The European Migration Network (EMN) is co-ordinated by the European Commission with National Contact Points (EMN NCPs) established in each EU Member State plus Norway.

Organisation of Reception Facilities for Asylum Seekers in the different Member States

Highlights of some of the main findings

EMN Focussed Study

ENARO

Bratislava, 21st August

Sheila Maas

EMN Service Provider (ICF International, emn@icfi.com)

Home Affairs

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EMN European Migration Network

Aims of the Study

- **Overall aim**: to identify good practices and existing mechanisms for flexible, efficient reception facilities whilst maintaining their quality
- Analyse similarities and differences in the **organisation** of reception facilities (take-up facilities, factors for allocation, type of facilities, type of actors);
- Analyse similarities and differences in **basic material reception conditions**;
- Identify **good practices** of (Member) States in handling (disproportionate) pressure on their reception system (**flexibility**)
- Provide overview of in-and outflow of applicants and the costs of reception facilities (**efficiency**) – but limited results

Reception Facilities

- Great differences between MS and within MS with regard to the type of facilities and actors involved in provision of reception
- Type of facilities: exclusive use collective or combination collective/private; use of initial/transit facilities
- Actors: centralisation responsibility in state authorities or shared responsibility with LA. Many MS involve third parties in management reception facilities.
- Differences underscore the importance of coordination, implementation and control mechanisms → these need to be further developed to ensure similar provision of reception

Special needs of vulnerable persons

- Recast RCD Articles 21-25 provisions to better address special reception needs including vulnerability assessment
- Vulnerability assessment: differences in assessment criteria, methods, timing and follow-up measures
- Provision tailored accommodation: differences in *how* and for *whom* → special designated areas within facilities or separate facilities and different types of vulnerable persons

Allocation to reception facilities

- Allocation: various factors, often multitude at once. Common factors include capacity, applicant's profile, status of application. Choice is primarily based on:
  - dispersal-system (aims and methods differ)
  - stage of procedure
  - combination of both
- Allocation is used as a means to lift pressure

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Pressure on reception systems

- High and/or sudden influx of applicants (N=8)
- Fluctuation number of applicants over time (N=6)
- Internal challenges e.g. transition service providers, expiration occupancy permits (N=2)
- Challenges from other dimensions of the asylum procedure – e.g. outflow from reception facilities (N=2)

Flexibility mechanisms

- Emergency plans (N=14)
- Budget flexibility (N=13)
- Buffer capacity (N=12)
- Applying different standards in emergency situations (N=13)
- Speeding up decision-making by hiring extra case workers (N=13)
- Fast-tracking procedures (N=9)
- Early warning mechanisms (N=9)

Buffer capacity

Different strategies and practices:

- "More beds available than needed basis": differences in buffer capacity size and methods
- Use of excess space originally created for other purposes (e.g. schools, military barracks, holiday parks)
- Use of hotels
- Establishment of new reception facilities

Strategies/practices differ in terms of accessibility, quality and sustainability

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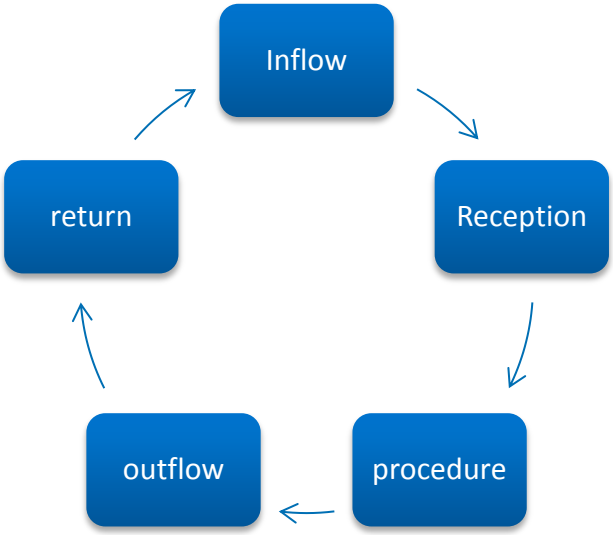
Good Practices in terms of Flexibility

- Preparation → Mitigation/Prevention → Response

- Chain Management



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Strategy to prepare, mitigate and respond

- Preparation: projections, risk analyses, prognoses; emergency plans; buffer capacity
- Mitigation: early warning mechanism; mechanisms to speed-up decision-making/fast-tracking; dissuasion or information campaigns; budget flexibility
- Response: creation of new facilities or new places within existing facilities; use of emergency structures (as necessary evil)

Scope for further action

- Coordination, implementation and control mechanisms
- Special needs and tailored accommodation
- Standardised approaches to collect and use data (pressure, capacity, inflow/outflow, costs)
- Food for thought: responsibility-sharing measures at EU level?

Thank you!

National Reports available on the EMN Website:

www.emn.europa.eu

Contact: emn@icfi.com