

Mass influx and the consequences for integration and return procedures



First Regional Conference of
Quality Initiative in Eastern Europe (QIEE), Phase II

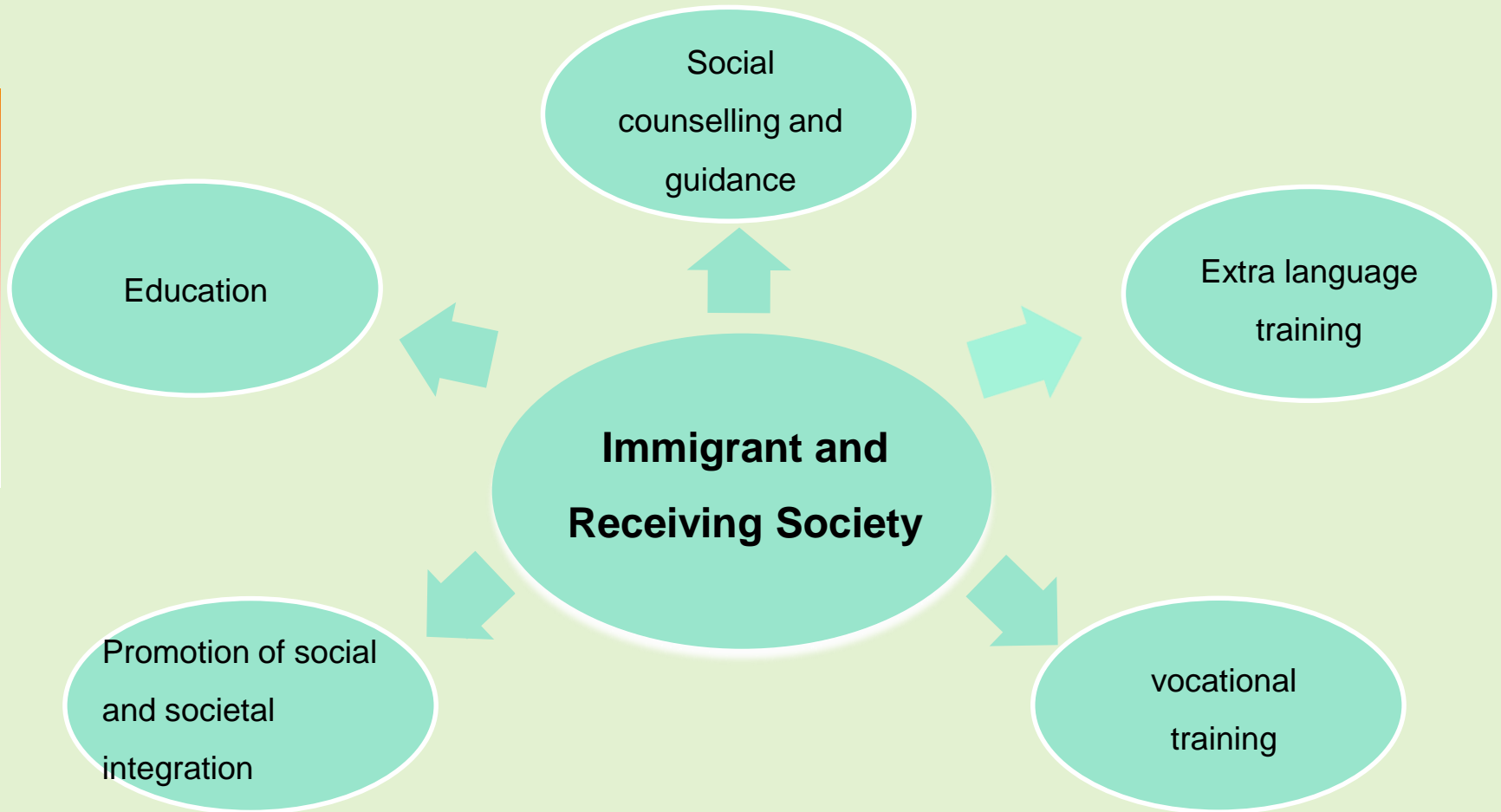
What are we talking about?

- 1 . The German integration strategy (based on the National Integration Plan)
- 2 . New political focus – early labour market access for refugees
3. Pilot project “Early intervention”
4. Integrated return management
5. Summary

1. The German integration strategy

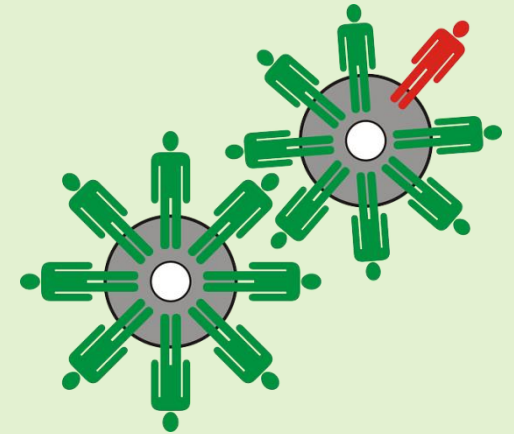


Areas of activity involved in integration

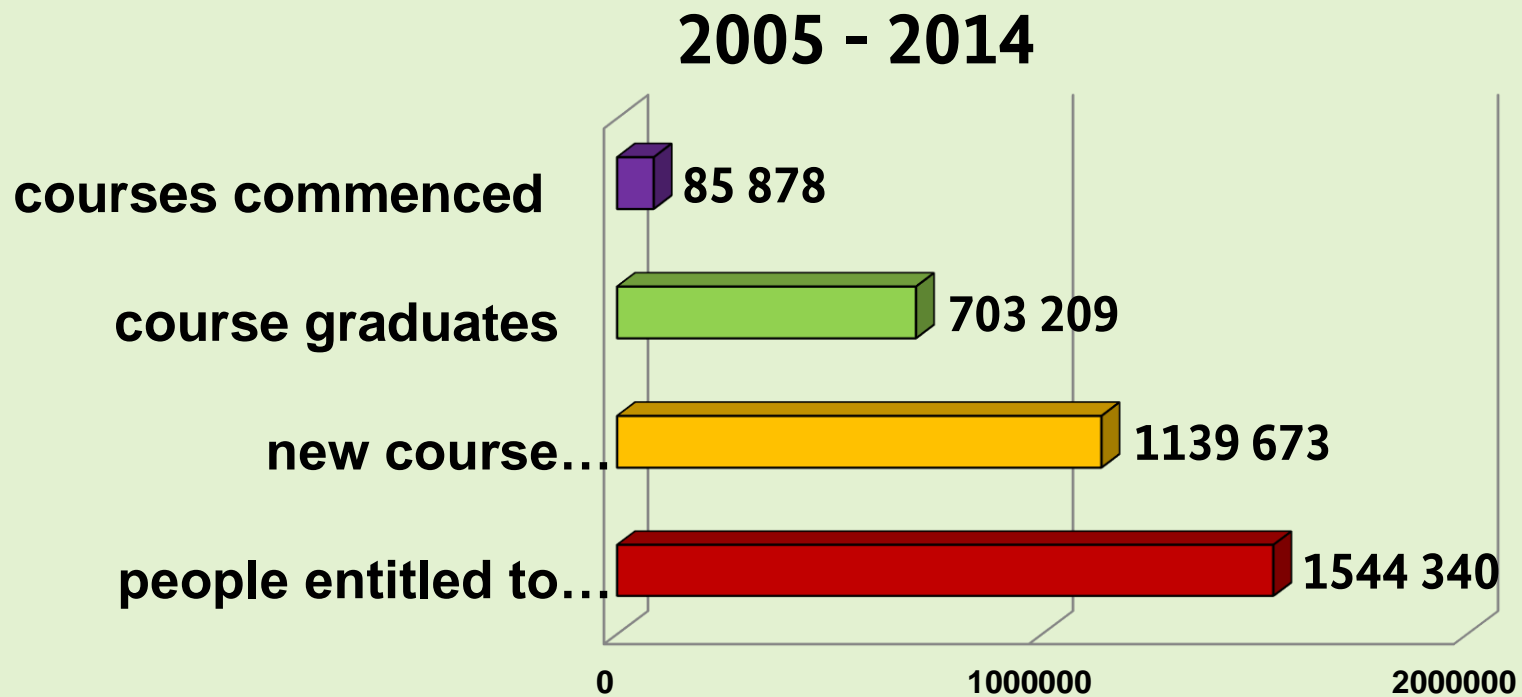


Integration-related tasks of BAMF

- Developing and implementing the integration courses
- Work-related language promotion (ESF-BAMF program)
- Nationwide integration programme
- Promotion of Migration Counselling for Adults (MCA)
- Promotion of community projects and measures for societal and social integration



Integration Courses



Concept for a Nationwide Integration Program



Published in September 2010

- The program focuses on covering the diversity of the existing integration projects offered by the Federal Government, the Federal States *Bundesländer*, local authorities and independent institutions and making proposals to further develop these services.
- Experts from the political arena, the administration, integration promotion practitioners in promoting integration and researchers jointly have identified areas with urgent need for action and developed specific recommendations and strategies.

Nationwide integration programme

Central topics and recommendations

- Promoting knowledge of German language early and comprehensively – using languages of origin
- Promoting educational opportunities – increasing educational success, e.g. successful partnership in education and bringing up between parents and schools; teachers with a migration background
- Promoting societal participation and active contribution

Migration Counselling for Adults (MCA)

- Nationwide migration-specific basic counselling service
- Federal Office is responsible for implementing MCA
- National independent welfare associations and the Federation of Expellees are commissioned with specific implementation
- Goal: to initiate, steer and accompany integration processes
- Target groups: recent immigrants and immigrants who have been living in Germany for some time with a comparable need for integration
- Tasks: individual counselling as needed
Federal funding in 2015 roughly € 34.3 million
- share of associations' own funds in 2015 roughly € 7.7 million
- Roughly 271.00 counselled persons in 2014

Project Funding

- Compliments the integration offers legally established by the Federal Government integration offers of the federal government strengthening prior skills, in 2015 around 300 projects for the social integration of immigrants (community-based projects) promoted.
- Aims to strengthen social skills, promote social inclusion, improving the mutual acceptance (intercultural awareness)
- Other measures of integration support:
 - Federal program "Integration through Sport"
 - Integration course supplementary measures for ethnic group
 - Seminar measures for integrating foreign women
 - Projects for the integration of Muslims and Jewish immigrants
 - Pilot projects and multiplier training
- in 2015 delivery total volume of € 22.8 million (approx. € 5.8 million BMFSFJ- Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth)
- approx. € 17 million BMI- Federal Ministry for the Interior)



2. New political focus – early labour market access for refugees

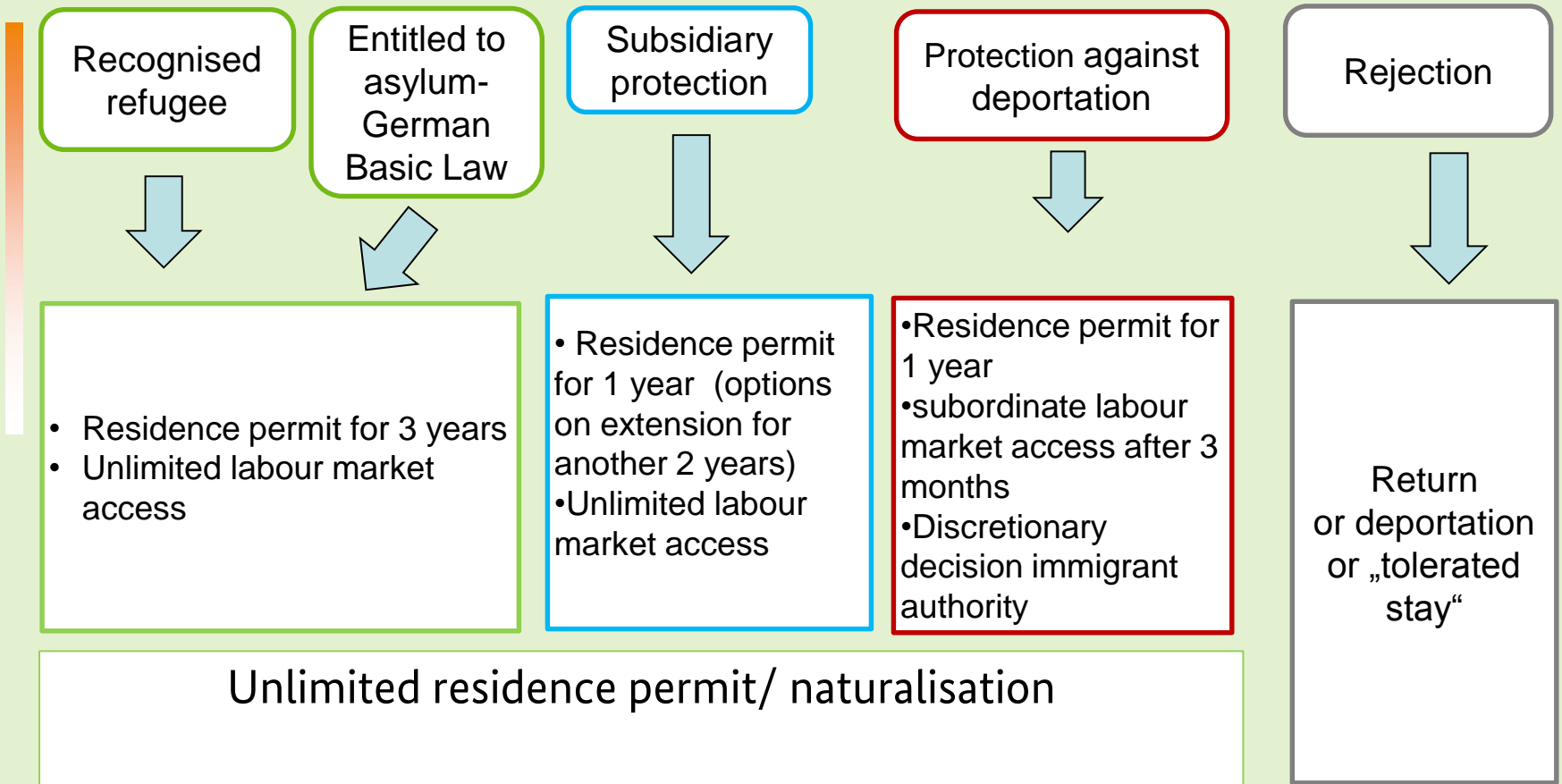
Groups of migrants in Germany

- Labour migrants
- Humanitarian admission procedure & Resettlement
- Asylum seekers
 - ongoing asylum procedure
 - Recognised refugees
- Migrants with tolerated stay



Excursion- Legal framework for labour market access by status groups

Asylum status decision



New procedures for asylum seekers and tolerated migrants

Opening of Integration courses with a good long perspective to stay in Germany:

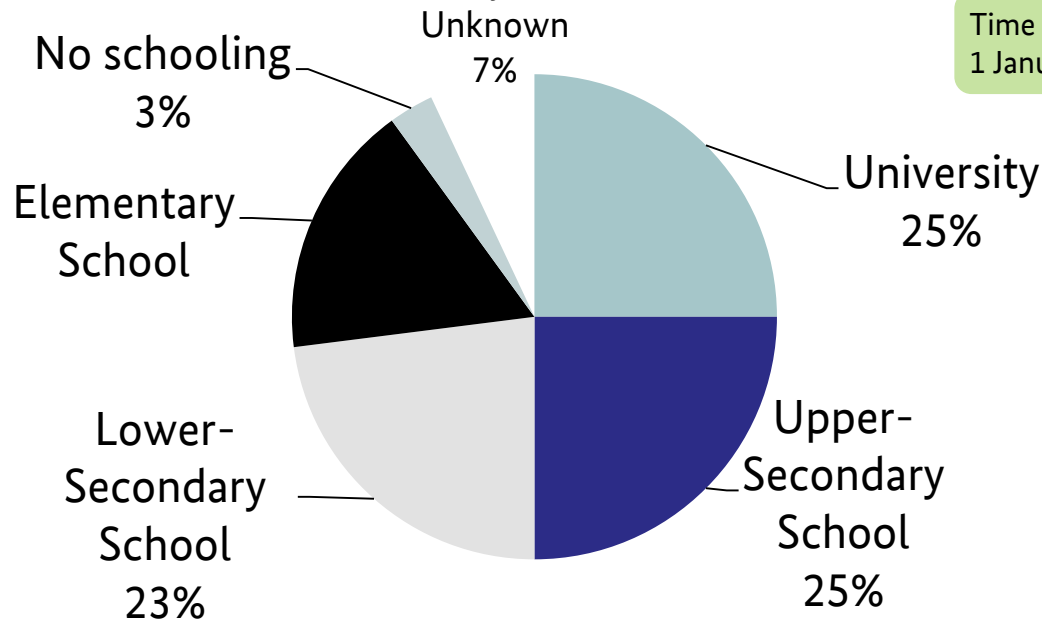
Syria, Iraq, Iran, Eritrea



Educational Background of Asylum Seekers II (Syria)

Educational Background
(based exclusively on self-declaration: 28,000 asylum seekers from **Syria**, older than 20 years)

Time frame:
1 January to 31 August 2015



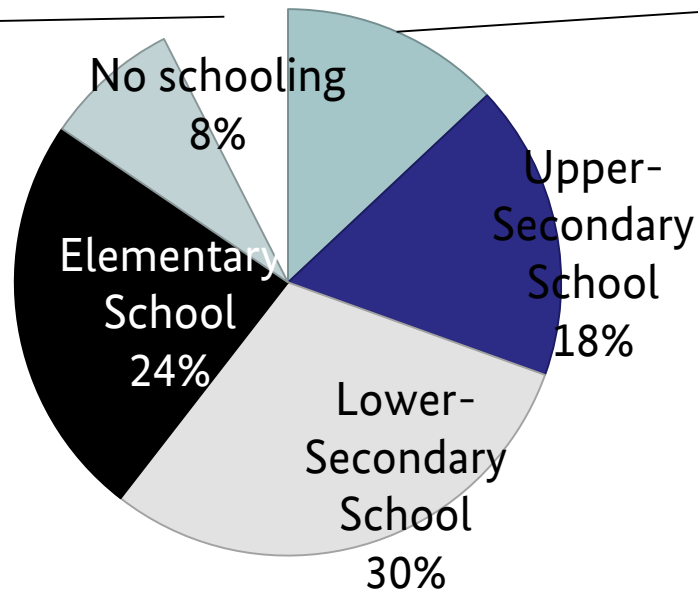
Educational Background of Asylum Seekers I (All Countries of Origin)

Educational Background

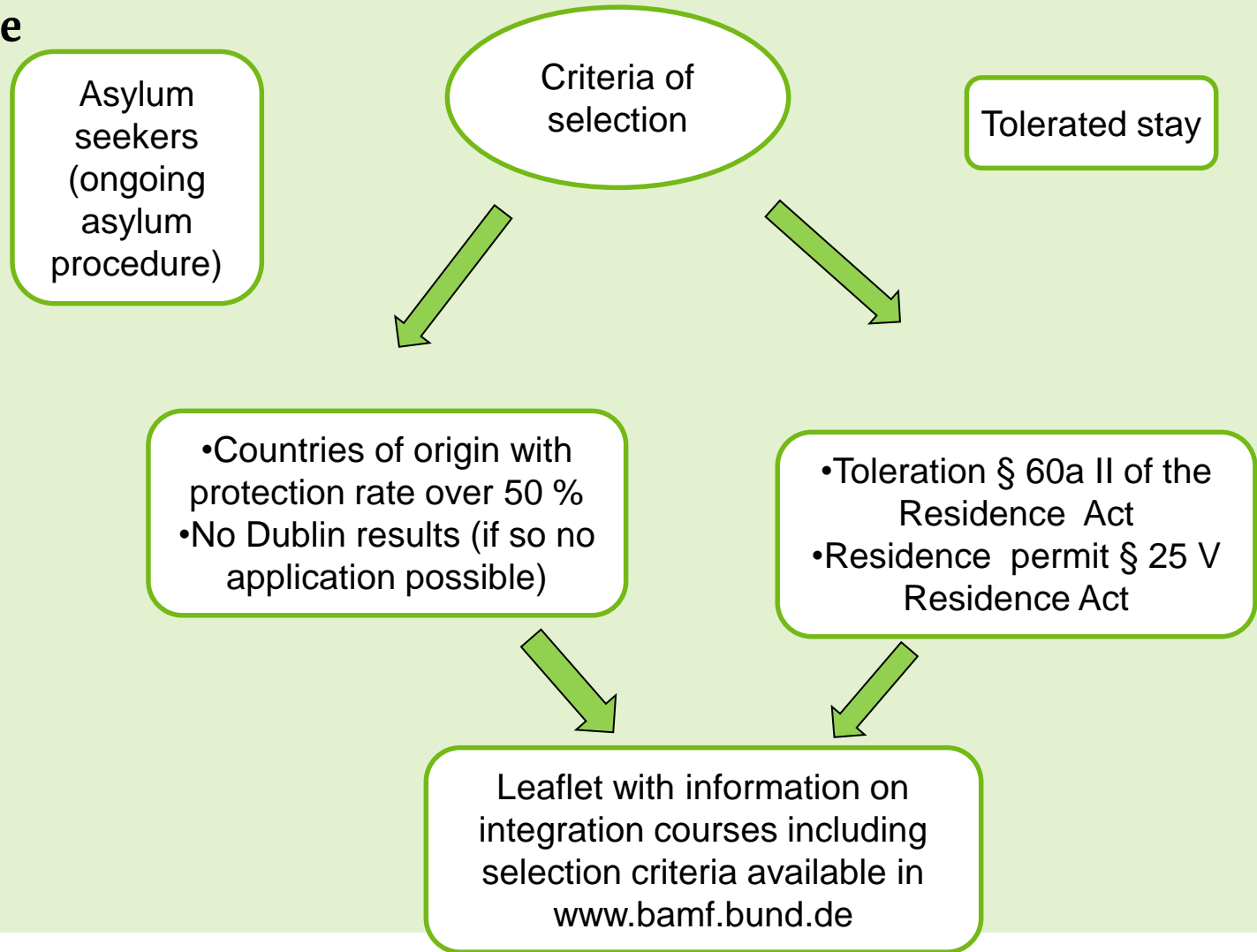
(based exclusively on self-declaration: 105,000 asylum seekers from all countries of origin, older than 20 years. Research project is ongoing.)

Unknown
7,5%

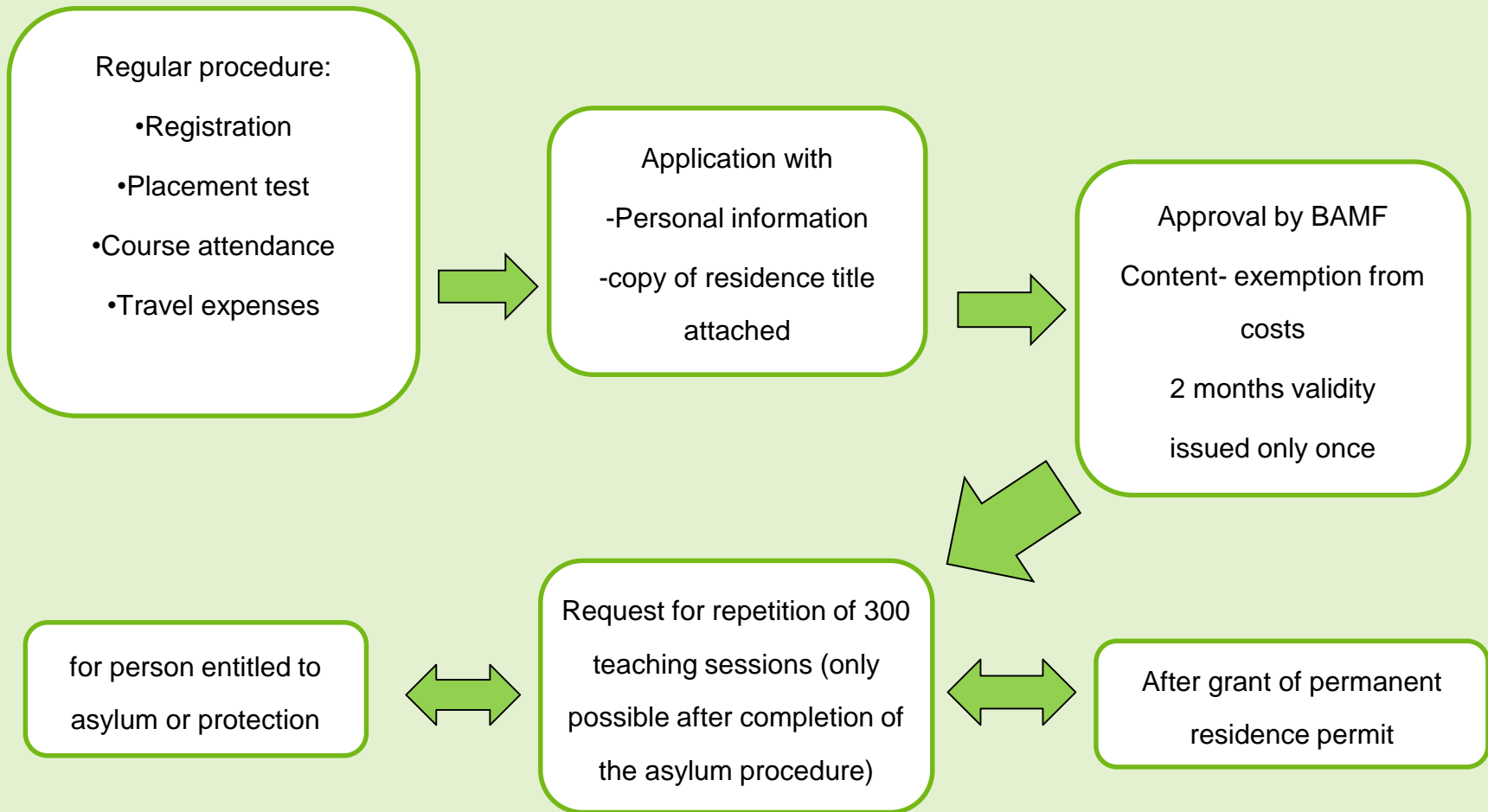
Time frame:
1 January to 31 August 2015



Opening integration courses for asylum seekers and tolerated stay people



Regular procedure



Legal Framework for Labour Market Access – Changes

Priority check/labour market test was eliminated for asylum seekers and persons with temporary suspension of deportation for shortage occupations, apprenticeships and occupations that lead to the recognition of foreign credentials or after 15 months of residence (in effect since 11 Nov. 2014; **only until 10 Nov. 2017**)

Geographic restrictions were shortened to the first three months → Act to improve the legal status of asylum seekers and foreigners whose deportation has been suspended, (in effect since 01 January 2015).

It was made easier for persons with temporary suspension of deportation to receive a permanent title of residence after 8 years → Act redefining the right to stay and termination of residence (in effect since 01 August 2015).

Asylum Procedure Acceleration Act (in effect since 24 October 2015)

→ Opening up integration courses to asylum seekers who have good prospects of permanent residence and persons with temporary suspension of deportation

→ Employment ban for asylum seekers from safe third countries of origin who have applied for asylum after 01 September 2015.

3. Experiences from the Pilot Project

„Early Intervention / Every Human Being Has Potential“

Pilot project of the Federal Employment Agency in cooperation with the federal program „XENOS – Labour Market Support for Permanent Residents and Refugees“ (Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs) and the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees

Duration: until the end of 2015

Pilot Locations:

Augsburg, Cologne, Dresden, Freiburg, Hamburg, Bremen;

since 2015: Berlin, Ludwigshafen, Hannover

Goals:

- Implementing the new political (coalition agreement) and legal framework for fostering labour market integration already during the asylum process
- Recognition and assurance of the potential of refugees for the labour market and society as a whole
- Gain knowledge about potential barriers regarding successful access to the labour market and further development of employability schemes and other instruments for labour market integration → actual enabling of labour market access effectively

Experiences from the Pilot Project

Participants:

Asylum seekers with good prospects for permanent residence (prerequisite for book III of the Social code), selected based on protection rate of their countries of origin (at the beginning of 2014):

Syria, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Eritrea, Somalia, Sri Lanka

Implementation:

- The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, on the basis of declarations of consent, facilitates the contact between asylum seekers and the Federal Employment Agency (Dublin cases are excluded)
- The Federal Employment Agency assesses qualifications through a mini-work-package (self declaration of the asylum seekers about their profession, diplomas and important stages of their CV), makes a pre-selection, invites them to a first interview to the employment agency and develops strategies for labour market entrance
 - → new local culture of cooperation

Participants

- Total number of participants: 829 (as of August 2015).
 - Share of women: 13 %
 - Age groups:
 - 18 to 24 years: 23 %
 - 25 to 49 years: 74 %
 - over 50 years: 3 %

- Countries of Origin: Syria 35 %, Eritrea 11 %, Afghanistan 10 %, Iran 9 %, Pakistan 7 %, Egypt 5%

Interim Results from the Pilot Project

- The project participants are highly motivated, close monitoring is needed though (requires a lot of personnel!)
- Development of custom-fit support schemes – language is essential
- Hence, it is helpful that since 24 October 2015 asylum seekers with good prospects for permanent residence are eligible to attend integration courses!
- Tools for the recognition process have to be developed further, especially regarding the assessment of „undocumented“ qualifications
- The assessment and diagnostics of skills is still difficult and time-consuming

Current Focus

- Integration measures for asylum seekers from countries of origin with good prospects for permanent residence (at the moment Syria, Eritrea, Iran and Iraq)
- Language
- Qualifications

Next Challenges I



- **Integration and job-oriented language courses**
 - Expand
 - Shorten the waiting period
 - Recruit new teachers
 - Make online language training available / develop new apps
- **Qualifications**
 - Assess the skills and competencies of refugees
 - Further develop assessment measures and tools
 - Find more ways to combine language and qualification
- **Labour market**
 - Include in employers more and earlier on, for examples training companies

Next Challenges II



➤ Education

- Establishing more and more transitional/bridging classes

➤ Social Cohesion

- How to strengthen it
- Improving the relationship with volunteers by appreciating them but not wearing them out

Training new staff

Training Center Nuremberg

Opening on 01 August
2015



Qualification measures for future decision-makers

- **Close link between theory and practice**
- **Theoretical qualification by “blended learning”**
(EASO Training Curriculum)
- **E-learning phase with the following modules**
 - **Inclusion**
 - **Interview Techniques**
 - **Evidence Assessment**
- **Special training concerning the “Dublin” Regulation**
(introduction of an additional “Dublin” module planned)





First Module - Inclusion -

The aim is to provide basic knowledge of the European Asylum System (start with an e-learning phase, subsequently processing cases that don't require a personal interview).

Second Module - Interviewing Techniques -

The aim is to provide comprehensive knowledge and skills for conducting interviews with asylum-seekers from different countries of origin.

➤ Link with practice

During an e-learning phase the future decision-makers have already the possibility to attend the interviews conducted by experienced colleagues. The future decision-makers prepare the interviews with the assistance of their experienced colleagues and receive direct feedback subsequently.



➤ **Gain first experience in a branch office**

The future decision-makers work for two weeks in a branch office in order to get an insight into the day-to-day business of a branch office.

Third Module - Evidence Assessment -

This module is offered after a 3-month phase of practical work in the branch offices (e-learning phase in the branch offices complemented by own interviews, 3-day face-to-face training in the Training Center with the possibility of exchange of experience)

Supplementary training

- Insight into the MILO database at the beginning of the qualification measures
- compact training regarding topics not covered by the EASO Training Curriculum at the end of the qualification measures
- additional training measures concerning topics such as human trafficking planned

“Dublin” training

All new decision-makers are provided with a special training concerning the “Dublin” Regulation. A corresponding module will be available soon. Until then an additional “Dublin” training is offered.

Thank you for your
kind attention!
Questions?