

Labour market integration of refugees in Sweden

International Metropolis Conference 2017

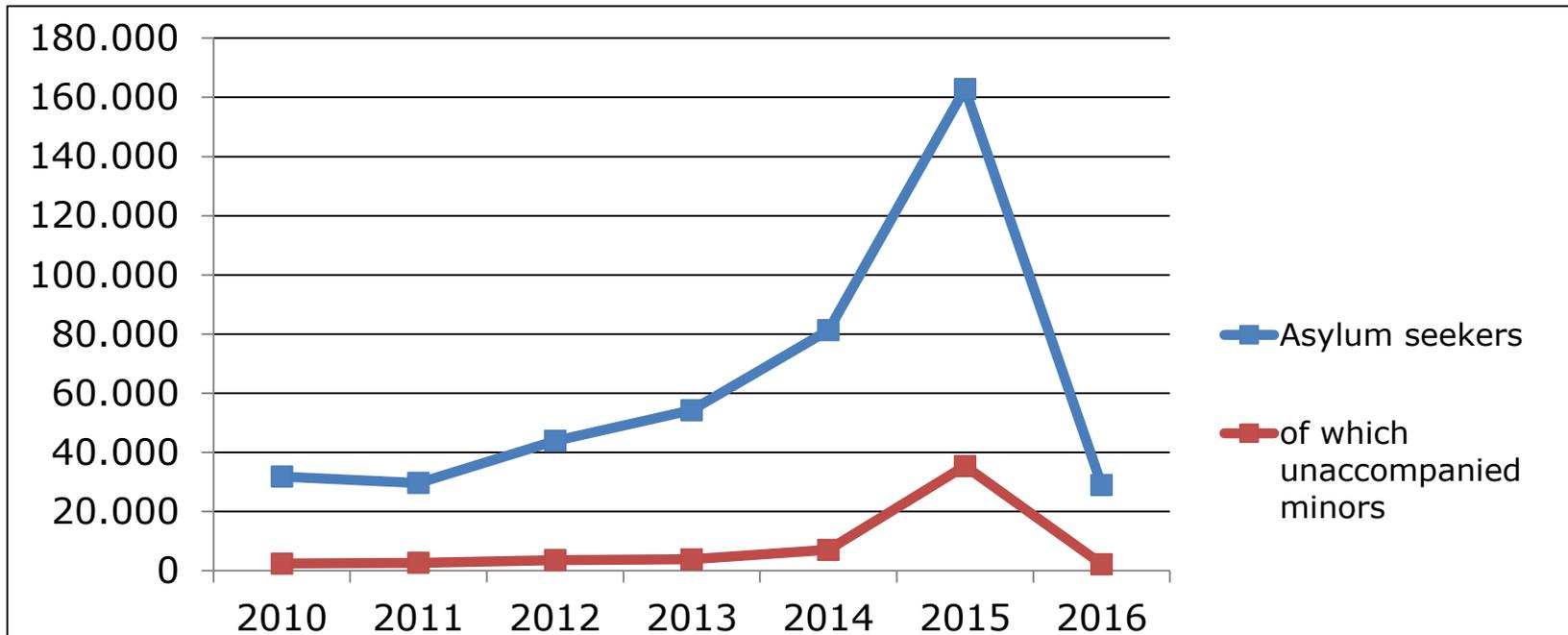
Workshop: Fair labour market integration of refugees

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Background: Asylum applications in Sweden, 2010-2016



Protection rate for asylum seekers in Sweden is comparatively high: 55% in 2015 and 60% in 2016 → Majority allowed to stay.

Source: Swedish Migration Agency

Political reaction to refugee situation in 2015

- Changes to the Swedish asylum system to achieve a “dramatic reduction in the number of people who seek asylum and are granted a residence permit in Sweden”
- Improve the integration of those who are already there. Strongest emphasis on labour market participation

→ **Conflicting objectives?**

Recent challenges

- Almost **163.000 new asylum seekers in 2015**, more than ever
- **Lack of affordable housing** → Settlement process can be delayed
- **Over-burdening of responsible authorities** (state and municipalities) → often too little time for individual help
- **Lack of (simple) jobs** → Takes years until new arrivals find jobs
- **Longer wait times** in the asylum system and for family reunification

Labour market integration of refugees

- Goal of Swedish integration policy: Equal rights for all, irrespective of background
- Mainly to be achieved through general policies for the entire population. But: special measures for newly arrived refugees
- Big **difference** between **those who are granted protection** on the one hand – and those who are **still in the asylum process** + those who remain in Sweden despite **rejected** asylum application on the other hand (considered part of the Swedish population / not part of the Swedish population)

Special integration measures for recognised beneficiaries of protection (and their family members)

- **Settlement** in one of the 290 Swedish municipalities, according to a new allocation mechanism (since March 2016) – task recently taken over by the **Swedish Migration Agency** *Migrationsverket* (before task of the **Public Employment Service** *Arbetsförmedlingen*) – shall take into account municipalities' labour market situation
- Beneficiaries of protection may also **find accommodation by themselves**
- **Individual "integration plan"** (normal duration: two years), including:
 - **Language course** "Swedish for Immigrants": Normally 15-20 hours per week, day-time (there are also evening classes and special courses for persons with specific skills)
 - Shorter **orientation courses**
 - **Internships**, apprenticeships or on-the-job training
 - Translation of foreign diplomas, guidance regarding formal validation
 - New: short, **complementary education programmes** for people with incomplete qualifications

New measures for improved labour market participation (2)

- **„Fast-tracks“** into the labour market for new arrivals with qualifications for **shortage occupations**, e.g.
 - Cooks (chefs), doctors, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, butchers, lorry-drivers, social workers, school and pre-school teachers
 - Based on shortage occupations as identified by the Employment Service
 - List of „fast track“ jobs still being expanded, currently 14 professions
 - Since 2016, 3 540 newly arrived refugees started “fast-track” activities (1 072 women, 2 468 men)
- Government-subsidised jobs in the private economy (**„Step-in jobs“**)

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Speed up your job-seeking process and come in contact with Swedish employers.

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CREATE ACCOUNT

- Publish and share your competence profile with employers and employment agents
- Get your competence profile automatically translated from your language to Swedish
- Get information about jobs and education based on your profile

The data entered in your profile will not affect your asylum assessment at The Swedish Migration Agency - Migrationsverket.

Good luck with finding a job!

Evaluations – how successful is Sweden?

- **Cohort data** from *Statistics Sweden* show:
 - Of those refugees that were granted a permit in **2000**, **35.0%** had a job **five years later**
 - Of those that were granted a permit in **2010**, **37.2%** had job **five years later**
 - marginal improvement only!
 - much better result for men than for women (men: 47.5%, women: 25.2%)
 - Of those that were granted a permit in 2014, 15.6% had a job one year later

Statistics also show significant **employment gap** between Swedish-born and foreign-born residents (age group 20-64 years):

- unemployment rate among **Swedish-born** 2016: **3.9%**
- among **foreign-born**: **15.1%**