



CEB – OECD High-Level Seminar  
The Refugee Crisis: Challenges and  
Responses for Social Investment  
Paris, 17 May 2016

# INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE: *SETTING THE SCENE*

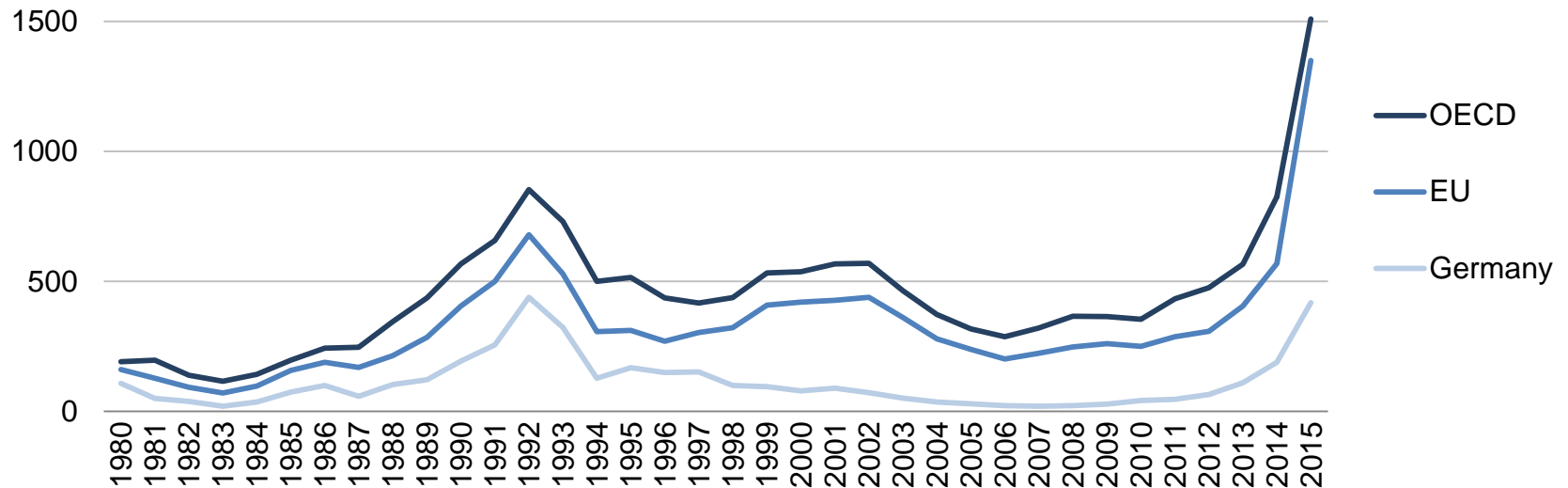
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# 2015 : a record year for asylum

Evolution of number of new asylum seekers, 1980-2015



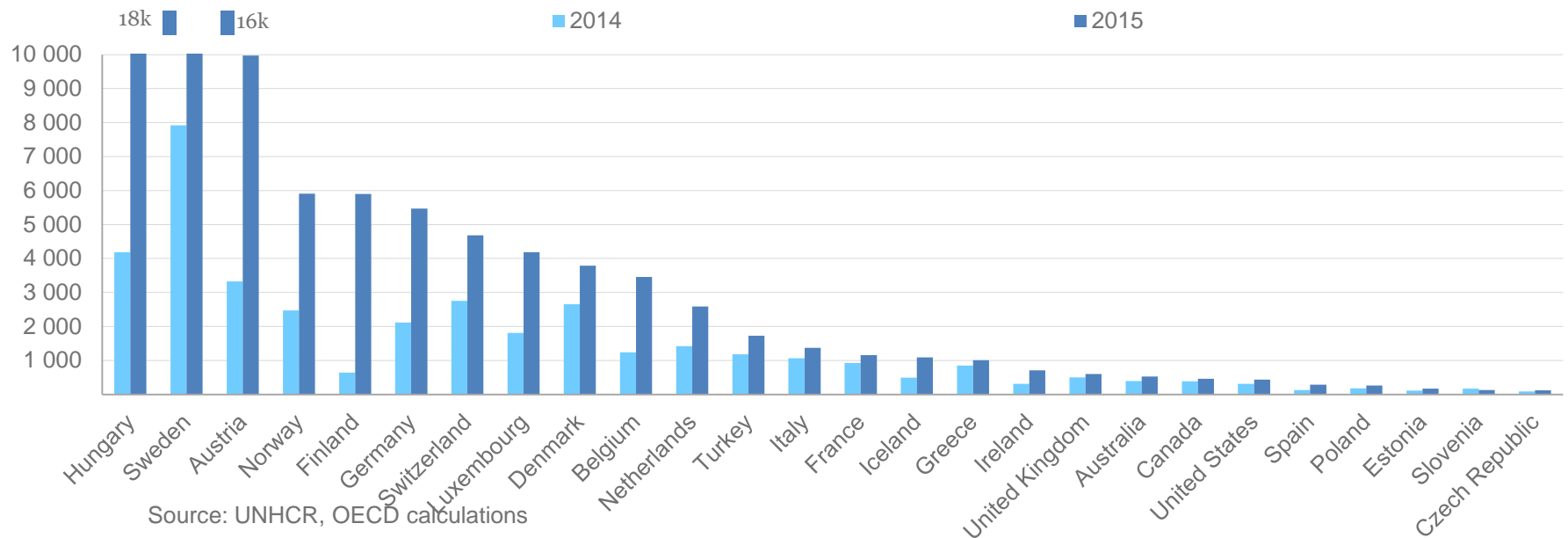
Source: UNHCR, Eurostat, OECD calculations

- In 2015, 1.5 million asylum requests in OECD, 1.3 m in Europe
- 4.8 million refugees are in the neighbouring countries of Syria including 2.75 m in Turkey, 1.1 m in Lebanon and 640k in Jordan.
- In the first 4 months of 2016, inflows are higher than those for the same period of 2015, but the numbers have been declining rapidly since March. Syria is by far the most important origin country, followed by Afghanistan and Iraq.



*In per-capita terms, Sweden, Austria and Germany have received the highest number of asylum seekers in 2015*

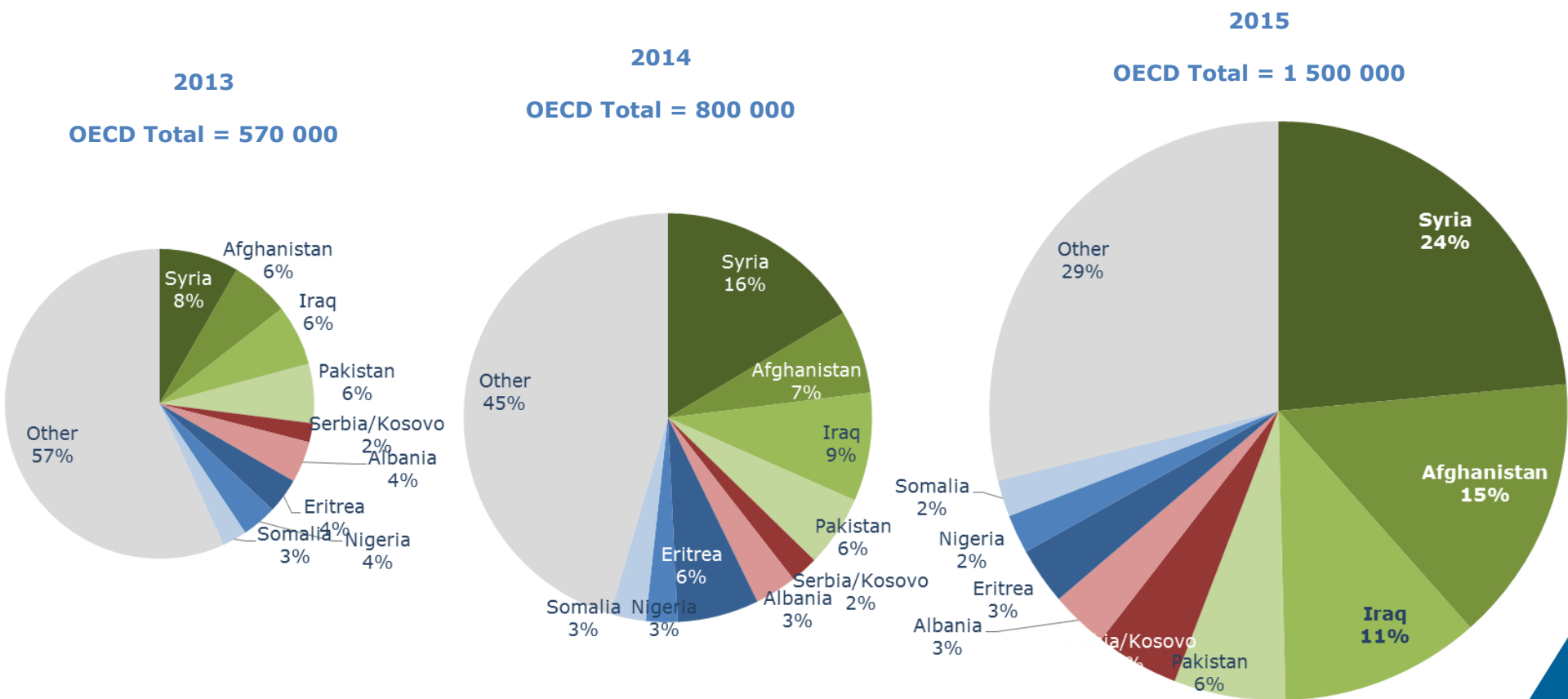
New asylum seekers per million population in selected OECD countries



- Australia, Canada and the United States have also sizeable resettlement programmes and have increased their resettlement places for Syrians in 2015.
- Canada alone received more than 25 thousand Syrians in just four months between end of 2015 and April 2016.



# Diversity of origin countries

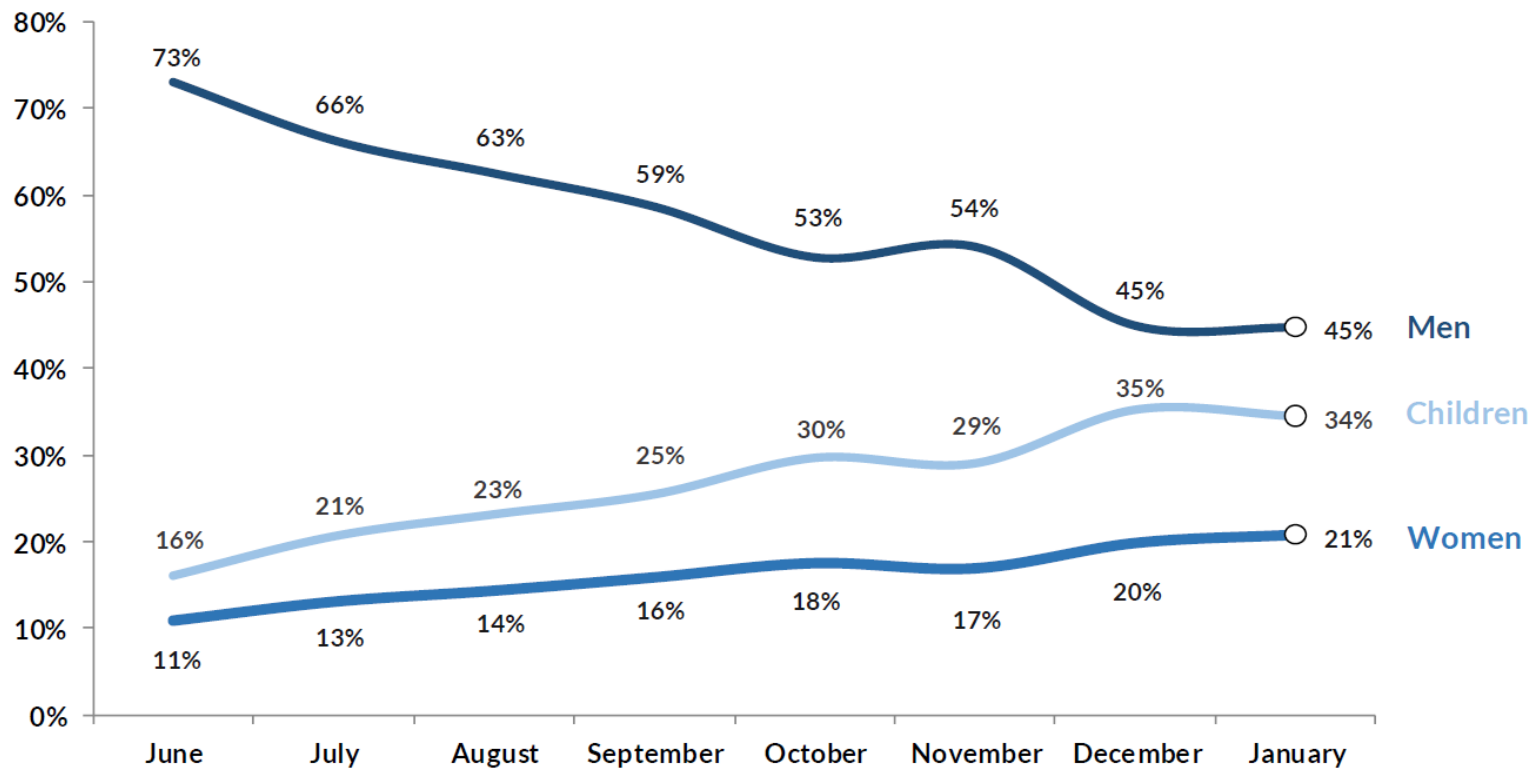


Source: UNHCR, OECD calculations, based on partial data for 2015



# More men but increasing women and children

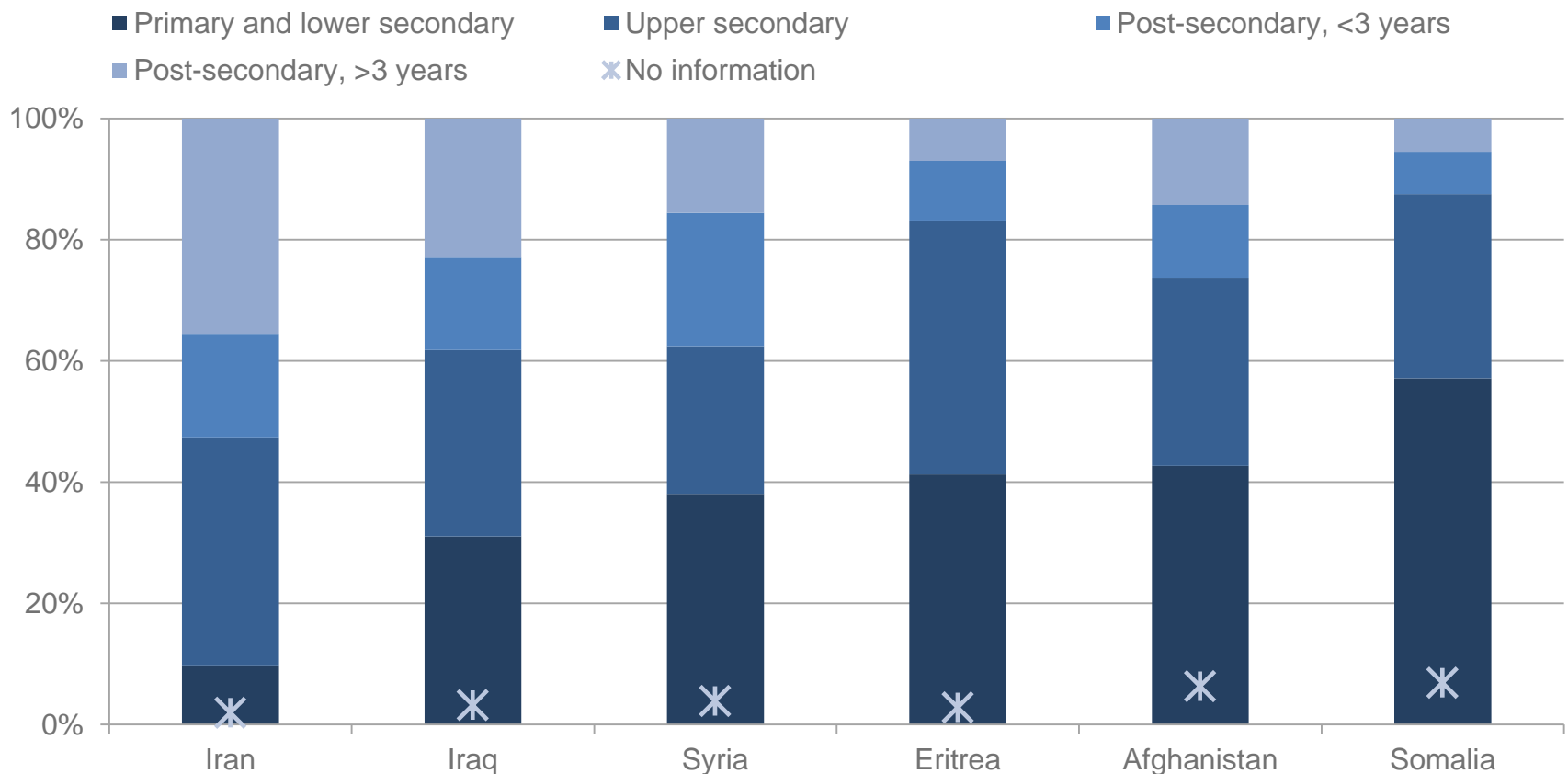
*Breakdown of Men - Women – Children among sea arrivals in Greece for the period June 2015 – 16th January 2016, based on partial data as communicated by authorities.*





# *Strong diversity of qualification levels within and between refugees groups*

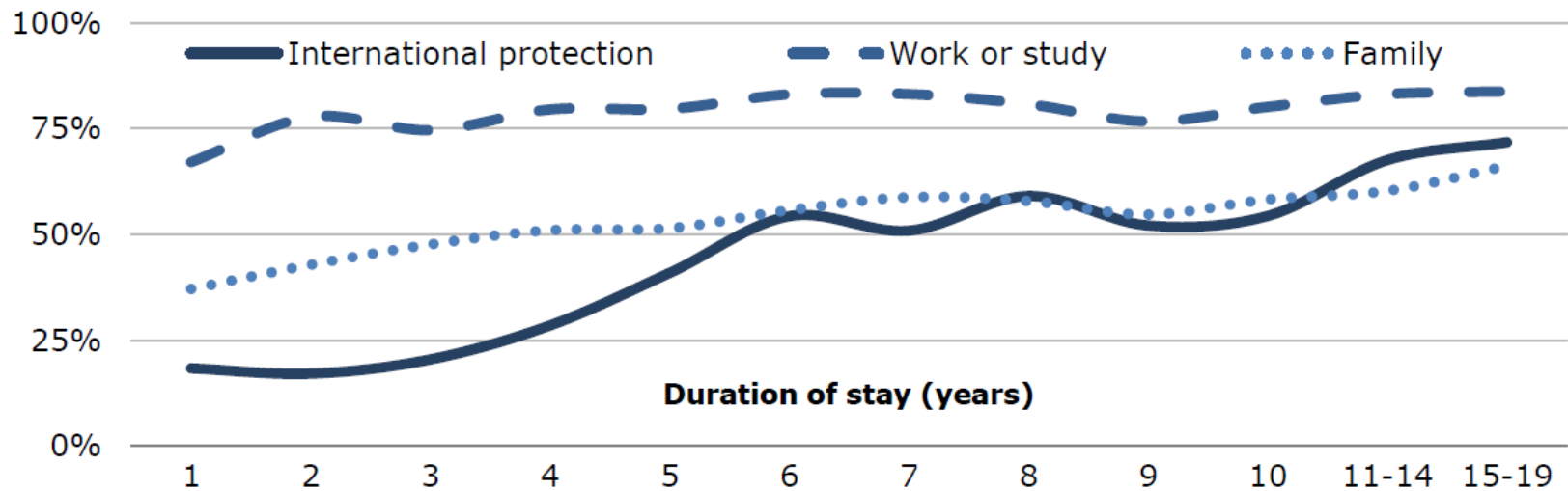
Education level of immigrants aged 25-64 in Sweden by latest country of residence, 2015





# *Labour market integration of refugees takes time and requires active support*

Employment rate by immigrant categories and duration of stay in European OECD countries, 2008



Source: Eurostat Labour force survey (2008) ad-hoc module on the labour market situation of migrants and their immediate descendants.



## *Specific challenges for social infrastructure*

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- I. Strong concentration in certain communities
- II. Strong variation in the capacity of local reception and integration infrastructure
- III. Increased pressure on local (social) housing market and education system
- IV. Financing systems do not always ensure that the cost is fully reimbursed
- V. Co-ordination, both within and across levels of government





## *10 lessons on integration from OECD work*

Provide activation and integration services as soon as possible for humanitarian migrants and asylum seekers with high prospects of being allowed to stay

Facilitate labour market access for asylum seekers with high prospects of being allowed to stay

Factor employment prospects into dispersal policies

Record and assess humanitarian migrants' foreign qualifications, work experience and skills

Take into account the growing diversity of humanitarian migrants and develop tailor-made approaches

Identify mental and physical health issues early and provide adequate support

Develop support programmes specific to unaccompanied minors who arrive past the age of compulsory schooling

Build on civil society to integrate humanitarian migrants

Promote equal access to integration services to humanitarian migrants across the country

Acknowledge that the integration of very poorly educated humanitarian migrants requires long-term training and support



# For further information on the OECD's work on migration and integration:

[www.oecd.org/migration](http://www.oecd.org/migration)

