

Case study - RIGA

Socio-economic inclusion of asylum seekers, refugees and persons who have obtained the alternative status in Latvia

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General description



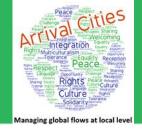
- In 2015 Latvia has made the commitment to receive 531 persons within the EU Relocation Programme
- **318** persons relocated (untill 17/05/2017)
- In 2016 350 applicants applied for asylum in Latvia (including 163 EU Relocation Programme).
- TOP 3 countries: Syria, Afghanistan, Russia
- In 2017 (at the end of April) 211 applicants applied for asylum in Latvia (including 145 EU Relocation Programme)
- TOP 3 countries: Syria, Eritrea, Kazakhstan
- In 2016 and 2017 (at the end of April) 4 unaccompanied minors







Latvia's asylum policy



- Action Plan for Relocation and Admission of Persons who Need
 International Protection (2 December, 2015)
- AIM of the Action Plan is the creation of a system corresponding to the circumstances of Latvia for admitting asylum seekers, as well as for socio-economic inclusion of refugees and persons who have obtained the alternative status
 - I Selection and relocation of persons
 - II Admission, accommodation of asylum seekers
 - **III** Socioeconomic inclusion







During the asylum procedure



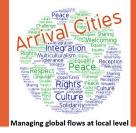
- Reception centre for asylum seekers "Mucenieki"
- 148 asylum seekers (on April 2017)
- 3 EUR per day
- Acquisition of Latvian language (120h)
- 5 introductory courses for 4h: regarding culture, accommodation, employment, education, health care, social security, social assistance + activities for getting acquainted with the history and cultural objects in Latvia
- Introductory courses regarding employment
- Learning materials and informative animation clips
- Website <u>www.beglis.lv</u> (in 6 languages)







Benefit after receiving a status



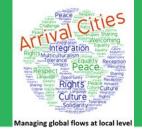
- benefit to a refugee (for 12 months/ 10 months)
- person who has been granted alternative status (for 9 months/ 7 months)
- 139 EUR per months for the first family member and 97.00 EUR per months for each next family member.
- <u>Extraordinary financial support</u> in an amount of the current benefit of 2 months and <u>benefit for covering subsistence costs.</u>
- Benefit to unaccompanied minors 139 EUR per month.
- Asylum law determine economic activity as a precondition for a benefit receipt.







Project Diversity promotion



- Society Integration Foundation in cooperation with Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs and Providing State Agency
- 6 813 045 euro, ESF

OBJECTIVE: to promote the employment and socioeconomic inclusion of persons subject to risks of social exclusion and discrimination, at the same time fostering the increase of the level of information and understanding in the society as a whole on the issues of prevention of discrimination and fostering the creation of inclusive society.

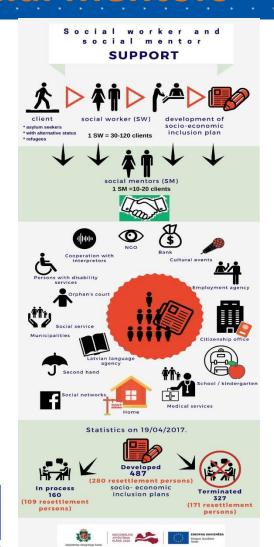
- 5 activities
- Service of social workers and social mentors 2 226 943.75 euro
- From 1st quarter of 2016 until the end of the 4th quarter of 2022

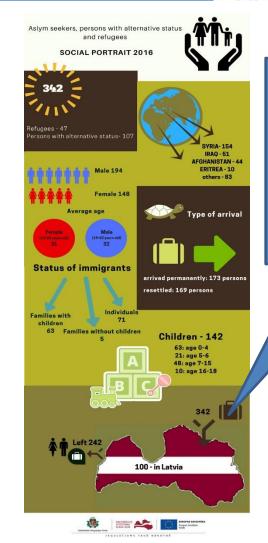




:Service of social workers and social mentors







From 6 of April 2016 till 30 April, 2017 support was provided for 526 asylum seekers, refugees and persons with alternative status.

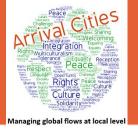




Building successes



Challenges

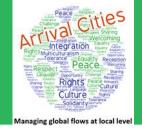


- Lack of sufficient Latvian language knowledge is a significant challenge for involvement in the Latvian labour market, formal education system, professional competences or education courses
- Latvia has the most negative attitude towards refugees in the whole
 European Union
- Almost all persons provided asylum in Latvia have left (from 526 313 (196 relocated people) have left)





QUESTIONS



- Is there a mentor programme for asylum seekers and for persons who were granted international protection established in your countries? How does this system function? How does the reception system function in relation to unaccompanied minors? Are there special reception centers for this group?
- What are the conditions for access to the housing services for persons who were granted international protection in your countries? Is there support from municipality or the state? What kind of appartments are provided?





