Belgium: Asylum and Migration

Belgium = federal state

- **Federal** competences include:
  - Asylum procedure
  - Reception of asylum seekers
  - Voluntary and forced return

- **Regional** competences include:
  - Integration
  - Education
  - Housing
  - Employment
  - Reception of specific target groups (psychological, medical, minors)
Belgium: Asylum and Migration

- **4 Administrations**
  - Immigration Office
    - Visas / access to the territory
    - Registration asylum procedure / Dublin
    - Detention / Forced removals
  - Commissioner General for Refugees + Stateless Persons
  - Aliens Litigation Council
    - Asylum and subsidiary protection (grant / appeal)
  - Fedasil
    - Reception of asylum seekers
    - Voluntary return / refugees resettlement

- **1 political authority: State Secretary for Asylum and Migration**
  - Access to territory, asylum, reception, forced/voluntary return, etc.

www.cgrs.be
Fedasil

Federal Agency for the reception of asylum seekers

Fact & figures

- Agency created in 2001 (operational 2002)
- Number of coworkers: 1533 persons
- Expenditure in 2015: 300 Mi €
- Reception facility capacity:
  - 16,269 beds (June 2015) -> 35,295 beds (March 2016)
- Buffer capacity included: 2,150
- Occupancy rate: 90.22%

Fedasil

Our mission

- Organisation of reception (material aid) for asylum seekers
- Coordination of all reception operators
- Coordination of voluntary return and resettlement programmes
- Observation and referral of UAM
- Preparation, implementation and evaluation of reception policy
Reception and asylum crisis 2009-2012

Causes

- Increased number of asylum applicants (mostly West Balkan)
- Increased number of applications for reception
- Increased number of pending cases
- Longer duration of asylum procedure
Reception and asylum crisis

Measures

- Expanded reception network (creation of new reception centres, of emergency reception facilities): up to 25,000 beds
- Increased number of protection officers (CGRS)
- Limitation of right to reception (multiple asylum application)
- Return path (voluntary return)
- List of « safe countries »
Reception and asylum crisis 2015

Causes

- Increased number of asylum applicants (Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan)

- Increased need for reception and decreased reception places after last reception crisis (from 24,000 to 16,000 beds)
Reception and asylum crisis

Measures

- Expanded reception network (buffer capacity, new reception facilities, emergency and temporary reception facilities)
- Increased number of employees and protection officers
- Influx management – ‘pre-reception’

Dispersal plan

Implementing a geographical dispersal plan of reception facilities for municipalities

- goal: a balanced distribution of applicants for international protection within the national territory
- reception places to be created via dispersal plan: initially 5000 places
- dispersal according to following parameters:
  - number of inhabitants of the municipality (35%)
  - total of net taxable income (20%)
  - number of existing reception places in the municipality (30%)
  - number of beneficiaries of social welfare benefits (15%)
Key figures

Reception network

- Several operators – coordinated by Fedasil
- 27 reception centers of Fedasil
- Reception operators (communal and individual reception):
  - 27 centers Croix-Rouge Communauté francophone (Red Cross)
  - 23 centers Rode Kruis (Red Cross)
  - 4 Socialistische Mutualiteiten, SOI Gent, Samu social (2),
  - 2 Caritas International Belgium
  - 11 facilities managed by 4 private operators
  - Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen
  - Ciré
  - Local reception initiatives – PCSW (municipalities)

Pre-reception by Red Cross: 1000 places
Reception network

Reception capacity
Capacities by operator

Reception network: occupancy rate

On 4.3.2016: 35,295 places and occupancy rate of 90.22%
Countries of origin

Jan 2016

- Afghanistan: 669 (25%)
- Syria: 108 (4%)
- Iran: 324 (12%)
- Irak: 470 (17%)
- Onbepaald/Indéterminé: 101 (4%)
- Autre: 108 (4%)

Dec 2015

- Afghanistan: 886 (17%)
- Syria: 505 (10%)
- Iran: 879 (18%)
- Irak: 117 (2%)
- Onbepaald/Indéterminé: 166 (3%)
- Autre: 2387 (51%)

Nov 2015

- Afghanistan: 655 (11%)
- Syria: 132 (2%)
- Iran: 242 (4%)
- Irak: 1665 (29%)
- Onbepaald/Indéterminé: 343 (6%)
- Autre: 2387 (42%)
In: family composition

Jan 2016

- Alleenstaande man/Homme isolé: 533 (19.6%)
- Familie/Famille: 1053 (38.7%)
- NBMV/MENA: 1014 (37.2%)
- Alleenstaande vrouw/Femme isolée: 123 (4.5%)

Inflow UAM

- Jan 2015: 308
- Feb 2015: 261
- Mar 2015: 251
- Apr 2015: 635
- May 2015: 726
- Jun 2015: 265
Capacity UAM

Operational capacity: **2,284 places**

Inflow UAM by nationality

Jan 2016

- Afghanistan
- Guinée
- Syrië
- Marokko
- Pakistan
- Andere
### Protection rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Recognised Refugee</th>
<th>Subsidiary protection</th>
<th>Recognition rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>15,4%</td>
<td>7,0%</td>
<td>22,4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>16,4%</td>
<td>10,7%</td>
<td>27,1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>36,6%</td>
<td>10,2%</td>
<td>46,8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>50,6%</td>
<td>10,2%</td>
<td>60,8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan/16</td>
<td>51,0%</td>
<td>13,9%</td>
<td>64,9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legal basis
Legal basis: Reception Act 2007

- Accommodation, meals, clothing & sanitary products
- Information
- Evaluation of needs
- Medical and psychological care
- Social and legal support
- Access to interpretation services
- Pocket money, daily allowance & communal services
- Education and activities
- Reception in phases
- Right to work (after 4 months)
- Internal rules and sanctions
- Complaints procedure and appeals
- Code of deontology

Legal basis

Who?

- Asylum seekers
- UAM
- Some groups during their illegal stay
New reception model

Principles

- Flexibility of reception network
- More reception facilities adapted to special needs

Objectives

- Less transfers between reception facilities
- Better and faster integration for person granted asylum
- More reception facilities adapted to special needs
New reception model

- New reception model on hold
- No transfers, except for urgent medical disciplinary transfers
- Priority to high recognition rate or extended stay for assignment to local reception initiative
Outflow

Transition for persons with protection status

Protection rate + 60%

- Transition period of 2 months
- Delay of departure possible
- Conditions for delay:
  - Large families with minors
  - Medical cases
  - Pregnancy or birth
  - Other vulnerability (e.g. lack of autonomy)
  - End of school year
  - Signed rental agreement

- Measure: aid for departure “meal vouchers”
Rejected applicants

- General principle: promote voluntary return as a durable solution and as alternative to forced return and illegal stay

- Legal framework (art.6/1 reception act): the « return path » since January 2012

- Implementation since July 2012: Return path in several steps

Future challenges

- Transposition of reception directive (recast)
- Stabilise reception network
- Quality standards for all reception facilities - audits
- New reception model
- More reception facilities and adapted reception for persons with special needs (medical care, mental disorders, victims of torture…)

fedasil
Thank you for your attention

Questions?