

# The situation in Norway and Kristiansand?

The impact of the European Refugees Crisis in the cities of the Baltic Sea Region?  
Rostock 14th March, 2016

Deputy Mayor, City of Kristiansand, Norway  
Jørgen H. Kristiansen



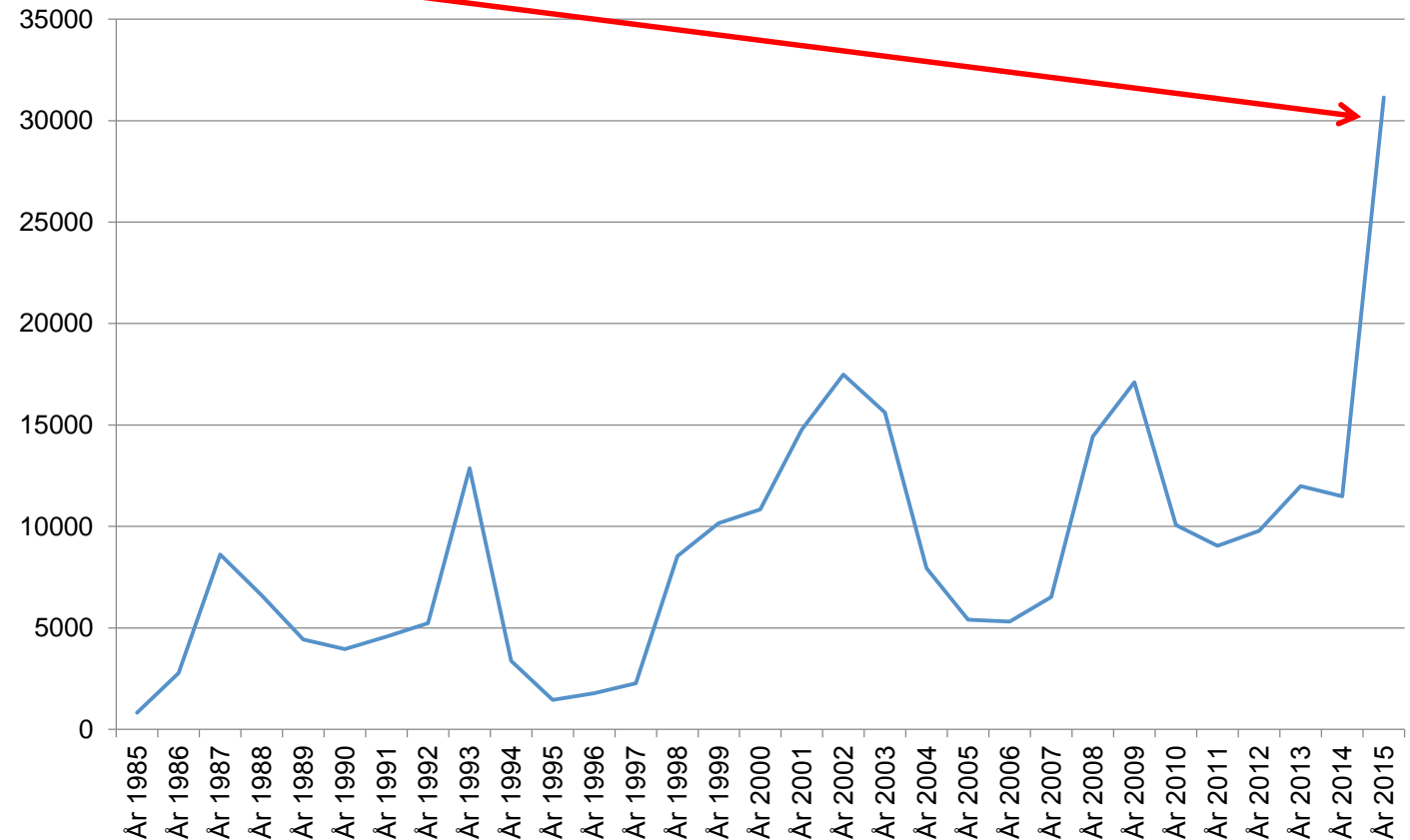
# Asylum seekers to Norway

- 2015 was a **record year**: 31.145 asylum seekers
- Average year: app. 15.000 asylum seekers
- A majority is young men

## People settled in Kristiansand

- Kristiansand: Twice as many as national average last 8 years
- Three times as many as Oslo and Stavanger
- In 2010. Voted as the best «settle-city» of the year

Number of asylum seekers to Norway last 30 years



Source; A-Magasinet, 4th of March 2016

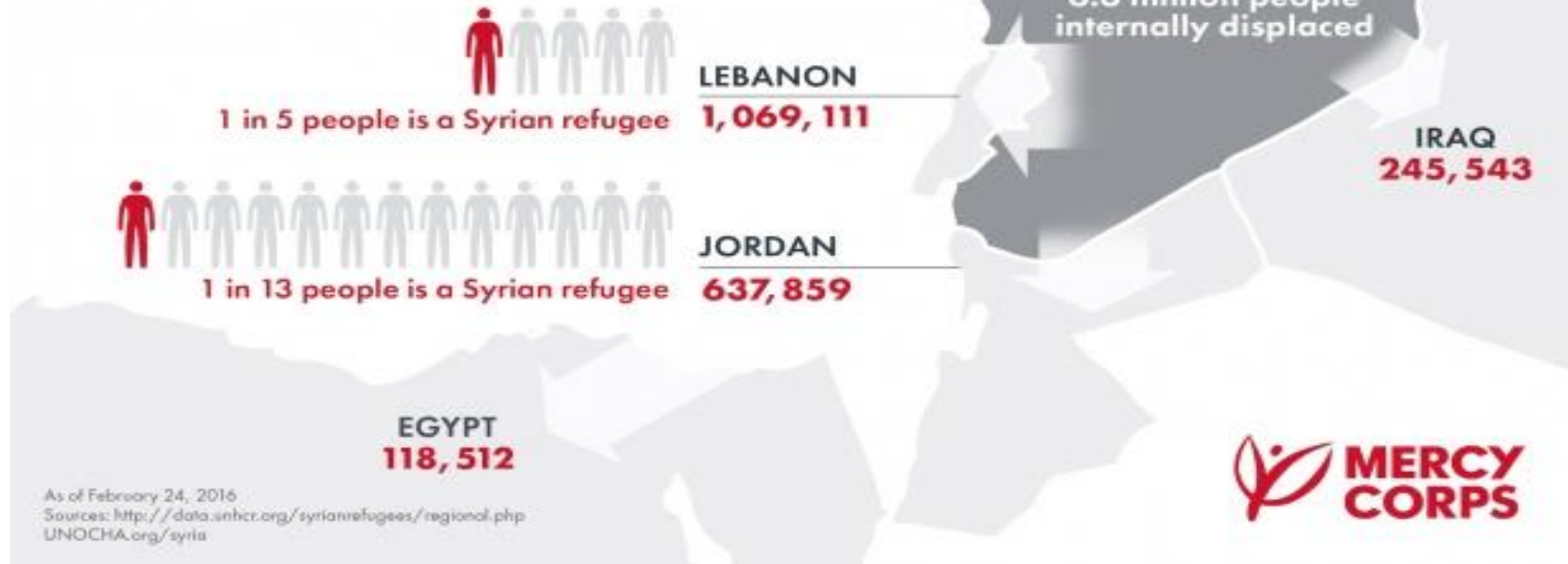


# The bigger picture

## SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

### Families Fleeing Violence

There are more than 4.7 million Syrian refugees in neighboring countries. Nearly one million have applied for asylum in the safety of Europe. More than **13.5 million people are still in need** of assistance inside Syria.

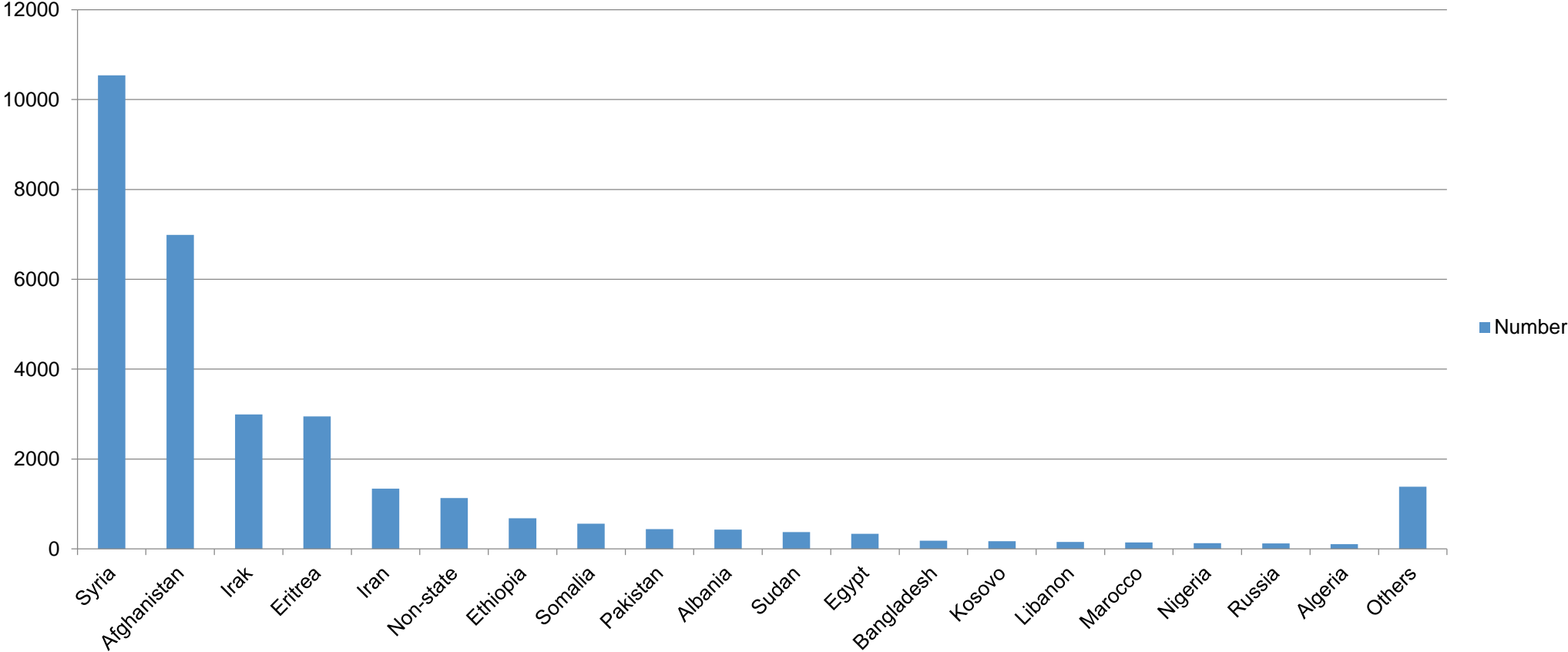


As of February 24, 2016  
Sources: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>  
[UNOCHA.org/syria](http://UNOCHA.org/syria)

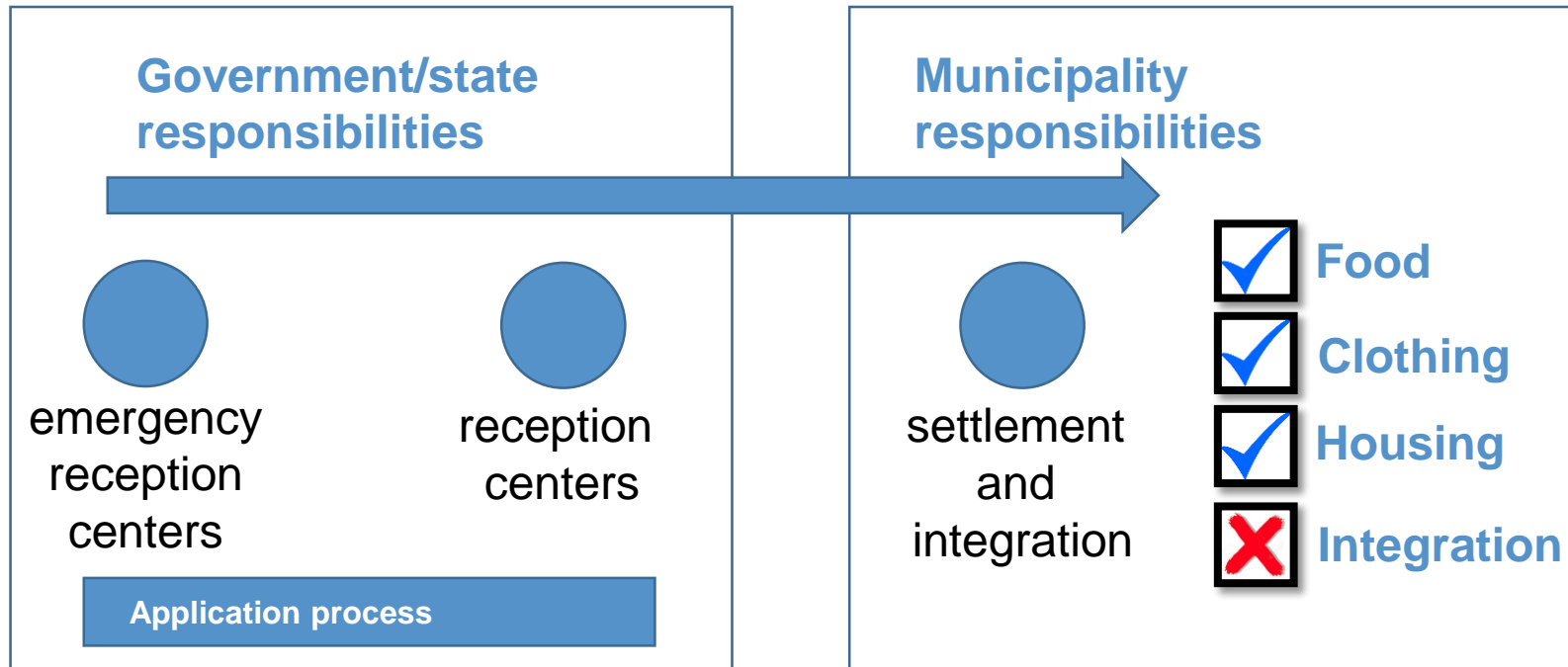


# Where did they come from to Norway in 2015? (31.145)

Asylum seekers by country of origin



# From welcoming to integration: Who does what?



*“Integration requires a preparedness on the part of the refugees to adapt to the host society, **without having to forego their own cultural identity**. From the host society, it requires communities that are **welcoming and responsive** to refugees, and public institutions that are **able to meet the needs of a diverse population**»*

*Rights of Refugees in the Context of Integration: Legal Standards and Recommendations, Rosa da Costa, UNCHR 2006*



# Different aspects of integration?

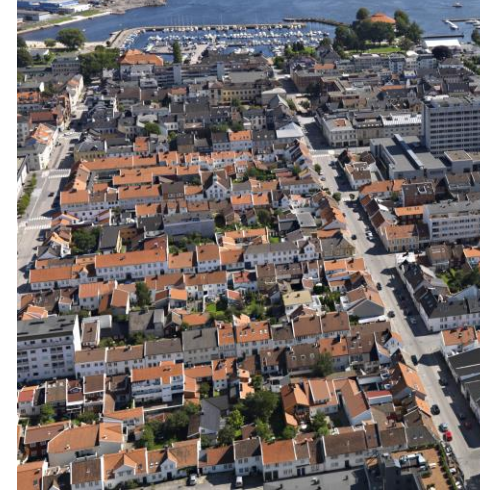
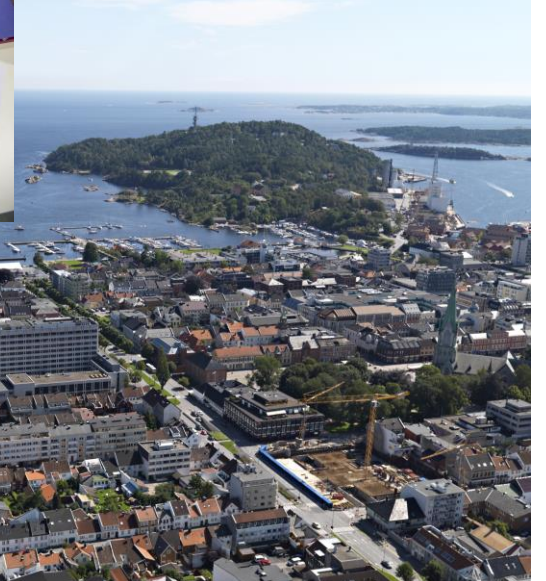
- Training, qualifications, education, employment, living conditions and social mobility
- Democratic empowerment
- Involvement in the civil society and local community
- Sense of belonging, respect and tolerance for differences and loyalty to common values

Source: PwC on refugee situation in Kristiansand, February 2016



# Kristiansand Municipality?

- 4 main objectives and activities
  - Settlement
  - Health services
  - Education and vocational training
  - Employment and activity
- Communication strategy
  - Receive and distribute information: Website
  - Contribute to increase the public's involvement and interest





# Kristiansand's involvement of NGOs

- Seperate strategy for involvement
- Single point of contact for NGO's
- Open public forums
  
- High level of activity and mobilization in the civil society and among NGOs



# NGOs and Volunteers

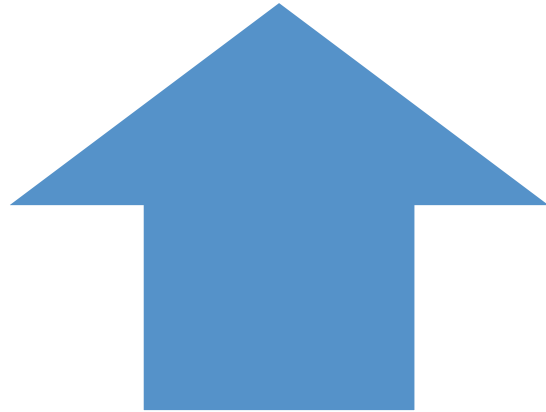
- Refugee alliance
- Refugee welcome to Agder
- The Norwegian Church
  - cafeterias - vocational
- «Buddy system»
- Red Cross
- Welcoming centers
- Fotball clubs
- Christian Intercultural work



*Refugee Alliance*  
You are not alone. You are not forgotten.



# Successful integration in Kristiansand?



69 % employment one year after finishing the introduction programme, 7 % unemployment  
2010 – 2013: Reduction in the number of immigrants with no education or schooling



Employment rate has showed a downward trend in the period 2014 – 2015



# Challenges

- Multiple fires on asylum facilities
- Soldiers of Odin
  - – Right wing vigilance committee
- Radicalisation – result of failed integration policies?



Time Magazine, February 2016





# Increase in challenges and negative consequences?

- Reduced oil prices
- Increased unemployment
- Reduced need for employees without formal training

## Opportunities

- Kristiansand needs 1000 new employees in health related professions, by 2030
- Increase in demand for teachers and employees with formal vocational training



# We believe...



that our refugees will become 'Kristiansandere':

get employment, pay their taxes and contribute to society







KRISTIANSAND  
KOMMUNE



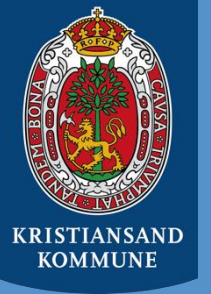
WELCOME TO FARNES  
Handmade by Kristiansand Kommune

miniBar





MAYOR



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