was lowered to 75 % in 2021 due to a very low number of asylum applicants. Hence there is ca. 25 % buffer.</p> <p>3. During the period 2017-2021 Finland has not experienced any pressure in relation to the housing of AIP. The number of applicants was significantly reduced during this period and in fact, we closed several reception centres during this time. Even though the number of repeat applications increased, they could easily be accommodation due to the decrease in total number of AIP. Private accommodation also became more common during this period. The accommodation capacity was adjusted downwards each year</p> |
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| | | | <p>between 2017-2021. For instance in January 2017 there were 126 reception centres with a total of 19 400 applicants and in December 2021 there were 27 reception centres remaining with a total of 5039 applicants.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>5. None of the measures mentioned in Q4 were taken between 2017-2021 as numbers of AIP and thus the need for housing at reception centres went down significantly. However, during this period, several different plans regarding housing and housing capacity were done. The Finnish Immigration Service did for instance contingency plans at national, regional and local levels and improved collaboration with different stakeholders at all of these levels, developed guidance on establishing reception centres, and developed the 'concept of reception centres' (guidance regarding e.g. what kind of facilities are needed at reception centres and in other forms of housing. The aim is to give guidance on what type of premises are suitable for housing AIPs). To respond to possible situations of large-scale influxes of migrants, emergency housing plans were made, for instance on how to utilise tents and containers for housing, how to convert old school buildings or other premises into housing for AIPs. Article 12 of the 'Act on the Reception of Persons Applying for International Protection and on the Identification of and Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings' (746/2011) was amended in December 2021 (1165/2021) to allow for short term reception and accommodation services of applicants at registration centres in situations where there is no capacity in the reception system. Plans are in place for establishing registration centres in four municipalities. According to the amended Reception Act, the Finnish Immigration Service is responsible for preparing a national contingency plan for the reception of AIPs (and beneficiaries of temporary protection) in a situation of large-scale influx of migrants.</p> |
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| | | <p>Regional planning has been very important, so that we know in advance what housing capacity and where can be utilised. Overall, during this more 'quiet period' plans regarding the flexibility of housing capacity were made, so that we are better prepared for changes in the number of AIP in the future. Several flexibility measures to meet the increased demand for housing were taken in 2022 after the arrival of Ukrainians.</p> <p>6. No.</p> <p>7. N/A.</p> <p>8. Once international protection status is recognised the person will move to the municipality either independently or with assistance from the reception centre where they have stayed. In some cases the person can be assisted in the move by the municipality or by the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment. The latter coordinates the placements of quota refugees and has assisted less than 2000 beneficiaries of international protection between 2018-2022. The reception centre cannot assist those who have lived in private accommodation, but these persons may contact the municipality and ask help in finding an apartment and they can contact the Digital and Population Data Services Agency in order to get a social security number. The reception centre where the person has stayed, will assist in finding accommodation, in getting a social security number, applying for social security benefits such as housing allowance etc. The reception centre will also contact the municipality's integration services (from which the person will receive integration services). The aim is that the person will move to their own department within two months after receiving a positive decision.</p> |
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| | | <p>9. No.</p> <p>10. No.</p> <p>11. N/A.</p> <p>12. Yes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Budget flexibility (to increase the budget when necessary), -Employing more case-workers or temporarily (re-)assigning (former) case workers to speed up decision-making in asylum procedures, -Application of different standards/modalities of reception conditions in emergency situations (e.g. housing in tents/containers/gyms), -Regional/local distribution of applicants for international protection throughout the territory, -Housing in private settings / host families (however, not financially compensated in any way) -Creating extra capacity within an active accommodation centre, -Additional accommodation centres acting as buffer capacity, -Prearranged contracts with external service providers (e.g. private companies, NGOs, hotels) <p>Some temporary protection beneficiaries have been accommodated through so called "municipality model", in which municipalities get compensated for accommodating beneficiaries of temporary protection (BTPs). Different types of reception centres have also been taken into use e.g. there are now smaller 'side reception centres' (operating under bigger reception centres) and some reception centres organise housing directly in private properties (rent apartments). Some reception centres have both apartments and rooms. Most BTPs are in private accommodation. There are also two emergency</p> |
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| | | | housing units, which can be used if more capacity is needed short term e.g. over the weekend. Housing capacity is assessed weekly. |
|  | EMN NCP France | Yes | <p>1. On 1 January 2021, the national reception system (DNA), including the overseas territories, had 103 914 authorised places for asylum seekers and 9 118 for beneficiaries of international protection. New places are created each year in the framework of the Finance Act. The creations of these new places take into account the weight of the regions and the state of their needs.</p> <p>Since 2015, the number of places has been steadily increasing. In 2022, the creation of 4 800 places has been planned, bringing the number of places for asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection to 118 732.</p> <p>2. There is no additional capacity as such, but there are mechanisms to ensure the fluidity of the national reception system by offering temporary care to migrants who are not hosted. Thus, the CAES system (reception and situation assessment centres) enables asylum seekers to be temporarily sheltered with a view to being directed from the Ile-de-France region (around Paris) towards a permanent accommodation solution, in the region or in another territory. The capacity has been increased from 3 136 to 4 636 places in 2021 and should be increased to 6 622 places by the end of 2022.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>Between 2017 and 2021, France has been under pressure to accommodate applicants for international protection due to large flows. In 2019, 178 000 people applied for asylum in France (including re-examination applications). This significant increase led to a saturation of the accommodation capacity and required the creation of accommodation places in a</p> |

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| | | <p>short deadline. Only 51 % of asylum seekers were accommodated in the national reception system. This situation was aggravated by the Covid health crisis.</p> <p>It can also be explained by the polarisation of asylum applications within certain territories such as the Ile de France region (around Paris), which accounts for 46 % of asylum applications in 2021 and only 23 % of the total number of places. To remedy this situation, the law of 10 September 2018 for a managed migration, effective asylum right and a successful integration provides for a regional referral mechanism for asylum seekers, directing approximately 2 500 asylum seekers from the Ile-de-France region to other regions of the country every month. This mechanism is intended to correct the polarisation of migratory flows and enables first-time asylum seekers to be rapidly directed to an accommodation place.</p> <p>However, the large influx is not the only reason for these accommodation issues. These pressures are also the result of the fact that there are unduly occupied large numbers of places in the national reception system in 2021, in particular by beneficiaries of international protection who are experiencing difficulties in accessing housing in view of the tension in certain urban areas in France.</p> <p>4. Fast-tracking asylum procedures, Regional/local distribution of applicants for international protection throughout the territory, Creating extra capacity within an active accommodation centre, Additional accommodation centres acting as buffer capacity</p> <p>5. The regional referral mechanism has artificially rebalanced the distribution of asylum application flows across the country, contributing to optimise the national accommodation pool. Thus, the referral of 16 700 people from the Ile-de-France region to the other regions has reduced the proportion of flows to the Ile-de-France region (from 51 % to 37 %). These results were achieved by creating additional places in temporary (CAES) and</p> |
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| | | | <p>permanent (for the whole duration of the procedure) reception and accommodation centres.</p> <p>6. NO.</p> <p>7. N/A.</p> <p>8. An instruction dated 18 February 2021 relating to accelerating access to housing for beneficiaries of international protection "updates the guidelines of 24 August 2020 relating to refugee housing and has set out the guidelines for 2021 including the problem of fluidity increased by the saturation of the national reception system (DNA) and the general accommodation stock, aggravated by the Covid health crisis in all regions. At the date of publication of this instruction, the number of beneficiaries of international protection present in the national reception system was estimated at more than 19 000 (11 665 are registered in structures for asylum seekers and 7 514 in temporary reception centers as of 30 November 2020) and almost 5 000 people were registered in general emergency accommodation facilities".</p> <p>Given the urgent need to accelerate the transition to housing for beneficiaries of international protection (beneficiaries of international protection - refugee status or subsidiary protection), the national housing mobilisation target has been set for 2021 at 14 000 units. Indeed, the departure of beneficiaries of international protection must be considered from the moment when they enter the accommodation centre.</p> <p>With regard to accommodation, beneficiaries of international protection may request to continue to benefit from accommodation (An asylum seeker can be accommodated in a CADA or other similar facility, depending on his/her situation and the availability of places) until a solution for accommodation or housing is found, up to a limit of three months from the end of the month in which the favourable decision was notified to them. With the</p> |
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| | | <p>agreement of the French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII), this period may be extended by a further three months.</p> <p>The beneficiary of international protection can be supported by specific support and integration schemes for beneficiaries of international protection (at national, regional and departmental level) or by general social institutions and structures. These schemes vary from region to region and from department to department and generally include support in finding accommodation or housing. The most vulnerable persons can be directed by the OFII into temporary accommodation centres which offer enhanced support towards integration and access to housing.</p> <p>As of 2022, a national programme to support refugees towards integration (access to housing and employment) will be progressively deployed in all French departments. This programme, called AGIR (global and individualised support for refugees) will benefit all refugees as soon as they obtain their status.</p> <p>9. YES, because the difficulties in accessing housing for beneficiaries of international protection have led them to remain in accommodation for asylum seekers, preventing the fluidity of the system and saturating the centres occupation.</p> <p>10. YES, rejected asylum seekers are ordered to leave the accommodation one month after the negative decision by the OFPRA (French office for the protection of refugees and stateless persons). If they remain, the prefecture can initiate a temporary protective procedure with the administrative judge with a view to exclusion.</p> <p>11. YES.</p> <p>With regard to refugees, "temporary" accommodation has been successfully tested: it offers refugees temporary accommodation when they leave asylum-seeker accommodation centres, enabling them to start their integration process in the medium</p> |
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| | | | <p>term (learning French, finding a job, obtaining rights) and thus access permanent accommodation.</p> <p>In addition, comprehensive support programmes, such as HOPE (Accommodation, counselling, pathway to employment), which offer accommodation, French language training and vocational training in a job in demand, have demonstrated their relevance to the successful integration of beneficiaries of international protection.</p> <p>12. Regarding the reception of displaced persons from Ukraine, France has mobilised other types of accommodation than that dedicated to asylum seekers, which was already saturated. It also called on the public to provide accommodation and set up a system to reduce the number of people in one region if reception capacities were saturated.</p> |
|  | EMN NCP Germany | Yes | <p>1. The number for housing capacity is calculated and determined by the federal states. Pursuant to Section 44 (2) of the Asylum Act, the Federal Government is obliged to inform the Länder on a monthly basis of the expected development and the anticipated need for accommodation places for asylum seekers. This is not done in practice. The basis for the calculation is an own forecast of the federal states based on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current influx of asylum seekers and a comparison with the influx figures of the previous year, as well as - current and probable future influencing factors and situations. <p>Due to the federal structure, not only the federal states but also the municipalities (counties and independent cities) are involved, since it is here that housing must be made available. In part, the municipalities receive forecasts from the federal states, but</p> |

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| | | | <p>often these forecasts are also determined by the municipalities themselves. The forecasts are recalculated annually.</p> <p>2. Yes. In Germany, housing falls within the competence of the federal states and the municipalities. Therefore, the projection of housing capacities into the future may vary in detail. The prognosis may include a surplus capacity of up to 40% in order to ensure sufficient capacities. Flexible capacities are required for various reasons: due to Covid-19-restrictions which may not allow to make use of the full occupancy rate; to ensure the housing of families or vulnerable groups which may demands to leave some free capacity (e.g. single beds) to be unused or to simply be prepared for an increase in arrivals. Furthermore, the reduction of housing capacities (e.g. by closing facilities) is usually a slower process than opening new facilities or increasing the capacity in existing facilities and, thus, surplus capacity may be accepted as it is only temporary. However, it is politically difficult to justify surplus capacities in general, especially from a budgetary perspective.</p> <p>3. In Germany, the pressures on housing of applicants for international protection are manifold. Although the high number of arrivals in 2015-16 decreased in the following years, it remained at a rather high level. In joint efforts by all levels of government (federal, state and local) the main challenges in relation to procedural backlogs have been overcome. However, the issue of so-called "Fehlbeleger" (Persons who need to find accommodation on the regular rental market or who are obliged to leave Germany, e.g. Dublin cases, returns to country of origin, cases of secondary movements) remains to be significant. In particular in urban and metropolitan areas, applicants for and beneficiaries of international protection do not easily find accommodation although they may be required to leave the provided housing. The main reason is a lack of available</p> |
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| | | | <p>and affordable living space in the respective areas. Moreover, some municipalities face difficulties in finding suitable lots to build new facilities or to lease new facilities, in procuring necessary equipment and in obtaining sufficient funding. In addition to those practical challenges, political perspectives such as a general disapproval of reception centres as a concept for housing applicants for and beneficiaries of international protection or a dissent to the construction of a facility by residents living nearby may pose a difficulty in ensuring sufficient capacities to avoid emergency shelters as much as possible. In general, the Covid-19 restrictions have made it and still make it necessary to adapt to the changing circumstances. Often times, the Covid-19 restrictions do not allow to make use of the full capacity. Furthermore, humanitarian admission and resettlement schemes mean the arrival of persons with a different legal basis for their stay than applicants for international protection but still need to be housed until they have found suitable accommodation for themselves on the rental housing market. Finally, changing legislation in asylum and migration policy may require a general increase of housing capacities as easier access to residence permits, social benefits and also to citizenship might contribute to housing needs.</p> <p>4. Budget flexibility (to increase the budget when necessary), Employing more case-workers or temporarily (re-)assigning (former) case workers to speed up decision-making in asylum procedures, Application of different standards/modalities of reception conditions in emergency situations (e.g. housing in tents/containers/gyms), Provision of financial vouchers/allowance to cover costs of private accommodation, Regional/local distribution of applicants for international protection throughout the territory, Housing in private settings / host families, Creating extra capacity within an active accommodation centre, Additional accommodation centres acting as buffer capacity, Prearranged contracts with external service providers (e.g. private companies, NGOs, hotels), Contingency clauses in contracts with external service providers</p> |
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| | | | <p>5. Employing more case workers or temporarily (re-)assigning (former) case workers to speed up decision-making in asylum procedures: Additional staff in all stages of the asylum procedure as a joint effort by federal, state and local level of government within the respective competences is considered beneficial.; Fast-tracking asylum procedures: n/a.; Application of different standards/modalities of reception conditions in emergency situations (e.g. housing in tents/containers/gyms): Any measures creating housing capacities are being considered in an emergency situation. Some municipalities and states have successfully established emergency shelters in gyms or trade fair halls. Setting up containers at existing facilities has successfully provided additional housing capacity in a short time. Also closed hotels or guesthouses are considered to be a practical solution to meet demands in a short time frame., Provision of financial vouchers/allowance to cover costs of private accommodation: The arrival of displaced persons from Ukraine has shown the importance of private individuals offering living space. Although asylum seekers are required to stay in reception centres, the experiences in this regard made since 2017 have contributed successfully to the management of the arrival of a high number of persons from Ukraine. In addition, offering support to find living space on the private rental market to persons obliged to leave the reception centres is considered beneficial.; regional/local distribution of applicants for international protection throughout the territory: Territorial distribution is practiced in Germany by implementing the Königsteiner Key. It relieves the places of first arrival and allows to share the burden between the federal states. The federal states themselves may implement a distribution scheme in order to achieve the same on municipal level.; Housing in private settings / host families: As applicants for and beneficiaries of international protection may be obliged to leave the reception centres, after having to stay there for a certain period of time, they have to find living space on the rental market. The living space may be offered by private individuals or real estate companies.</p> |
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| | | | <p>Supporting this search is considered beneficial.; Creating extra capacity within an active accommodation centre: Creating additional capacity within existing reception centres may be an option but it is always depending on the specific circumstances of the individual reception centre. The extra capacity may also be established by opening another location which is administratively part of the existing reception centre.; Additional accommodation centres acting as buffer capacity: Opening new reception centres or operating accommodation centres on stand-by in order to have buffer capacity at reduced costs have been successful. However, as housing is decentralized in Germany, the measures may vary on state and local level. Solutions meeting the local and/or state needs are adopted.; Reserving an area to build extra housing capacity to accommodate applicants for international protection: n/a; Prearranged contracts with external service providers (e.g. private companies, NGOs, hotels): As housing is decentralized in Germany, the contracting of service providers falls within the competence of the respective state and local authorities tasked with ensuring sufficient housing capacities. Those contracts may vary in detail.; Contingency clauses in contracts with external service providers: As housing is decentralized in Germany, the contracting of service providers falls within the competence of the respective state and local authorities tasked with ensuring sufficient housing capacities. Those contracts may vary in detail.</p> <p>6. Yes and No. As housing is decentralized in Germany, the surplus housing capacity differs. Some federal states and municipalities anticipated higher numbers of arrivals based on the experiences of the years 2015-16 and experienced a surplus in the following years. Depending on the lease contracts, some facilities could be downsized sooner than others. In general, the housing capacities have met the foreseen levels by 2020. However, the projection of arrivals may vary and, therefore, the strategies to meet</p> |
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| | | | <p>potential increases in the number of arrivals may also differ. Some federal states experienced no surplus worth mentioning.</p> <p>7. Flexibility in housing is considered important and, thus, a certain degree of surplus is foreseen. This varies from state to state, municipality and municipality. The surplus housing capacity may have been used, in some municipalities, to accommodate homeless persons or to reduce the occupancy rate per reception centre. The latter serves the purpose of allowing more space for the individual person and to minimize the risk of infection with Covid-19 as much as possible.</p> <p>8. Applicants for international protection are distributed from the first reception centre, if they are still housed there, to the municipalities and cities and must look for housing on their own once their protection status has been recognized. In this process, they can access support options, such as the support of migration social work, housing placement projects, special housing advisors on site, or through cooperation with housing associations. Due to the high demand for affordable housing on the housing market, the search for housing is extremely difficult. In order to avoid emergency situations, many federal states continue to tolerate persons entitled to stay as so-called "Fehlbeleger" in federal state accommodations for a small fee until they have successfully found housing. For capacity reasons, some applicants for international protection are already distributed among the municipalities before their protection status is recognized.</p> <p>9. In principle, beneficiaries of international protection are responsible for finding their own housing. However, due to the high demand for affordable housing on the housing market, finding housing is extremely difficult. Frequently, beneficiaries of international protection remain in temporary housing facilities despite the fact that they are no longer required to live there, which means that additional capacity must be created for further</p> |
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| | | <p>housing. For this reason, many beneficiaries of international protection initially occupy municipal or rented apartments for a longer transitional period as so-called "Fehlbeleger" in the counties and independent cities, which are actually intended for persons in the ongoing asylum procedure after distribution from the initial reception centre or for rejected applicants for international protection who are obliged to leave the country. The relevant housing capacities are significantly limited as a result.</p> <p>10. Yes. Rejected applicants for international protection should, in principle, live in the first reception centre within the time limits of the legal housing obligation. Usually, these persons remain there in the shared accommodations or the respective apartments until a departure or a further clarification of the residence situation takes place. Therefore, the regular reception capacities in the municipalities continue to be used by the rejected applicants for international protection. Due to the limited accommodation capacities of the first reception centres, a distribution to the municipalities often takes place in advance.</p> <p>11. No, the accommodation of applicants or beneficiaries of international protection is governed by state and federal state law. The procedure is well established, but should not be understood in the sense of best practices.</p> <p>12. Yes. - Budget flexibility (to increase the budget when necessary) - Employing more case workers or temporarily (re-)assigning (former) case workers to speed up decision-making in asylum procedures - Application of different standards/modalities of reception conditions in emergency situations (e.g. housing in tents/containers/gyms)</p> |
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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of financial vouchers/allowance to cover costs of private accommodation - Housing in private settings / host families - Creating extra capacity within an active accommodation centre - Additional accommodation centres acting as buffer capacity - Prearranged contracts with external service providers (e.g. private companies, NGOs, hotels) |
|  | EMN NCP Greece | Yes | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4. Provision of financial vouchers/allowance to cover costs of private accommodation, Housing in private settings / host families 5. The HELIOS integration programme (Hellenic Integration Support for Beneficiaries of International Protection): Supporting beneficiaries of international protection towards independent accommodation in apartments rented on their name, including contributions to rental and move-in costs and networking with apartment owners. 6. 7. |

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| | | | <p>8.</p> <p>9.</p> <p>10.</p> <p>11.</p> <p>12. Yes. At present stage, the HELIOS integration program is being implemented, funded by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum through the Public Investment Program and based on a programmatic agreement which has been conducted between Ministry of Migration and Asylum and IOM. The beneficiaries of temporary protection (Directive 2001/55/EU) are also covered in the framework of this programmatic agreement. The Social Integration Directorate of MoMA, in collaboration with the Special Coordination and Monitoring Service of the European Social Fund (EYSEKT), is planning the continuation of HELIOS implementation through the integration of the program in the European Social Fund (ESF+) for the Programming Period 2021-2027.</p> |
|  | EMN NCP Hungary | Yes | <p>1.</p> <p>The National Directorate-General of Aliens Policing, Hungary (hereinafter referred to as NDGAP) as asylum authority, currently operates three reception centres for persons subject to the Asylum Act, which are operating at low capacity.</p> |

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| | | <p>In view of the tens of thousands of applicants for temporary protection and beneficiaries of temporary protection due to the war in Ukraine, the tasks of allocating accommodation for them have been transferred from the competence of NDGAP to the National Directorate-General for Disaster Management, Hungary (hereinafter referred to as NDGDM). Currently, NDGAP has no responsibility for accommodation of persons having fled from Ukraine.</p> <p>2.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>3.</p> <p>Within the period between 2017 and 2021, NDGAP as asylum authority was responsible for the statutory tasks related to accommodation and care of persons subject to the Asylum Act. The capacity of the reception facilities at the disposal of the Asylum Authority (2 transit zones until May 2020, 2 open reception facilities and 1 reception centre for asylum detention) proved to be sufficient to accommodate asylum seekers and clients granted international protection. The accommodation capacity was also expanded in 2017.</p> <p>4. Budget flexibility (to increase the budget when necessary)</p> <p>5.</p> <p>In 2017, NDGAP expanded its accommodation capacities, which proved to be sufficient to accommodate asylum seekers and clients who were granted international protection in the subsequent period.</p> |
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| | | | <p>6. Yes</p> <p>7. In the period under review, the transit zones were closed in May 2020. In 2021, the Afghan nationals who were evacuated were accommodated in the reception facilities of the asylum authority.</p> <p>8. Refugee, beneficiaries of subsidiary protection and tolerated clients, who are in social need are provided with accommodation and care at the reception centre for 30 days after recognition. Thereafter, accommodation is available for people in need in charity and social organisations as part of social integration programmes.</p> <p>9. Within the period between 2017 and 2021, there were no challenges due to the low number of clients with international protection status.</p> <p>10. Such a challenge did not arise, given that the rejected applicants for international protection had to leave Hungary, so there were no accommodation capacity problems.</p> <p>11. -</p> <p>12. In view of the tens of thousands of applicants for temporary protection and beneficiaries of temporary protection due to the war in Ukraine, the tasks of allocating accommodation for them have been transferred from the competence of NDGAP to NDGDM.</p> |
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| | | | NDGAP currently has no responsibility for accommodation in case of refugees from Ukraine. NDGDM is able to address the challenges related to the accommodation of applicants for temporary protection and beneficiaries of temporary protection. In addition, governmental measures ensure housing conditions (support for accommodation provided by local authorities, support for other forms of accommodation, support for employers). |
|  | EMN NCP Ireland | Yes | <p>1. In Ireland, housing for international protection applicants comprises one National Reception Centre (Balseskin), where applicants are initially accommodated upon lodging an application, and accommodation centres overseen by the International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS) located across the country. In recent years, there has been increased reliance on emergency accommodation, primarily hotels and bed and breakfast accommodation. By the end of 2021, Ireland had 45 accommodation centres (7 State-owned and 38 commercial), 24 emergency accommodation locations, and a National Reception Centre, Balseskin.[1]</p> <p>The total number of persons housed across all forms of accommodation at the end of 2021 was 7486.[2]</p> <p>In assessing accommodation requirements, current occupancy is monitored in IPAS by compiling weekly statistics of occupancy versus capacity of centres. Since 2018, however, the available IPAS accommodation has been insufficient to meet demand and emergency accommodation has been relied on.[3] During the COVID-19 pandemic, in line with social distancing requirements, the capacities of some reception centres was reduced.[4]</p> <p>The Report of the Advisory Group on the Provision of Support including Accommodation to Persons in the International Protection Process (2020) concluded that Ireland should be prepared to handle approximately 3500 new applications each year. This was based</p> |

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| | | | <p>on the average number of applications for the years between 2015 and 2019. Approximately 80% of applicants avail of State-provided accommodation. The report also recommended the State have contingency plans in place to deal with increases in numbers and situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic.^[5] The White Paper to End Direct Provision and to Establish a New International Protection Support Service, which sets out the Government's plan to introduce a new not-for-profit, three-phased reception system in Ireland, based their model on the 3500 figure. The White Paper states that where accommodation is insufficient in the first phase of reception to meet demand (in the reception and integration centre), efforts will be made to provide people with Phase Two accommodations (more independent living in the community) more quickly, and a greater use of private tenancies will be used in Phase Two.^[6] This model is in the process of being implemented.</p> <p>^[1] Houses of the Oireachtas (19 January 2022). Response to Parliamentary Question [2211/22]. Available at: www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2022-01-19/1125/#pq_1125.</p> <p>^[2] Houses of the Oireachtas (19 January 2022). Response to Parliamentary Question [2211/22]. Available at: www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2022-01-19/1125/#pq_1125.</p> <p>^[3] Department of Justice (September 2020). Report of the Advisory Group on the Provision of Support including Accommodation to Persons in the International Protection Process. Available at www.justice.ie, p 20.</p> <p>^[4] International Protection Accommodation Service. 'IPAS Living with COVID Plan'. Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, www.accommodationcentres.ie; Sheridan A. et al. (2022). Annual Report on Migration and Asylum in Ireland: 2020, available at: www.emn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/ARM-2020-Ireland.pdf, p. 66.</p> |
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| | | <p>[5] Department of Justice (September 2020). Report of the Advisory Group on the Provision of Support including Accommodation to Persons in the International Protection Process. Available at www.justice.ie.</p> <p>[6] Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (2021). White Paper to End Direct Provision and to Establish a New International Protection Support Service. Available at www.gov.ie.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>High number of new applicants.</u> In 2019, the rate of new applicants had increased by approximately 53.7%. [1] Although new application figures dropped during 2020 with the COVID-19 pandemic, they began to increase again in 2021 and by mid-2022, the number of new applicants has increased by 190% (up to June 2022) as compared to the same period in 2019. [2] • <u>Limited outflow to residential housing</u> by people with status residing in IPAS accommodation (see response under Question 8). • Between 2015 and 2019, the <u>proportion of international protection applicants seeking to enter IPAS accommodation</u> has been approximately 80 per cent of all applicants on average, an increase on the previous five years. [3] • <u>Procurement:</u> The available supply of suitable centre-based accommodation has reduced. This is due to, among other things, the growth of the Irish economy, the growth of tourism and demand for additional hotel capacity and the increased demand for accommodation for homeless persons. Time is also required to procure additional accommodation that meets the required standards, including an increased number of independent living places. These standards were |
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| | | <p>implemented following the 2015 Final Report by the Working Group to Report to Government Working Group on the Protection Process.[4]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Delays in processing applications</u> and time spent by applicants in the application process, including in appeals procedures.[5] • During the <u>COVID-19 pandemic</u>, social distancing measures were applied, which required more accommodation. [6] <p>[1] Department of Justice (2019). Report of the Inter-Departmental Group on Direct Provision. Available at: www.justice.ie. IGEES Unit, Department of Justice (2019). Spending Review 2019 Direct Provision: Overview of current accommodation expenditure. Government of Ireland. Available at: www.gov.ie.</p> <p>[2] Houses of the Oireachtas (5 July 2022). Response to Parliamentary Question 35965/22. Available at: www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2022-07-05/11/#pq_11.</p> <p>[3] Department of Justice (2020). Report of the Advisory Group on the Provision of Support including Accommodation to Persons in the International Protection Process. Available at: www.justice.ie.</p> <p>[4] Department of Justice (2019). Report of the Inter-Departmental Group on Direct Provision. Available at: www.justice.ie.</p> <p>[5] Department of Justice (2019). Report of the Inter-Departmental Group on Direct Provision. Available at: www.justice.ie.</p> <p>[6] Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (17 November 2020) Response to Parliamentary Question 36290/20. Available at: www.oireachtas.ie</p> <p>4.</p> <p>5.</p> |
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| | | | <p>6.</p> <p>7.</p> <p>8. Limited outflow from IPAS accommodation by persons with status (as beneficiaries of international protection or as holders of leave to remain) is a source of pressure on accommodation capacity. At the end of February 2022, the number of persons with a status resident in IPAS accommodation was 2265.[1] In Ireland, there is an ongoing housing crises and housing supply, which can make it difficult for persons to source their own accommodation. IPAS have a team dedicated to supporting and assisting those with status to progress on to living in the community and work with the NGOs, the Peter McVerry Trust, the Jesuit Refugee Service and DePaul Ireland, as well as officials from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and the City and County Manages Association.[2] Persons with refugee status, subsidiary protection status, or a humanitarian leave to remain status, are entitled to apply for social housing supports.[3]</p> <p>[1] Houses of the Oireachtas (5 April 2022). Response to Parliamentary Question 17621/22. Available at: www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2022-04-05/550/. [2] Houses of the Oireachtas (5 April 2022). Response to Parliamentary Question 17621/22. Available at: www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2022-04-05/550/. Houses of the Oireachtas (13 October 2021). Response to Parliamentary Question 29964/20. Available at: www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2020-10-13/372/.</p> |
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| | | <p>[3] Environment, Community and Local Government. Housing Circular 41/2012, Access to social housing supports for non-Irish nationals – including clarification re Stamp 4 holders. Available at: www.assets.gov.ie/129636/3486790a-e572-47e4-8694-bd9f34ace99b.pdf</p> <p>9. Yes. As described above, a sizeable proportion of residents of IPAS accommodation are beneficiaries of international protection or have leave to remain status. In combination with the challenges faced in capacity levels more generally (as described under question 3), this has resulted in a greater reliance on emergency accommodation in Ireland. The number of people leaving IPAS accommodation is not keeping pace with the number of people entering the system.[1]</p> <p>[1] Spending Review 2019 Direct Provision: Overview of current accommodation expenditure. Government of Ireland. Available at: www.gov.ie.</p> <p>10. There are persons whose applications for international protection have been refused who remain in IPAS accommodation. Some of these persons may have ongoing appeals proceedings.[1]</p> <p>[1] Spending Review 2019 Direct Provision: Overview of current accommodation expenditure. Government of Ireland. Available at: www.gov.ie.</p> <p>11.</p> <p>12.</p> |
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| | | | <p>Yes.</p> <p>As of 26 July 2022, over 42,000 people have arrived in Ireland having fled Ukraine and in excess of 31,000 of those have been referred to IPAS seeking accommodation.[1] Among the options listed under question 4 that are used to house beneficiaries of temporary protection are contracts with external providers, primarily hotels and guest houses. At the end of July 2022, approximately 400 contracts were in place to meet temporary accommodation needs. This represents approximately 25,000 beds in hotels, guesthouses and bed and breakfasts, as well as approximately 4,500 of these in student accommodation.[2]</p> <p>In addition, housing in private settings / host families has been used. A system of pledges was set up in cooperation with the Irish Red Cross where people offer to host beneficiaries of temporary protection. As of 5 July 2022, approximately 2000 people have been matched to over 700 pledged properties.[3] A 400-euro Accommodation Recognition Payment will be provided to persons who provide accommodation for persons fleeing Ukraine.[4]</p> <p>In addition, the application of different standards/modalities of reception conditions in emergency situations (e.g. housing in tents/containers/gyms) has also been used, including through the use of local authority emergency facilities.[5] There is also an intention to introduce modular homes with the Office of Public Works. There is a plan to install up to 200 modular units on designated sites by the end of 2022, with a further 300 units to be installed by early 2023.[6]</p> <p>Budget flexibility has also been used, with the remaining funding from the COVID-19 contingency fund used for housing beneficiaries of temporary protection.[7]</p> <p>[1] Houses of the Oireachtas (26 July 2022). Response to Parliamentary Question 40178/22. Available at: www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2022-07-26/1345</p> |
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| | | | <p>[2] Houses of the Oireachtas (26 July 2022). Response to Parliamentary Question 40178/22. Available at: www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2022-07-26/1345</p> <p>[3] Houses of the Oireachtas (5 July 2022). Response to Parliamentary Question 35420/22. Available at: https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2022-07-05/434/#pg_434</p> <p>[4] Houses of the Oireachtas (26 July 2022). Response to Parliamentary Question 41012/22. Available at: www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2022-07-26/1269</p> <p>[5] Houses of the Oireachtas (24 May 2022). Response to Parliamentary Question 25885/22. Available at: www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2022-05-24/500/#pg_500</p> <p>[6] Houses of the Oireachtas (27 July 2022). Response to Parliamentary Question 41625/22. Available at: www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2022-07-26/1318/</p> <p>[7] Houses of the Oireachtas (24 May 2022). Response to Parliamentary Question 25885/22. Available at: www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2022-05-24/500/#pg_500</p> |
|  | EMN NCP Italy | Yes | <p>1. Administration of housing capacity for asylum applicants is mixed: reception is administered both at a central and local levels. At a central level, the management is under the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior, specifically the Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration; at a local level, the management is under the responsibility of Prefectures regarding extraordinary reception Centres and first reception Centres (CAS and Gov's Centres); whereas the second rank of reception, which can also be accessed by applicants for international protection, the administration is provided by local entities which manage projects presented and approved by the Ministry of the Interior through the System of Reception and Integration (SAI). Prefectures, individually, issue open calls for tenders to local entities to manage the reception of asylum seekers.</p> |

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| | | | <p>The computation of the numerical result depends on the incoming flows and the availability already active in the local area. The calculation, at the start of the procedure, is made based on multiple variables, including the number of people in admittances.</p> <p>With regard to the management of housing capacity in the SAI network, the Ministerial Decree 18-11-2019 regulates the procedures of local authorities when filing new applications for contributions for an initial entry into the Reception and Integration System, and continuation applications for existing reception services.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>The computation, at the time of the start of the procedure, is calculated based on total people in reception facilities, raised by a percentage set by single Prefectures. However, the outcome of procedures depends also by private facilities responses.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>Over the 3-year period pointed, Italy has experienced significant fluctuations over flows of migrants that applied for international protection, weighting over reception Centres designated to their hospitality.</p> <p>2018 represents a year of major changes, particularly in relation to a drastic decrease in the presence of international protection seekers, compared to previous years.</p> <p>In 2018, the trend already recorded in the previous year continued, according to which, as a result of a policy approach at national, as well as international level, the migratory flow underwent a drastic reduction in the number of arrivals, which amounted to 23,370, a drop of 80.4% compared to 2017, when 119,369 migrants arrived on Italian territory.</p> <p>In the same year, there was a reduction in the number of admissions to reception Centres, due not only to the decrease in incoming flows (a reduction, however, that was not</p> |
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| | | | <p>proportional to the decrease in arrivals in the same year), but also due to the acceleration in the processing time of asylum applications by territorial Commissions.</p> <p>Following the significant decrease in arrivals, there has been no increase in the number of new hotspots, also referred to as crisis points, i.e., equipped arrival areas near selected ports (or in their immediate vicinity) where incoming migratory flows by sea are conveyed and where migrants remain for the time strictly necessary for the definition of the first material and medical assistance operations and where identification procedures are carried out.</p> <p>There was also a reduction in the reception network capability which, as on 31st December 2018, consisted of 13 governmental reception facilities and 8,102 temporary reception facilities with a decline, compared to 9,132 in 2017, of 12.7%.</p> <p>In 2020, there was an increasing trend of arrivals compared to the previous two years. From 1 January to 31 December 2020, the number of migrants arrived on Italian territory amounted to 34,154, a percentage increase of 197.74% compared to 2019, when 11,471 migrants arrived on Italian territory.</p> <p>However, there has been a reduction in the number of admissions to reception Centres during 2020. This finding can also be considered correlated with the trend that has observed a progressive reduction in the number of decisions pending at the Territorial Commissions.</p> <p>In particular, the number of migrants currently admitted as on 31st December 2020 was 54,052, a drop of 18.8% compared to the same period in 2019 when there were 66,529 migrants admitted.</p> <p>With the onset of the crisis linked to the epidemiological emergency, Italy launched a series of measures aimed at guaranteeing social and health protection, which also influenced the management and reception of migrants and applicants for international protection. In particular, following the use of ships to carry out the required quarantine period, only the</p> |
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| | | <p>Lampedusa hotspot continued to be used exclusively as a hotspot, which, moreover, is the place with the highest number of arrivals; the other three hotspots on the national territory played the prevalent role of quarantine centres. Taranto and Pozzallo hotspots were mainly used for quarantine while the Messina hotspot, since August 2020, has not been considered usable to receive quarantined migrants.</p> <p>In 2021, the upward trend of arrivals compared to the previous two years has been confirmed.</p> <p>The second half of 2021 was, in particular, characterised by the extraordinary need for admissions resulting from the withdrawal of the Italian armed forces from Afghanistan and the ongoing political crisis in that country. The Ministry of the Interior, in addition to arrange the placement of Afghan nationals who had been evacuated into the reception system, was responsible to monitor their presence, from the moment of their arrival in Italy, until their subsequent exit from the system.</p> <p>4. Budget flexibility (to increase the budget when necessary), Regional/local distribution of applicants for international protection throughout the territory, Creating extra capacity within an active accommodation centre, Additional accommodation centres acting as buffer capacity, Prearranged contracts with external service providers (e.g. private companies, NGOs, hotels)</p> <p>5.</p> <p>It is reported the prompt response of the Italian asylum system to the exceptional reception needs that emerged as a result of the political crisis in Afghanistan. In this respect, special mention is made of the Decree Law of 8 October 2021, which provided an increase, for the years 2021-2023, in the allocation of the National Fund for Asylum Policies and Services, in order to increase by 3,000 places the SAI network in support of the families of</p> |
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| | | <p>Afghan nationals evacuated through operations by the Ministry of Defence in support of the Armed Forces collaborators and their families.</p> <p>6. Yes. In 2018, there has been a reported decrease in the number of admissions to reception centres, which can be attributed to the decline in inflows and the acceleration of the time needed by Territorial Commissions to process asylum applications.</p> <p>7. In the situation of a decreasing number of admissions, according to the current regulation, the suspension or termination of the contract is left to the discretionary assessment of the Prefecture, depending on the different territorial realities.</p> <p>8. Once a measure of protection has been granted to an applicant for international protection, who is housed in one of the reception centres as per ex-Articles 9 and 11 of Legislative Decree 142/2015, the competent Prefectures report the migrant to the SAI Central Office in order to initiate the relocation procedures to the network of projects available on the national territory. In case the applicant is already accepted in the Reception and Integration System, once he/she has been granted a form of international protection, he/she may continue his/her permanence in the centre for further six months from the day on which the Territorial Commission is notified of the measure adopted regarding the applicant.</p> <p>9.</p> |
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| | | <p>The main challenge in guaranteeing the admission of applicants for international protection, during the outflow phase at the centres dedicated to beneficiaries of international protection, has concerned (and still concerns) the possibility of finding places in facilities properly equipped to take charge of individuals with serious psycho-physical vulnerabilities. The SAI system provides ad hoc places for the reception of vulnerable persons with MENTAL DISABILITY and PHYSICAL DISABILITY, however, the number of places made available by local authorities at the national level remains limited; in particular, whenever the country faces larger inflows and if we consider the additional complexity that the COVID 19 emergency has contributed to further complicate the care of those who already fall into a vulnerable category.</p> <p>10. Migrants can be hosted in the CAS, first reception and SAI centres for the entire duration of the procedure for recognition of international protection, and also during an eventual appeal to the court against the decision of the Territorial Commission that has notified a refusal to the applicant.</p> <p>11. Good practices include numerous cooperation activities carried out through the signing of agreements by the bodies in charge of managing the reception system with public system organizations such as AUSLs, NIHMP and third sector organizations.</p> <p>12. Yes. Particularly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provision of financial vouchers/allowances to cover the costs of private accommodation; 2. Accommodation in private accommodation/host families; |
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| | | | <p>3. Recruitment of additional workers in the sector</p> <p>4. Expansion of the Reception and Integration System</p> |
| <p>EMN NCP Latvia</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>1. No separate calculation is done, the housing capacity is determined by available infrastructure and capacity to expand it on demand.</p> <p>2. No</p> <p>3. In LV, the Contingency Plan, in place since 2012, proved to be inadequate to respond to the Belarusian crisis, because of different reasons, including the lack of an active involvement of local authorities that were not delivering in accordance with what was foreseen in the Plan (e.g., provision of buildings to be used for accommodation purposes).</p> <p>4. Budget flexibility (to increase the budget when necessary), Employing more case-workers or temporarily (re-)assigning (former) case workers to speed up decision-making in asylum procedures, Additional accommodation centres acting as buffer capacity</p> <p>5. All the measures below were important to solve the additional demand for housing: Budget flexibility (to increase the budget when necessary) was achieved by attracting additional AMIF funding (national). Employing more case-workers or temporarily (re-)assigning (former) case workers to speed up decision-making in asylum procedures was achieved by attracting additional AMIF funding (national). Additional accommodation centres acting as buffer capacity (national).</p> | |

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| | | | <p>6. No.</p> <p>7. N/a</p> <p>8. Once the international protection status is recognized, the outflow to housing and other forms of accommodation is organized by mentors/social workers.</p> <p>9. No, because the number of beneficiaries of international protection is too small to affect housing market in Latvia.</p> <p>10. No, because the number of rejected applicants of international protection is too small to affect housing market in Latvia.</p> <p>11. N/a</p> <p>12. No.</p> |
|  | EMN NCP Lithuania | Yes | <p>1. Lithuania cooperates with non-governmental organizations, such as Lithuanian Red Cross Society, to evaluate reception conditions and asylum procedures. Based on the monitoring results provided by the Lithuanian Red Cross Society and to achieve the objectives set out in the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund National Programme 2014-2020 in the area of asylum, projects have been implemented from 2017 to 2021 to improve reception conditions by expanding and improving infrastructure, including repairing existing facilities and constructing a shelter for vulnerable asylum seekers reaching up to 15 places.</p> |

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| | | | <p>In response to the increased flow of asylum seekers, the Government adopted Resolution No. 171 On the Approval of the Description of the Procedure for the Accommodation of Asylum Seekers on 8 March 2017. The Resolution regulates the establishment of a list of accommodation facilities, temporary accommodation and places for temporary accommodation for asylum seekers, the requirements for accommodation places, the conditions and procedures for the accommodation of asylum seekers, the guarantee of reception conditions, and the amount of funds allocated to ensure material reception conditions. When implementing the provisions of Resolution No. 171, the Ministry of the Interior and the Refugees' Reception Centre on 2 June 2017 signed an agreement regarding the use of budgetary funds to guarantee the reception conditions of the asylum seekers who are accommodated in the Refugees' Reception Centre. Previously, the Refugees' Reception Centre hosted only those foreigners who had been granted asylum in Lithuania. The contract between the Ministry of Interior and the Refugees' Reception Centre continued until 20 November 2020, when the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners established that the Refugees' Reception Centre can provide services not only to foreigners who have received asylum but also to asylum seekers. In 2019, following Resolution No. 171, the authorities signed agreements with non-governmental organizations that rented apartments for asylum seekers in municipalities. To improve the reception conditions for asylum seekers in Lithuania, since 1 January 2020, the Migration Department has been designated as the institution responsible for the accommodation of asylum seekers in accommodation or temporary accommodation facilities in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Government. On this basis, the Migration Department, implementing the AMIF project in 2021-2022, purchased accommodation services from the Family Support Centre in Jieznas town, which provides accommodation to 40 asylum seekers.</p> |
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| | | | <p>In 2021, following an unprecedented influx of migrants attempting to irregularly cross the Belarus-Lithuania border, the reception system in Lithuania was overloaded, the efficiency of reception conditions fell sharply, and, in some instances, non-compliance with the EU standards was identified. As a result, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Social Security and Labour assessed the costs incurred during the crisis period and examined alternative ways for improving reception conditions.</p> <p>On 25 May 2022, the Government adopted a protocol decision approving a proposal for a reform of the reception and accommodation system for migrants. According to the proposal, some of the functions of the State Border Guard Service, including accommodation, were transferred to the Refugees' Reception Centre. The planned outcome is an efficient and flexible reception system which can adapt to changing migrant flows and in which institutions have clear and non-overlapping roles. A working group has been set up to implement this proposal by the end of 2023.</p> <p>2. No.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>The Lithuanian authorities received more than 1,500 asylum applications between 2017 and 2019 (36 % more than in 2014-2016).</p> <p>In 2019, the number of asylum applications in Lithuania continued to increase, in part due to a sharp increase in the number of applications by Tajikistan and Russian nationals entering from Belarus, which accounted for almost 70 % of all applications in that year. The growing number of asylum seekers combined with the lack of accommodation capacity at the State Border Guard Service's structural units created the need for reviewing asylum applications as quickly as possible and using alternative venues for accommodating asylum seekers.</p> |
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| | | <p>In 2021, Lithuania experienced an unprecedented number of asylum applications over a relatively short period of time due to the actions of the undemocratic Belarus regime. This situation significantly reduced the resources available to responsible authorities and curtailed their ability to adequately respond to the ongoing situation by providing migrants with the necessary services. In response to the actions of the Belarus regime and the changing circumstances, adjustments were made to the Lithuanian reception system for asylum seekers.</p> <p>Notably, in 2021, the number of asylum seekers increased by 1,226.8 % compared to the previous year (321 in 2020, and 4,259 in 2021), while the number of decisions taken by the Migration Department regarding asylum applications increased by 510.6 % (620 in 2020, and 3,786 in 2021).</p> <p>To prevent secondary migration, a decision was taken to restrict the movement of irregular migrants, which contributed to additional pressure on Lithuania's reception facilities and created hurdles for the authorities to ensure that migrants receive the necessary services. Moreover, the limited capacity of the Migration Department prolonged migrants' registration process and resulted in slower asylum procedures which in turn extended the migrants' stay in reception centres.</p> <p>4. Budget flexibility (to increase the budget when necessary), Employing more case-workers or temporarily (re-)assigning (former) case workers to speed up decision-making in asylum procedures, Fast-tracking asylum procedures, Application of different standards/modalities of reception conditions in emergency situations (e.g. housing in tents/containers/gyms), Creating extra capacity within an active accommodation centre, Additional accommodation centres acting as buffer capacity, Reserving an area to build extra housing capacity to accommodate applicants for international protection</p> |
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| | | | <p>5. During the influx of irregular migrants from the territory of Belarus, the Lithuanian Red Cross Society, the Seimas' Ombudsperson's Office, the Office of the Ombudsperson for Child's Rights, and other public, international as well as non-governmental organizations monitored and reported on the reception conditions for asylum seekers in Lithuania. These institutions made comments and recommendations that influenced the decisions taken by the Lithuanian authorities to effectively respond to migrant needs. For example, in preparation for the coming winter, all migrants who attempted to irregularly enter the territory of Lithuania from Belarus were transferred to heated premises in modular houses that were newly constructed in accommodation centres; vulnerable infants with their mothers were accommodated in a newly created accommodation centre in Vilnius; and unaccompanied minors were transferred to an extension of the Refugees' Reception Centre in Rukla.</p> <p>6. No.</p> <p>7. N/a</p> <p>8. The Refugees' Reception Centre signs contracts for the provision of integration services with organizations providing integration services in municipalities. These organizations provide personal assistants to foreigners who received asylum to help them find accommodation and employment in the municipality. Once suitable accommodation is found, the Refugees' Reception Centre organizes their transportation.</p> |
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| | | | <p>9. Yes. Sometimes difficulties occur when foreigners who have been granted asylum have to move out of the reception centre but are not able to find alternative accommodation. For example, it is difficult to find suitable accommodation for large families and vulnerable people, while landlords are often reluctant to rent to foreigners. This creates a situation when foreigners occupy places in centres that could be used for accommodating new asylum seekers. During the crisis caused by the irregular migrant influx organized by the Belarusian regime, the lack of available accommodation places became a significant issue.</p> <p>10. Yes. In 2021, Lithuania experienced a sharp increase in the flow of irregular migration from the territory of Belarus. As a result, during that year, most foreigners in migrant centres were asylum seekers from Iraq. Many of them had their asylum applications rejected. However, migrants appealed such decisions in courts. Without a signed readmission agreement with Iraq, Lithuania was unable to return most of the irregularly staying Iraqi migrants from the territory of Lithuania. Furthermore, families with small children represented a significant proportion of such asylum seekers and, as a result, these people were allowed to continue living in the reception centres until they were expelled or returned voluntarily. In 2022, an amendment to the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners was adopted establishing the right to work for such persons. However, as these people are not entitled to any other social assistance, some of them are expected to remain in the centres.</p> |
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| | | | <p>11. Yes.</p> <p>During the influx of migrants irregularly attempting to enter the territory of Lithuania from Belarus, some beneficiaries of international protection were unable to find housing for rent. Responding to the developing situation in municipalities, the Refugees' Reception Centre purchased accommodation places in hostels and dormitories where migrants could live until they moved to self-rented accommodation. In this way, the integration process was accelerated, encouraging migrants to look for employment or education opportunities and build social contacts in the municipality, as well as helping migrants to find self-rented housing. This policy was particularly important in freeing up places for other migrants applying for asylum in Lithuania.</p> <p>12. Housing in private settings / host families; Application of different standards/modalities of reception conditions in emergency situations; Provision of financial vouchers/allowance to cover costs of private accommodation.</p> |
|  | EMN NCP Luxembourg | Yes | <p>1. The National Reception Office (ONA) is evaluating the need for new housing by considering the planned closures of accommodation structures and the planned openings of new accommodation structures. Furthermore, ONA is doing time series analysis to establish trend based forecasts (ARMA, ARIMA, SARIMA, Holt-Winters) of the number of people in need for housing that is to be expected in the coming years.</p> |

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| | | <p>Ex post evaluation of forecasting models established in the past can be taken into account when working with the results of forecasting models. Using both the number of beds available in the near future and the number of expected people to be housed by ONA, a simulation of the future occupancy of accommodation structures is prepared for national budget negotiations.</p> <p>2. It depends on the method used in the time series analysis. The margin that is calculated is called a confidence interval.</p> <p>3. The authorities have been confronted for years with the limits of their capacity to accommodate applicants for international protection (AIP).</p> <p>At the end of December 2021, the overall net occupancy rate of all accommodation facilities was 95.3%, or 3.112 people in 55 accommodation facilities (with a total of 3.568 available beds).</p> <p>This is mainly due to the higher number of family reunifications and the persistent difficulties of beneficiaries of international protection (BIPs) to access the private housing market and thus leave the reception structures. As of 31st December 2021, BIPs represented 41.2 % of the population accommodated in accommodation facilities, although these facilities are in principle reserved for AIPs.</p> <p>Finding independent accommodation is difficult due to the housing crisis in Luxembourg, where even locals face difficulties finding affordable housing. In addition, a number of</p> |
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| | | <p>rejected AIPs who have been granted a return decision continue to be accommodated in reception facilities.</p> <p>Another difficulty is that the ONA is regularly confronted with the temporary or permanent closure of a number of facilities due to the expiry of contracts, health requirements, risk checks or renovations which have to be compensated by the opening of new accommodation facilities.</p> <p>The accommodation crisis was further compounded by the accommodation needs of applicants and beneficiaries of temporary protection from Ukraine, for whom an accommodation system had to be set up urgently.</p> <p>4. Budget flexibility (to increase the budget when necessary), Employing more case-workers or temporarily (re-)assigning (former) case workers to speed up decision-making in asylum procedures, Fast-tracking asylum procedures, Application of different standards/modalities of reception conditions in emergency situations (e.g. housing in tents/containers/gyms), Creating extra capacity within an active accommodation centre, Additional accommodation centres acting as buffer capacity, Reserving an area to build extra housing capacity to accommodate applicants for international protection, Prearranged contracts with external service providers (e.g. private companies, NGOs, hotels)</p> <p>5. Yes.</p> <p><u>Cooperation within relevant stakeholders:</u></p> |
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| | | <p>The reception and accommodation of AIPs are a joint effort of the State and the municipalities. The ONA promotes the research, construction and development of reception sites in municipalities. The collaboration of municipalities in the creation of new reception sites is voluntary.</p> <p>Decision making regarding the establishment of new accommodation structures involves the intervention of numerous partners, most notably:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the municipal authorities, • the Ministry of the Interior, • the Ministry of the Environment, of Climate and Sustainable Development, • the Ministry of National Education, Children and Youth, • the Public Building Administration of the Ministry of Mobility and Public Works and • the committee concerned with monthly rents of the Ministry of Finance. <p>In order to inform and promote the construction of reception structures in municipalities, the ONA developed a guide on the most frequently asked questions on the reception of AIPs on the territory of a municipality. Furthermore, in order to facilitate the research and prospection of property assets and potential land for the construction of new reception structures, the ONA has developed a flyer informing about land or building prerequisites and to raise awareness, in general, about the housing needs of the ONA. The flyer is distributed to municipalities and/or other potential stakeholders that could help identify potential sites for new structures.</p> <p>Some newly created structures are new constructions (e.g. modular structures),; others are old buildings that have been renovated or temporary emergency reception structures.</p> |
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| | | | <p><u>Modular constructions:</u> The State has launched a program for the construction of standardized modular accommodation structures for AIPs in order to respond to the arrival of a high number of AIPs in the Grand Duchy since September 2015. A module for 33 AIPs can be built in only 9 months (the time between the start and the end of the construction works on site). These types of structures are of high quality and durable. In addition to the bedrooms, they have all the necessary infrastructure for communal living, such as kitchens, living rooms, sanitary facilities, laundry rooms, etc. The minimum land requirement for such a structure is 10 acres. If a suitable plot of land of at least 10 acres is identified, the State shall take all necessary steps to establish a modular accommodation structure. Based on a feasibility study carried out by the Public Buildings Administration, the size of the future structure and its maximum capacity on the land in question are defined in consultation with the municipality in question. The state bears the entire cost of building a modular structure. The Minister of Housing and the Minister for Family and Integration have appealed to the municipalities for solidarity in providing buildings or land. The Ministry of Housing offers substantial financial support (ranging from 75% to 100% of the reimbursed costs) for the acquisition and construction of housing for AIPs.</p> <p>6. No.</p> <p>7. N/A.</p> <p>8.</p> |
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| | | | <p>Upon obtaining international protection status, BIPs have access to the same support provided for Luxembourg residents and can therefore apply for the social inclusion income (REVIS). A BIP has 12 months to leave the structure of the ONA and find their own accommodation.</p> <p>After being accommodated for a certain time in the structures of the ONA, in order to allow BIPs, to find a property on the private market, the BIPs must leave the premises after the term agreed in the commitment they have signed with the ONA. They are expected to return the accommodation made available to them so that they can be assigned to newcomer AIPs. If they refuse, they are given formal notice to leave the premises within three months. Failing to follow up, an eviction procedure will be launched, accompanied or not by a request for recovery of the unpaid monthly occupancy allowances.</p> <p>Until they continue to reside in the ONA structures, after the 12 months, the BIPs have to pay a contribution for their housing. The amount is determined according to their income and family composition. BIPs have to sign a unilateral commitment to this effect.</p> <p>Several State bodies, or services agreed by the State, assist BIPs in their search for private housing or offer cheap housing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Lëtzebuenger Integratiouns- a Sozialkohäsiounscenter (LISKO) of the Red Cross, • the Logement pour l'Inclusion Sociale (LogIS) of Caritas Luxembourg, • the Agence Immobilière Sociale (AIS), • the Société Nationale des Habitations à Bon Marché (SNHBM), • the Fonds du Logement (Housing Fund) and • the social offices. |
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| | | | <p>In the context of the REVIS, in general, all persons who live in a common household, who admittedly have a common budget and who cannot provide material evidence that they reside elsewhere, are presumed to form a domestic community. However, the National Solidarity Fund (NSF) may consider a BIP who is accommodated directly after leaving a shelter, free of charge, in a private household where the REVIS is not due or not claimed, as forming a single domestic community for a maximum period of twelve months. After the expiry of this period, the NSF will take into account the income and assets of all members of the domestic community (i.e. the income of the BIPs, the host family and any other person residing at the same address) for the purpose of determining resources. Where appropriate, the REVIS payment will be withdrawn for exceeding the income ceiling.</p> <p>The Government adopted a package of measures to support the municipalities in their efforts to receive and integrate BIPs (Ministry of the Interior circular 3324 of 24 November 2015). This package of measures, which is still in force, is transposed by an agreement concluded between the State and the municipalities. The package contains, among other things, financial and administrative assistance to facilitate, on the one hand (1) the access to housing of persons eligible for rental housing subsidies in accordance with the applicable legislation, and on the other hand (2) the reception and integration of BIPs. Thus, for housing rented by the municipalities from private property owners, the State covers the difference between the rent paid by the municipality to the landlord and the rent received by the municipality from the BIP. The ceiling for the rent subsidised by the State is determined on the basis of the average rent paid in the municipality for this type of housing, in principle according to the price indicator announced by the Housing Observatory. It will be 100% of the average advertised rental prices per municipality. Similarly, the State contributes to the management costs of housing rented from private owners/landlords up to a fixed amount of €1,200 per year per housing unit managed.</p> |
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| | | <p>Each BIP child receives an additional two lessons per week in a specialized State class, in order to integrate the regular primary system.</p> <p>Similarly, the State supports the municipalities in facilitating the reception and integration of BIPs in the school and extra-curricular areas and through adult education and social assistance.</p> <p>The manager of education and care service receives a State contribution of €100/month for each BIP child cared for.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The social offices receive an additional contribution of 1 social worker and 0.5 administrative tasks from the State for every 600 BPI taken in by the municipality(ies) under the jurisdiction of the social office. o Municipalities may request adult education courses for BIPs in an amendment to the agreement if they wish to organise them. <p>In addition to the package of measures described above, the Ministry of Housing can grant a financial contribution of up to 75% for the acquisition and realisation of housing for BIPs.</p> <p>9. Yes. See answers to questions 1 and 3</p> <p>10. Yes. See answers to questions 1 and 3</p> <p>11. A number of municipalities have participated in the implementation of the package of measures (described in question 8) by signing an agreement with the State. Collaboration of municipalities in the creation of new reception centers is done on a voluntary basis. The municipality is in charge of organizing construction sites and works with the ONA and its partners providing counseling and technical assistance. The State</p> |
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| | | <p>can reimburse up to 100% of the building or renovation costs of the accommodation structure for AIPs to municipalities.</p> <p>When a new accommodation structure opens, at the request of and in collaboration with the municipalities, the ONA organizes information meetings in municipalities. The concerned ministries as well as managers of accommodation structures are present to address the citizen's questions.</p> <p>Another good practice identified is to organize open house visits for citizens of the municipalities before the openings of new uninhabited reception centers for AIPs.</p> <p>12. Yes. If yes, which ones? Budget flexibility (to increase the budget when necessary): Yes Employing more case-workers or temporarily (re-)assigning (former) case workers to speed up decision-making in asylum procedures: Yes Fast-tracking asylum procedures,: N/A Application of different standards/modalities of reception conditions in emergency situations (e.g. housing in tents/containers/gyms): Yes Provision of financial vouchers/allowance to cover costs of private accommodation: No Regional/local distribution of applicants for international protection throughout the territory: No Housing in private settings / host families: Yes Creating extra capacity within an active accommodation centre: No Additional accommodation centres acting as buffer capacity: Yes Reserving an area to build extra housing capacity to accommodate applicants for international protection: No</p> |
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| | | | <p>Prearranged contracts with external service providers (e.g. private companies, NGOs, hotels): No</p> <p>Contingency clauses in contracts with external service providers: No</p> |
|  | EMN NCP Netherlands | Yes | <p>1. Two times per year, the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (Centraal Orgaan opvang Asielzoekers, COA) takes a decision on the necessary housing capacity.[1] This decision is - amongst other things - based on the Longterm Production Forecast (Meerjaren Productie Prognose, MPP) of the Ministry of Justice and Security, which is updated two times per year.[2] This forecast is a prognosis of a two-year time frame and is established together with different organisations within the migration domain. It offers insights into different aspects that may impact the needed capacity, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of possible asylum influx consisting of first-time asylum applicants and family reunification applicants in the Netherlands; • the expected production of different relevant organizations (such as the immigration authorities, the National Police and the Repatriation and Departure Service (Dienst Terugkeer en Vertrek, DT&V); and • the outflow of beneficiaries of international protection to municipalities and the outflow of third-country nationals that need to return. <p>The COA converts the input from the forecast, with additional information and risk assessment, into a capacity requirement.</p> |

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| | | <p>The COA strives for a 91% occupancy rate, which is in some cases multiplied with a reserve capacity when funds from the Ministry of Justice and Security are available. The ratio between fixed housing capacity and flexible capacity is aimed at 75% to 25%. [3]</p> <p>[1] Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA), 'Opvangcapaciteit: een bed voor iedereen' (reception capacity: a bed for everyone), https://www.coa.nl/nl/opvangcapaciteit-een-bed-voor-iedereen, last accessed 5 July 2022.</p> <p>[2] Parliamentary Papers II, 2021-2022, 19637, no. 2765.</p> <p>[3] This information was provided by the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA) on 24 August 2022.</p> <p>2. Yes, if approved by the Ministry of Justice and Security the target includes a so-called reserve capacity. The reserve capacity is determined by the available budget of the Ministry of Justice. [1]</p> <p>[1] This information was provided by the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA) on 25 August 2022.</p> <p>3. The housing of applicants for international protection in the Netherlands has been under pressure due to several factors. First, in 2017 there was a reduction in COA staff and reception, after the asylum influx normalised after the high influx of asylum seekers in 2015-2016 as a consequence of the war in Syria. In 2019, 2020 and 2021 the pressure on the asylum system increased, since the number of asylum seekers that needed housing increased, several reception centers were closed due to agreements made with municipalities, and it became harder to open new reception centers. As a consequence, there were often not enough reception places and e.g. recreation parks</p> |
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| | | | <p>were needed to provide enough places, and asylum seekers who were granted a residence permit often had to wait longer than the agreed 14 weeks after issuance of the permit until appropriate housing in Dutch municipalities became available.[1] In 2021, the shortage in housing capacity led to a need for emergency reception locations.[2] In 2022, the severe shortage further escalated to a national crisis situation.[3] There are several possible explanations for this pressure on the housing capacity for applicants for international protection; one of the most important ones being the limited outflow of beneficiaries of international protection to regular housing (see also below), combined with the longer immigration procedures and restrictions on possible returns.[4] Below, a number of reasons/ issues are further explained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited outflow of beneficiaries of international protection (see also question 9 below): In the beginning of 2020, there was a backlog in asylum applications (the number rose to 15.350 in the beginning of 2020). Accelerated procedures by the IND to deal with this backlog resulted in a high number of asylum permits being issued within a short period of time. Therefore, municipalities had a greater task when it came to number of beneficiaries of international protection that needed to be accommodated.[5] Additionally, due to significant pressure on the housing market in the Netherlands in general, it is harder to find available housing for beneficiaries of international protection within municipalities.[6] The outflow of this group is thus limited, which in turn has impact on the available capacity for asylum seekers. • Expired agreements with municipalities: Many agreements between the COA and municipalities regarding reception facilities dated from 2015/2016 and were of temporary nature. Subsequently, in 2017 there was a reduction in staff and reception facilities, due to the normalization of the influx of asylum seekers.[7] |
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| | | | <p>After this, it became difficult for the COA to find enough municipalities willing to open a reception facility again.[8] In addition, many of the reception centers that were opened in 2015/2016 had a contract period of five years. As a result, many agreements between COA and municipalities ended in 2020/2021. COA was able to extend many agreements, but unfortunately not all agreements could be extended which resulted in a loss of reception facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding and (in)flexibility: The funding of COA and the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND, responsible for assessing asylum applications) is among other things based on the number of expected applicants for international protection (asylum influx and backlog). This means that at times, the COA and the IND rapidly need to scale up if the number of applications and/or the number of persons that have a right to housing by COA is higher than the expected numbers that the organisations and the Ministry use as the basis for the financial agreements (with the MPP as the leading source). . According to the Advisory Committee on Migration Affairs (Adviescommissie Vreemdelingenzaken, ACVZ), this means that the system is not stable and flexible enough, as it is based on short-term vision.[9] For example, if there is an expected surplus, the COA will need to scale down (after a risk and costs assessment by the Ministry of Justice and Security). However, in the current context scaling up is very difficult due to the real estate and contractor market, labour shortage, and the lack of, in the current context scaling up afterwards is very difficult due to the real estate and contractor market, labour shortage, and the lack of support of local governments to open new locations (see also below).[10] It should be noted however that the COA has been operating at maximum capacity since 2019 and has not scaled down since. In addition, if more beds/spaces are needed than initially anticipated, the Ministry will compensate the COA for these retrospectively.[11] |
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| | | | <p>[1] National Government (2020), 'Logeerregeling asielstatushouders blijft en breidt uit' (Possibility to stay outside reception center for asylum seekers stays and will be extended). https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/actueel/nieuws/2020/07/02/logeerregeling-blijft-en-breidt-uit, consulted on 16 December 2020.</p> <p>[2] Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA), 'Kabinet luidt noodklok: asielopvang vol', https://www.coa.nl/nl/nieuws/kabinet-luidt-noodklok-asielopvang-vol, consulted on 7 December 2021.</p> <p>[3] Dutch government, 'Nationale crisisstructuur geactiveerd doorstroom migratieketen' (National crisis structure activated flow of migrants'), https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/actueel/nieuws/2022/06/17/nationale-crisisstructuur-geactiveerd-doorstroom-migratieketen.nl, last accessed on 21 July 2022.</p> <p>[4] This information was provided by the Directorate for Migration Policy (DMB) on 18 August 2022.</p> <p>[5] Adviescommissie in Vreemdelingenzaken (2021), 'Er is geen migratiecrisis in Nederland, maar (weer) een opvangcrisis' (there is no migration crisis in the Netherlands, but (again) a housing crisis), https://www.adviescommissievoorvreemdelingenzaken.nl/actueel/nieuws/2021..., last accessed on 13 July 2022.</p> <p>[6] Kamervragen (Aanhangsel), 2021-2022, nr. 871.</p> <p>[7] Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (2021), Reception capacity at COA down to 31,000 places by end of 2017, https://www.coa.nl/nl/actueel/nieuws/opvangcapaciteit-coa-voor-eind-2017-naar-31000-plaatsen, last accessed on 10 January 2018.</p> <p>[8] Adviescommissie in Vreemdelingenzaken (2021), 'Er is geen migratiecrisis in Nederland, maar (weer) een opvangcrisis',</p> |
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| | | | <p>https://www.adviescommissievoorvreemdelingenzaken.nl/actueel/nieuws/2021..., last accessed on 13 July 2022.</p> <p>[9] Adviescommissie in vreemdelingenzaken and Raad voor het Openbaar Bestuur (2022), 'Asielopvang uit de crisis', De+asielopvang+uit+de+crisis+-+gezamenlijk+advies+ACVZ+en+ROB (2).pdf, last accessed on 13 July 2022.</p> <p>[10] This information was provided by the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA) on 24 August 2022.</p> <p>[11] This information was provided by the Directorate for Migration Policy (DMB) on 18 August 2022.</p> <p>4. Employing more case-workers or temporarily (re-)assigning (former) case workers to speed up decision-making in asylum procedures, Fast-tracking asylum procedures, Application of different standards/modalities of reception conditions in emergency situations (e.g. housing in tents/containers/gyms), Housing in private settings / host families, Creating extra capacity within an active accommodation centre,</p> <p>5. The following measures mentioned in Q4 have been important and/or successful in meeting the additional demand for housing of applicants for international protection, according to the Directorate for Migration Policy (Directie Migratiebeleid, DMB) of the Ministry of Justice and Security and the COA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating extra capacity within an active accommodation centre • Application of different standards/modalities of reception conditions in emergency situations (e.g. housing in tents/containers/gyms). However, it should be noted that creating temporary housing locations with the same standards/modalities of reception conditions as in the regular accommodation centres is also considered a |
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| | | <p>successful measure, which is implemented before locations with different standards/modalities of reception conditions are used (see also below).[1]</p> <p><u>Explanation:</u> the COA has been able to significantly expand the housing capacity for beneficiaries for international protection through several measures laid down in an action plan for the up-and downscaling of housing capacity (the so-called 'Handelingsperspectief op- en afschalen'), which was developed in cooperation with the Association of Dutch Municipalities (Vereniging van Nederlandse Gemeenten – VNG):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expanding existing accommodation centres, re-opening recently closed centres, and opening new centres (if possible); 2. Using (pre-existing) reserve/buffer capacity; 3. Creating temporary housing locations (with normal standards/modalities of reception conditions); 4. Opening emergency locations (with different standards/modalities of reception conditions). <p>The last step is the opening of crisis emergency locations, for example in gyms. This is however a very undesirable measure and is intended for extreme crisis or emergency situations only (and falls outside the responsibility of the COA).[2]</p> <p>[1] This information was provided by the Directorate for Migration Policy (DMB) and the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA) on 18 and 24 August 2022. [2] Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA), 'Opvangcapaciteit: een bed voor iedereen' (reception capacity: a bed for everyone), https://www.coa.nl/nl/opvangcapaciteit-een-bed-voor-iedereen, last accessed 25 August 2022.</p> <p>6. Yes and no.</p> |
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| | | | <p>In 2017, there was a surplus of housing capacity after the COA had scaled up (due to the high influx of asylum seekers in 2015/2016). After the asylum influx had normalized, there was a surplus in reception capacity and in 2017 the COA was requested to scale down.</p> <p>In 2021, inter alia based on the Longterm Production Forecast (MPP) of February 2021, a potential surplus of housing capacity was forecasted. However, the surplus did not occur in practice, partly due to the Afghanistan crisis which escalated later that year. The COA was not requested to close reception centres after this forecast was made.[1] [1] This information was provided by the Directorate for Migration Policy (DMB) on 31 August 2022.</p> <p>7. See Q6 above.</p> <p>8. The COA conducts an interview with applicants for international protection (thus, before the international protection status is recognized) on their educational and professional background (also called “screening and matching interview”).[1] The outcomes of this interview are used to match them with a suitable municipality and COA reception location, the so-called Asielzoekerscentra (AZC’s). The COA attempts to place the asylum seeker in an AZC near the place where he/she could live and work in case they receive a positive decision on their asylum application, in order to ensure swift integration and participation in Dutch society. After a positive decision has been granted, the permit holder (beneficiary of international protection) remains in an AZC until the municipality has arranged other accommodation. All municipalities have been allocated a certain number of permit holders (or quota), which they are required to receive and accommodate.[2] These numbers are based on the population numbers of each municipality. This system ensures an equal distribution and placement of permit holders</p> |
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| | | | <p>across the Netherlands.[3] The municipalities are obliged by law to grant housing to beneficiaries of international protection once their residence permit is granted, in accordance with the quota set out by the national government. In total, the period between the granting of the residence permit and moving into the accommodation provided by the municipality should maximally take 14 weeks: 2 weeks for COA to link the beneficiary of international protection to a certain municipality, 10 weeks for the municipality to arrange accommodation, and 2 weeks in which the move to the accommodation takes place.[4]</p> <p>In case municipalities are not able to arrange accommodation in time due to the current housing shortage (see answer to question 9), there are some intermediate solutions in order to make sure the beneficiary of international protection can already leave the AZC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HAR-arrangement: For municipalities, the so-called HAR-arrangement exists (hotel- and accommodation arrangement), in order to diminish the pressure on COA reception locations. In this way, permit holders who are awaiting accommodation in a municipality can already temporarily live in their future municipality, for example in a hotel or holiday accommodation. When the municipality arranges other accommodation for the permit holder, he/she will not return to COA reception centers. Permit holders who can make use of this arrangement are included in the number of permit holders (quota) municipalities have been allocated and they receive funding for the placement of these persons. • Hosting scheme: the so-called hosting scheme (Logeerregeling) gives permit holders the possibility to reside for (an expandable period of) three months with a Dutch host family or friends or family in expectance of accommodation at the municipality.[5] |
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| | | | <p>[1] Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA), 'Huisvesting van statushouders' (Housing of beneficiaries of international protection), https://www.coa.nl/nl/huisvesting-van-statushouders, last accessed 30 August 2022.</p> <p>[2] Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA), 'Taakstelling gemeenten' (Quota municipalities), https://www.coa.nl/nl/taakstelling-gemeenten.nl, last accessed on 21 July 2022.</p> <p>[3] EMN Ad-hoc query 2017.88, Distribution of flux of asylum seekers throughout the national territory.</p> <p>[4] The term of 14 weeks is based on administrative agreements between the government, provinces and municipalities. Association of Dutch Municipalities (Vereniging van Nederlandse Gemeenten), 'Handreiking huisvesting vergunninghouders' (guide for the housing of permit holders), https://vng.nl/sites/default/files/2021-06/handreiking-huisvesting-vergunninghouders_20210526.pdf, last accessed on 22 August 2022.</p> <p>[5] Dutch Central Government (2020), 'Logeerregeling asielstatushouders blijft en breidt uit' (Possibility to stay outside reception center for asylum seekers stays and will be extended). https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/actueel/nieuws/2020/07/02/logeerregeling-blijft-en-breidt-uit, consulted on 16 December 2020.</p> <p>9. Yes.</p> <p>In 2015/2016, there was a migration crisis due to the high influx of asylum seekers resulting in a high number of beneficiaries of international protection. Moreover, since 2020 there is a lack of available housing in general on the Dutch market, which also affects the outflow of beneficiaries of international protection. In addition, since April 2017 municipalities are not obliged to give priority to permit holders when providing</p> |
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| | | | <p>accommodation (NB: this might have had an influence on the housing pace, but it has <u>not</u> changed the quota of municipalities as mentioned in the reply to question 8). Because of the lack of housing, there is not always enough possibility for beneficiaries of international protection to move from COA reception locations to more permanent housing options in municipalities. Beneficiaries of international protection sometimes stay longer than three months in an AZC before moving to other accommodation in the municipality, which delays and complicates their integration. In July 2022, in total there are approximately 42.300 persons in COA reception locations, including more than 15.000 permit holders.[1] It is expected that a lot more reception capacity is needed in 2022. In conclusion, because of the stagnation in outflow of permit holders there is a lack of capacity in reception locations for people awaiting the decision on their asylum application or even awaiting the start of their application process.</p> <p>[1] Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA), 'Capaciteit en bezetting' (Capacity and occupation), https://www.coa.nl/nl/lijst/capaciteit-en-bezetting.nl, last accessed on 21 July 2022.</p> <p>10. No. Rejected applicants for international protection are allowed to stay in an AZC for a maximum of 28 days after their application has been rejected. During an appeal to the rejection of the asylum application, the right to reception continues. In some instances, reception may be continued during appeal to a higher Court. When the right to reception has ended, persons need to leave the Netherlands indefinitely. Some of those persons - who cannot leave immediately or within 28 days after the rejection – may continue to stay for a maximum of 12 weeks in a location where the freedom of movement is restricted (Vrijheidsbeperkende locatie, vbl). However, placement in the vbl is only allowed when it is possible for the person(s) concerned to return and when these persons cooperate with the authorities to leave the Netherlands. In those 12 weeks, these people can prepare for their return. Furthermore, and regardless of the 12-week</p> |
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| | | | <p>period, families with minor children who need to depart the Netherlands are always provided with shelter (for humanitarian reasons), until the youngest minor turns 18 years old.</p> <p>Since rejected applicants are only allowed to stay in a regular AZC for less than a month, and after that only in special reception locations, this does not form a significant challenge to housing international protection applicants. An exception was during COVID-times, when rejected applicants were unable to leave the AZC.[1]</p> <p>[1] This information was provided by the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA) on 25 August 2022.</p> <p>11. National consultation (Landelijke regietafel)</p> <p>Within the National consultation (Landelijke regietafel, LRT), a.o.t. the Dutch government, the provinces and municipalities cooperate concerning issues and challenges on asylum, housing of beneficiaries of international protection, as well as integration and participation. The National consultation takes place four times a year. The involved parties (among others the Association of Dutch Municipalities (Vereniging van Nederlandse Gemeenten, VNG), the COA, the Ministry of Justice and Security (Ministerie van Justitie en Veiligheid, JenV), the Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations (Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en Koninkrijksrelaties, BZK), and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid, SZW)) inform each other on the COA capacity and the status of the municipality quota (see question 8).</p> <p>12. Yes. It should be noted however, that the reception of beneficiaries of temporary protection in the Netherlands has been temporarily delegated to municipalities. This means that the COA is not responsible for the housing of this group at the moment.[1]</p> <p>Housing in private settings/host families</p> |
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| | | | <p>The majority of beneficiaries of temporary protection are staying in private homes out of sight of the Ministry of Justice and Security. It is expected that several thousand displaced people from Ukraine are staying in friends' families and individuals' homes. RefugeeHomeNL (an initiative by several NGOs: the Red Cross, the Dutch Council for Refugees and the Salvation Army), and Takecarebnb (a foundation that matches refugees with a residence permit with host families) coordinate and facilitate private housing. RefugeeHomeNL started as a pilot in Amsterdam and Eindhoven, and is currently covering all municipalities in the Netherlands. The Ministry of Justice and Security supports the initiative 'RefugeeHomeNL' financially.</p> <p>For private persons hosting displaced persons from Ukraine outside of 'RefugeeHomeNL', no guidance is available from the initiative. However, 'RefugeeHomeNL' has made the (Whatsapp) helpline of the Red Cross available to private households receiving displaced persons from Ukraine and for the displaced persons themselves.^[2] Additionally, the Ministry of Justice and Security published a guide with information about private housing for hosts (Handreiking Particuliere Opvang Oekraïners, POO).^[3]</p> <p>Displaced people staying in private homes receive living allowances and a so called wooncomponent. The latter is an extra allowance that people can use for activities or travel costs. This allowance can also be used to contribute voluntarily to the household. Regional/local distribution of applicants for international protection throughout the territory; and application of different standards/modalities of reception conditions in emergency situations (e.g. housing in tents/containers/gyms)</p> <p>On 1 April 2022, Articles 2c and 4 of the Population Displacement Act (Wet verplaatsing bevolking) came into effect, making municipalities formally obligated to provide housing for Ukrainian refugees (municipalities were already voluntarily doing so beforehand).^[4]</p> |
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| | | | <p>The municipalities receive adequate financial means from the Dutch government to fulfil this task. In addition, the Ministry of Justice and Security launched the Guide to Municipal Reception of Ukrainians (Handreiking Gemeentelijke Opvang Oekraïners, GOO). The GOO offers tools that support municipalities in organising reception for displaced persons from Ukraine. In order to provide every beneficiary of temporary protection with a bed, the Dutch government handles reception pragmatically; meaning the municipalities have a significant margin of freedom in creating appropriate accommodation (however, within the boundaries of the Regulation for the Housing of Displaced Persons from Ukraine).[5] Currently, housing consists mostly of enlisting large reception centres in (empty) buildings.[6]</p> <p>[1] This information was provided by the Directorate for Migration Policy (DMB) on 30 August 2022.</p> <p>[2] Letter to Parliament on reception of displaced persons from Ukraine, 26 April 2022.</p> <p>[3] Dutch Central Government (2022), 'Handreiking particuliere opvang Oekraïners, POO' (Guidelines on Private Reception of Ukrainians), https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/publicaties/2022/04/15/handreiking-particuliere-opvang-oekraïners-poo, last accessed 25 August 2022.</p> <p>[4] Government Gazette (Staatscourant), 2022, no. 133.</p> <p>[5] Regulation for the Housing of Displaced Persons from Ukraine, (2022), https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0046503/2022-04-01, last accessed 22 August 2022.</p> <p>[6] Dutch Central Government, Gemeentelijke Opvang Oekraïners, GOO (Guidelines Municipal Reception Ukrainians), https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/publicaties/2022/03/13/handreiking-gemeentelijke-opvang-oekraïners, last accessed 26 July 2022.</p> |
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|  | EMN NCP Poland | Yes | <p>1. The number of necessary accommodation places (housing capacity) for a forthcoming time period is estimated on the basis of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the average number of residents of the centres – for recent years; • the number of all beneficiaries of social assistance, i.e. the number of residents of the centres and persons receiving assistance in the form of a cash benefit covering the cost of stay on the territory of Poland – for recent years; • analysis of the current migration situation and national statistics. <p>2. Yes. Due to the need to accommodate applicants for international protection in Poland, as well as the accommodation policy taking into account the special needs of foreigners seeking protection, e.g. separate accommodation for families, independent accommodation for persons belonging to vulnerable groups, the Office for Foreigners strives to have an increased pool of free places. In the event of an increased influx of foreigners, as well as an emerging risk of a shortage of accommodation places, in addition to its own permanent accommodation base, the Office makes use of additional private resources, i.e. facilities selected through tendering procedures.</p> <p>3. high influx, e.g.: 2021 – evacuation of Afghan nationals; 2021 – increased influx of Iraqi nationals;</p> |
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| | | <p>2020-2022 – increased influx of Belarusians, including in 2021 – increased influx of persons of other nationalities from Belarusian territories (released from Border Guard detention centres); 2021/2022 – increased influx of Ukrainians</p> <p>COVID-19 pandemic 2021-2022 – beneficiaries of international protection remaining in the centres for foreigners after receiving final decisions due to the introduced legislation on the extension of social assistance eligibility due to the COVID-19 pandemic</p> <p>limited returns of rejected applicants for international protection (the phenomenon primarily refers to citizens of the Russian Federation).</p> <p>4. Budget flexibility (to increase the budget when necessary), Employing more case-workers or temporarily (re-)assigning (former) case workers to speed up decision-making in asylum procedures, Fast-tracking asylum procedures, Provision of financial vouchers/allowance to cover costs of private accommodation, Creating extra capacity within an active accommodation centre, Prearranged contracts with external service providers (e.g. private companies, NGOs, hotels)</p> <p>5. In the opinion of the Office for Foreigners (Head of the Office for Foreigners is responsible for providing social assistance to foreigners seeking international protection in Poland, including by running reception centers) all of the above-mentioned measures (marked in the boxes) were important insofar as they - in combination - made it possible to guarantee</p> |
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| | | <p>housing and food for all persons applying for international protection on the territory of the Republic of Poland. The measures were of a national nature (national measures).</p> <p>6. No</p> <p>7. Not applicable</p> <p>8. Possible elements to include in your answer are e.g.: the competent authority/ies (national or regional/local), to what extent beneficiaries of international protection are supported by the State in finding housing, and with what tools ('in kind' support, mediation, financial help or special schemes)? Possible elements to include in your answer are e.g.: the competent authority/ies (national or regional/local), to what extent beneficiaries of international protection are supported by the State in finding housing, and with what tools ('in kind' support, mediation, financial help or special schemes)? Integration assistance (including financial assistance and assistance in finding housing) to foreigners who have been granted refugee status or subsidiary protection in the Republic of Poland is carried out within the framework of an individual integration program agreed between the district family assistance centre (regional/local authorities) and the foreigner. Support in finding housing and becoming independent is provided by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Family Assistance Centres (regional/local competent authorities); • NGOs. <p>9.</p> |
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| | | <p>In the Polish reception system, as a rule, people who have been granted refugee status are not housed in centres for foreigners. They pass smoothly into the care of District Family Assistance Centres. Beneficiaries of international protection can stay in a centre for foreigners for up to two months after a positive decision.</p> <p>10. Problems with people leaving the centres after final decisions (negative) do occur, but it should be noted that these are individual cases. On the scale of the entire system, they are not a problematic phenomenon</p> <p>11. E.g. sheltered housing for beneficiaries of international protection run by some cities – not within the competence of the Office for Foreigners (falling within the competence of local authorities).</p> <p>12. Poland makes a distinction based on two schemes of registration for temporary protection. The first category comprises Ukrainian citizens and their spouses, as well as other immediate family members of the Ukrainian, who are holders of the 'Pole's card'. The second category comprises beneficiaries of international protection or another form of national protection in Ukraine, as well as their family members and permanent residents in Ukraine, who cannot go back to their countries of origin in safe and durable conditions. On these grounds, they obtain a certificate confirming granting temporary protection issued by the Head of the Office for Foreigners.</p> <p>At the level of the reception system in Poland (dedicated to applicants for international protection) there was no need to implement the above solutions, as long as the competence to provide support to Ukrainian citizens was given to the voivodes</p> |
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| | | | <p>(województwie). In relation to other persons eligible for temporary protection (eligible third-country nationals), the scale of the phenomenon was so small (these persons preferred financial assistance outside the centres to accommodation in the centre) that at this point there was no need to implement any flexibility measures.</p> <p>regard to the Ukrainian citizens and their spouses, as well as other immediate family members of the Ukrainian, who are holders of the 'Pole's card':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional accommodation centres acting as buffer capacity <p>Pursuant to Art. 12 of the Act of 23 March 2022 on helping Ukrainian citizens in connection with an armed conflict in the territory of that state (Journal of Laws of 2022, item 583, as amended), coordination of assistance activities, including providing accommodation to beneficiaries of temporary protection, is the voivode's responsibility. The voivode, in order to perform the tasks assigned to him in accordance with the statutory provisions, may issue orders applicable to all government administration bodies operating in the voivodeship, state legal persons, local government bodies, local government legal persons and local government organizational units without legal personality.</p> <p>Accommodation facilities operate on the basis of facilities such as: hotels, hostels, guesthouses, student houses, parish houses, training centres, school halls, sports halls, communal flats, fire stations, village clubhouses, catechetical houses, wedding halls and others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of financial vouchers/allowance to cover costs of private accommodation <p>Ukrainian refugees received housing allowance in the form of a one-time cash benefit in the amount of PLN 300 per person, intended for maintenance, in particular to cover expenses for food, clothing, footwear, personal hygiene products and housing fees, is provided by municipalities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing in private settings / host families |
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| | | | Private households hosting people fleeing Ukraine received a cash benefit for no longer than 120 days Provision of accommodation and meals to Ukrainian citizens was set at PLN 40 per person per day. |
|  | EMN NCP Portugal | Yes | <p>1. A regular mapping exercise of existing housing capacity is made to prepare the reception of resettled refugees and relocated applicants according to the country's pledges. In addition accommodation availability is secured for international protection applicants that arrive independently. Specific mapping exercises and mobilisation were conducted for the unanticipated reception of Afghans at risk and persons displaced from the war in Ukraine with Temporary Protection.</p> <p>2. Mapping of existing capacity may identify additional capacity beyond the pledges in the different programs. A contingency plan was prepared in the framework of the war in Ukraine.</p> <p>3. The large increase in the pledge for resettlement (1010 in 2018-2019; previous annual quota was up to 30; and pilot in 2016-17 was below 200) put a pressure on existing accommodation both during the duration of the reception program as well as for subsequent autonomous housing. In 2020 the country also committed to receiving 500 unaccompanied minors from Greece which created an additional demand on housing solutions, which also included the need to create adjusted housing arrangements for this specific profile. In 2021 Portugal also responded to the need of receiving Afghans at risk and committed to receiving 800 persons in need of protection.</p> <p>4. Budget flexibility (to increase the budget when necessary), Fast-tracking asylum procedures, Provision of financial vouchers/allowance to cover costs of private</p> |


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| | | | <p>accommodation, Regional/local distribution of applicants for international protection throughout the territory, Creating extra capacity within an active accommodation centre, Additional accommodation centres acting as buffer capacity, Prearranged contracts with external service providers (e.g. private companies, NGOs, hotels)</p> <p>5. Yes, these measures enabled the increase in reception capacity to respond to the different programs (for example specific accommodation centres were set up to accommodate UAM) and in particular to respond to the exceptional arrival of Afghans at risk (where for example fast track asylum procedures and the collaboration with civil society organisations and private donors were fundamental).</p> <p>6. No.</p> <p>7. N/a</p> <p>8.</p> <p>9. Independent asylum seekers have access to housing support when their claim is being processed. After a favourable decision is issued they receive support from social security services depending on their identified needs but they are expected to find their own accommodation with their respective income (social benefits or employment). If received in a relocation or resettlement program: international protection applicants and refugees are entitled to accommodation during the duration of the reception program (18 months). After the program the high commission for migration and social security services will assist them in finding accommodation if need.</p> |
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| | | | <p>10. No. There is a specific procedure for the accommodation of rejected international protection applicants that are in the process of appeal. There are also other regularisation mechanisms in Portugal apart from international protection based on labour market insertion.</p> <p>11. N/a</p> <p>12. Yes. Beneficiaries of international protection may exceptionally benefit from the following measures. In general they access existing responses for national citizens even though they may face same barriers in accessing public housing (e.g. time of residence in the country).</p> |
|  | EMN NCP Slovakia | Yes | <p>1. The Slovak Republic does not perform calculations for a specific time period or for creation/reduction of capacities. In the reporting period the Slovak Republic had free capacities to accommodate applicants for international protection. In long term the number of applicants for international protection in the Slovak Republic is low.</p> <p>2. Yes. The Reception Centre in Humenne (eastern Slovakia) represents such kind of facility. It represents a backup facility for emergency cases since all the services are provided there under one roof and it is possible to use it as a buffer capacity.</p> <p>3. In years 2017 – 2021 the Slovak Republic did not experience issues with high influx of applicants for international protection or issues with the capacity of asylum facilities since Slovakia is only a transit country.</p> |


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| | | | <p>4.</p> <p>5. In the reporting period the Slovak Republic did not have any issues with accommodation capacities or with a large influx of applicants for international protection. Thus it was not necessary to take any measures.</p> <p>6. No.</p> <p>7. NA</p> <p>8. The Slovak Republic does not have sufficient accommodation capacities for integration in the form of e.g. rented social housing. Persons with granted international protection usually pay their housing at commercial prices. The only integration facility has only low capacity and besides in the reporting period it was closed down and used for other purposes. An NGO with which the persons with granted international protection may enter into the integration process was in the reporting project period in two Slovak towns – Bratislava and Kosice (persons with granted international protection were accommodated in hostels/boarding houses or in rented places).</p> <p>9. See response to question 8.</p> <p>10. No. They mostly left the Slovak Republic.</p> |
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| | | | <p>11. NA</p> <p>12. As for the situation in Ukraine: yes the Slovak Republic applied flexible measures – such as e.g. creation of a humanitarian centre as another asylum facility, increased cooperation with NGOs and international organisations (in humanitarian centre they are providing e.g. social, legal, psychological counselling, free time and educational activities). Other measures were fast tracking procedure (regarding temporary protection), application of different standards/modalities of reception conditions in emergency situations (e.g. temporary housing in tents and gyms, registration centers), financial allowances for accommodation to those who accommodated the persons coming from Ukraine (for private persons and also legal entities), coordination of distribution to free facilities throughout Slovakia (including accommodation provided by private persons at so called host families), registration of persons at municipalities, etc.</p> |
|  | EMN NCP Slovenia | Yes | <p>1. The Republic of Slovenia has established an asylum center and its branches for the accommodation of applicants for international protection. We currently have one asylum center and two of its branches. More than 95% of the people accommodated leave the accommodation facilities in a very short time, so the accommodation facilities are currently adequate.</p> <p>In accordance with the Act on International Protection, an applicant for international protection may, under special conditions, apply for relocation outside the asylum center.</p> <p>2. No.</p> |


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| | | | <p>3. During the mentioned time period, Slovenia did not experience any special influxes.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>5. We have not taken any special measures.</p> <p>6. No.</p> <p>7. /</p> <p>8. Persons with international protection can live in one of the two integration houses or in apartments that are rented out on the open market.</p> <p>9. No. As we explained above, the capacities correspond to the number of applicants for international protection and also persons with recognized international protection.</p> <p>10. No.</p> <p>11. /</p> <p>12. Not in 2017-2021. In the year 2022 (war in Ukraine) we have employed more workers, created extra capacity within an active accommodation centre, established new accommodation capacities and in cooperation with local communities accommodated people in apartments and other accommodation capacities.</p> |
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|  | EMN NCP Spain | Yes | <p>1. There are various statistics that analyse migratory flows in order to forecast potential arrivals. The idea is to adapt the reception capacity to the estimates. This work is carried out by the Subdirectorate General for the Management and Coordination of Migratory Flows together with the Directorate General for the Management of the International and Temporary Protection Reception System</p> <p>2. On a regular basis, and in view of the migratory flow analysis results, a review of the system capacity is carried out in order to adapt it to the forecasts.</p> <p>3. The most significant pressures respond to peaks in the arrival of applicants for international protection. From 2012 onwards, the number of asylum seekers increases steadily, from about 3,000 applicants per year to almost 120,000 in 2019. Some determining elements in the increased pressure have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The large influx of asylum seekers of Venezuelan nationality. For several years, they have been the nationality with the highest number of applications (16,000 in 2021). - The large influx of people arriving to the Canary Islands coasts, mainly sub-Saharan Africans. <p>The increase in the number of applicants has in turn produced delays in the procedure due to a lack of sufficient personnel to manage the system. This has made it necessary to expand capacities. Since 2018, measures have been taken to remedy the lack of staff. Regarding accommodation, the shortage of housing on the open market has also contributed to the pressure on the foster care system. The rental housing market posed problems due to the shortage of supply and the high prices.</p> <p>4. Budget flexibility (to increase the budget when necessary), Employing more case-workers or temporarily (re-)assigning (former) case workers to speed up decision-making in asylum procedures, Application of different standards/modalities of reception</p> |
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| | | <p>conditions in emergency situations (e.g. housing in tents/containers/gyms), Regional/local distribution of applicants for international protection throughout the territory, Housing in private settings / host families, Additional accommodation centres acting as buffer capacity, Prearranged contracts with external service providers (e.g. private companies, NGOs, hotels), Contingency clauses in contracts with external service providers</p> <p>5. - Budget flexibility has been essential to make available additional funds necessary to manage the rapidly growing influx of asylum seekers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing the reception capacity with additional accommodation centres has been a fundamental measure to absorb the increase of international protection applicants entering the system. <p>The State has 4 Refugee Reception Centers (“CAR”), in addition to a significant number of facilities managed through NGOs. When the available accommodation options are not enough, emergency places are opened up.</p> <p>With the invasion of Ukraine, specific measures have been adopted to manage the flow of people displaced by the conflict, with the creation of 4 Reception, Care and Referral Centers (CREADE) in strategic points of the territory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The regional distribution of asylum seekers in the territory is a measure adopted by default by the system. - The arrival of Ukrainian displaced persons has increased the importance of Housing in private settings / host families. The Department of Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations, in collaboration with “la Caixa” Foundation, has enabled a family placement program that matches Ukrainian families with foster families. The family placement program is a pilot program that takes place in Barcelona, Madrid, Málaga and Murcia, the areas where the arrival of displaced Ukrainians has been more significant. It is a |
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| | | | <p>temporary measure to offer Ukrainian refugee families the best possible environment and accompaniment, until their situation is normalized.</p> <p>6. This surplus in the housing capacity occurred as a result of the Covid.19 pandemic, a period during which the influx of applicants for international protection was significantly reduced. However, the decrease in applications did not translate automatically to a reduction in occupation. Applicants who had outlasted their stay in the reception system, and those who had seen their applications denied, were allowed to remain in the accommodations, due to public health considerations.</p> <p>7. The system has a number of stable accommodation options, but if it is needed it can resort to the opening of emergency places (which can include hostels and hotels). Once the influx reduces and the emergency places are no longer necessary, they can be closed, and applicants for international protection will be referred to the stable places.</p> <p>Outflow from housing As mentioned in the introduction, lack of outflow from housing by beneficiaries of international protection (to regular housing) or by rejected applicants for international protection may put a strain on housing capacity in some Member States.</p> <p>8. Once the protection status is recognized, the person is supported in the search for housing on the open market. This support is articulated through specialized teams that actively intervene in the search. Beneficiaries of International Protection are handed a document certifying their status and the financial assistance that they are entitled to, which they can show to the landlord in order to prove that they have financial support and can afford to pay the rent. Economic aid for house renting can be provided. The quantities vary according to the composition of the family unit.</p> |
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| | | <p>There is a complementary allowance for the deposit and to cover the services of a real estate agency. The economic aid for these elements will not exceed from the equivalent of 2 months' rent, and with the cap stated in the previous quantities. There is also an allowance for the home insurance.</p> <p>9. Yes, the shortage of supply and high rental prices have been the biggest challenges. Housing is an essential element in order for beneficiaries of international protection to achieve autonomy, and the difficulty of access to housing can hinder the process.</p> <p>10. No. Once an application for international protection is denied, there is a 15 day period to leave the place. For the moment, outflow does not present a challenge for the capacity. It is the high number of arrivals, particularly when there are sudden peaks, that pose a problem.</p> <p>11. One of the activities within the reception system (within the 2nd phase: "preparation for autonomy") is information and active support in the search for housing. Specialised teams help Beneficiaries of International Protection find appropriate accommodation. In the specific case of the Ukrainian crisis, the rapid creation of 4 Reception, Care and Referral Centers (CREADE) allowed a better attention to the people displaced by the conflict. Additionally, an effort was made to increase, in a very short time, the number of emergency places, reaching over 27.000 places, to facilitate the reception of the large inflow of displaced people. Housing capacity in the context of providing temporary protection</p> <p>12. Yes, the following flexibility mechanisms have been implemented: - Over 27.000 emergency places were created - 4 Reception, Care and Referral Centers have been set up.</p> |
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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The family placement program has been launched. - A credit supplement has been approved to meet the extraordinary expenses generated by the influx of people displaced by the conflict in Ukraine. - Temporary protection has been activated |
|  | EMN NCP Sweden | Yes | <p>1. The Swedish Migration Agency produces four complex annual prognosis. The prognosis are based on a great number of facts and indicators (internal, external and international). Capacity calculations are included in the prognosis and they are based on planning, budget and legislation. The Planning Department is responsible for calculating the estimated need for housing capacity for the following year on a strategic level. The National Operative Department is responsible for calculations on a tactical and operative level. The regional divisions, plan for the capacity on a regional level, based on the predetermined guidelines. Follow up is done on every level, operational, tactical and strategic.</p> <p>2. The prognosis does not include a margin. However, it has been applied in case of extraordinary events such as the war in Ukraine. As the persons from Ukraine seeking temporary international protection began to arrive, three different scenarios described how housing capacity would be affected and which margins we would need.</p> <p>3. Sweden has not experienced any pressure in relation to the housing of applicants for international protection during the period 2017-2021. A number of measures were however taken as a result of covid-19</p> |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrangements were adopted to keep movements in the reception systems to a minimum • A planned downscaling of housing capacity was halted in order to lower occupancy rates - hence achieving less crowded accommodations • A number of facilities were emptied as fall-back solutions • One hundred apartments were kept empty for the possible future needs of people in risk groups • Information efforts were made through social media channels, the web and letters with information about social distancing • Cooperation with local NGOs regarding food purchases etc. for risk groups <p>4.</p> <p>5. During 2017-2021, no.</p> <p>6. Yes</p> <p>7. Yes by following the planning that is set in our prognosis (see the answer to question 1).</p> <p>8. If international protection status is granted, the municipalities are responsible for housing. The individual receives information of where and when they have to move. This is generally not an issue. If international protection status is not granted and the individual does not move out, the Police Authority can forcibly remove the individual.</p> |
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| | | | <p>Generally the outflow does not put a strain on our housing capacity.</p> <p>9. No. The municipalities are responsible for housing. The individual receives information of where and when they have to move. This is generally not an issue.</p> <p>10. No. If rejected international protection applicants do not move out, the Police Authority can forcibly remove those individuals. If a rejected applicant does not wish to cooperate with returning to their home country, they often disappear by themselves.</p> <p>11. Not applicable.</p> <p>12. Yes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget flexibility (to increase the budget when necessary) • Employing more case-workers or temporarily (re-)assigning (former) case workers to speed up decision-making in asylum procedures • Fast-tracking asylum procedures • Additional accommodation centres acting as buffer capacity • Prearranged contracts with external service providers (e.g. private companies, NGOs, hotels) • Other – direct procurement and activating the municipalities' evacuation sites. |
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|  | <p>EMN NCP Norway</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>1. To determine the housing capacity that will be needed we produce estimates on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of asylum seekers, and share of this group that will need accommodation • the capacity on resettlement into the municipalities • the number we expect will abscond from reception centers or move to private housing • the number that will return assisted or forced <p>We evaluate the estimates four times a year, more often if there are big changes between the formal evaluations. The estimates have a horizon of 2 years. The estimates are made in collaboration with the immigration authorities, the police and the integration authorities.</p> <p>2. We make three scenarios: low, middle and high (within the expected room for possible outcomes). The middle scenario is used for planning and budget calculations.</p> <p>3. The Corona epidemic in 2018-2020 resulted in significant higher need for housing infrastructure in our reception centres, due to requirements for social distancing. There were also significant challenges with regards to providing enough facilities for quarantine and isolation of infected residents in reception centres. We had to comply with new and strict health requirements from central and local health authorities. This was a significant challenge, but the situation was largely solved through cooperation on the local level between our reception centres and the municipal health service.</p> |
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| | | | <p>Early in the spring of 2021 the main challenge was to develop enough capacity to handle the procedures for new arrivals, in order to registering the application, determining the applicant ID, conducting the necessary health examinations and identifying applicants with special needs. We established the necessary capacity in close cooperation with the National Immigration Police Service, mainly by establishing a large number of processing facilities in all regions in Norway.</p> <p>Later in the spring of 2021 UDI worked together with the settlement authorities to develop new solutions for quick settlement in the municipalities for the displaced people from Ukrainian, who were given collective protection in Norway. This cooperation included establishment of new frameworks and support schemes for refugees who had the possibility to live in private accommodation pending settlement.</p> <p>Currently the challenge is to adapt the capacity in our reception centres to the actual need for accommodation. We established a significant over-capacity in the spring of 2021, when new arrivals to Norway was way higher than what we have seen through the summer months. The significantly accelerated settlement process mentioned above, have also greatly reduced the need for accommodation.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>5.</p> <p>Contingency clauses in contracts with existing service providers have been very important to cover the need for establishing new capacity as fast as needed in the spring of 2021. We have clauses in most contract that makes it possible for us to increase or reduce capacity with 40% on short notice. This also includes provisions for increasing og reducing staff in our reception centres.</p> |
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| | | | <p>Prearranged contracts (frameworks agreements) with external service providers (e.g. private companies, NGOs, hotels) was important to establish the necessary capacity in the first weeks of the crisis. However, the frameworks agreements were soon exhausted with regards to available capacity, and we had to make new ad-hoc agreements with a large number of service providers. We used the same contract template with these new service providers as we used with the prearranged agreements. The large volume of accommodation capacity is established through this type of ad-hoc agreements.</p> <p>Economic support for applicants that want to stay in private accommodation have also been important to limit the need for capacity in reception centres. In the early spring of 2021 up to 50% of new arrivals of Ukrainians asking for protection choose to live in private accommodation. Now we estimate that approximately 75% of new arrivals of Ukrainians chose to live in reception centres.</p> <p>6. Yes</p> <p>7. Flexible housing was in the 2017-2020 period ensured by a high flexibility in our framework agreements and contracts with the service providers, in order to adjust capacity accordingly. We could increase or reduce the number of beds we pay for in our reception centres by 40% to adjust to changing needs for accommodation. To be able to cope with the large influx of Ukrainian refugees during the spring of 2021 we had to make use of many ad-hoc solutions, with contracts with service providers that didn't have the flexibility mentioned above. We therefore have a significant over-capacity of accommodation, where there are limitations on how fast we can reduce the surplus capacity. There is, in the contracts, an ensured minimum contract duration of 3 months before the contract can be terminated. We now terminate most contracts as quickly as</p> |
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| | | | <p>the contract terms allow. There are no provisions in our contract with service providers that allow for using the housing capacity for other purposes. This results in that we now have a number of reception centres with no occupants.</p> <p>8. The outflow to regular housing with support from the authorities involves three public authorities (1) The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (2) The Directorate of Integration and Diversity (3) The specific municipality that will settle the person granted with international protection. The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (delegated to the accommodation centre) is responsible for mapping of skills, education, family relations, and proposals for facilitation in connection with the outflow to regular housing (settlement in a municipality). This is done while the applicants stay in accommodation centre. It is the Directorate of integration and diversity which decides where regular housing is offered. This is based on the mapping of the person, in order to try and match what opportunities for work, education or even health services in the assigned municipality Norwegian settlement policy aims to offer regular housing in both large and smaller municipalities - all through the country. Its optional for the municipalities to offer regular housing to beneficiaries of international protection. The decision to offer beneficiaries of international protection is decided through political processes in municipalities. When a municipality has agreed to offer regular housing, the accommodation center will make contact with the municipality, take responsibility for travel arrangements and other practicalities in accordance with the date decided by the municipality. After a beneficiary has been settled, the municipality is responsible for housing and financial support, training in an Integration program (which includes temporary work with language training). The services given by the municipality in the integration period (5</p> |
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| | | | <p>year) is regulated by law. The municipality receives a fixed grant for a five year period from the Directorate of Integration and Diversity.</p> <p>It is optional for persons granted international protection to accept an offer of regular housing with assistance from the authorities. If they do not accept the offer they must be self-sufficient and find suitable housing on their own. To decline support from the authorities could have consequences on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial support from the municipality and accommodation center • Travel cost when moving from the accommodation center. • The right to housing in an accommodation center if they can't manage being self-sufficient. • The right to participate in training and integration program. <p>9.</p> <p>Our experience is that outflow from accommodation centers to regular housing, can be challenging due to high influx to of applicants to the country. It could be lack of sufficient houses in a municipality may be a bottle neck for the outflow from accommodation centers to regular housing. Elements like that the municipalities need facilitated housing and sufficient staff to give services in accordance with public regulations. The municipality has the full responsibility after the persons arrival to the municipality. In some situations, (1) a person is granted a limited residence permit (without rights to settlement with public help) because there is doubt about their identity or because their identity has not been adequately documented or (2) that an applicant is rejected. These people occupy places at the accommodation centres and can stay for many years.</p> <p>10.</p> |
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| | | | <p>No! All Ukrainian who asks for protection are given a Norwegian version of temporary collective protection. (Norwegian Immigration Act §34). Even though there are some grounds for rejections, the number of potential returnees are insignificant and does not have any measurable impact on the need for capacity to house international protection applicants. The number of negative decisions for applicants other than Ukrainians are also low and does not have any significant impact on the need for capacity.</p> <p>11. The close cooperation and coordination between The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration, The Directorate of Integration and Diversity, and the municipalities has been important in developing a more efficient and faster settlement process.</p> <p>12.</p> |
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