

Co-funded by the
European Union



BM.I



REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR



Support Structures for Refugee Integration in Austria

Saskia Koppenberg
*National Contact Point Austria
in the European Migration Network*

Nagoya, 26 October 2016

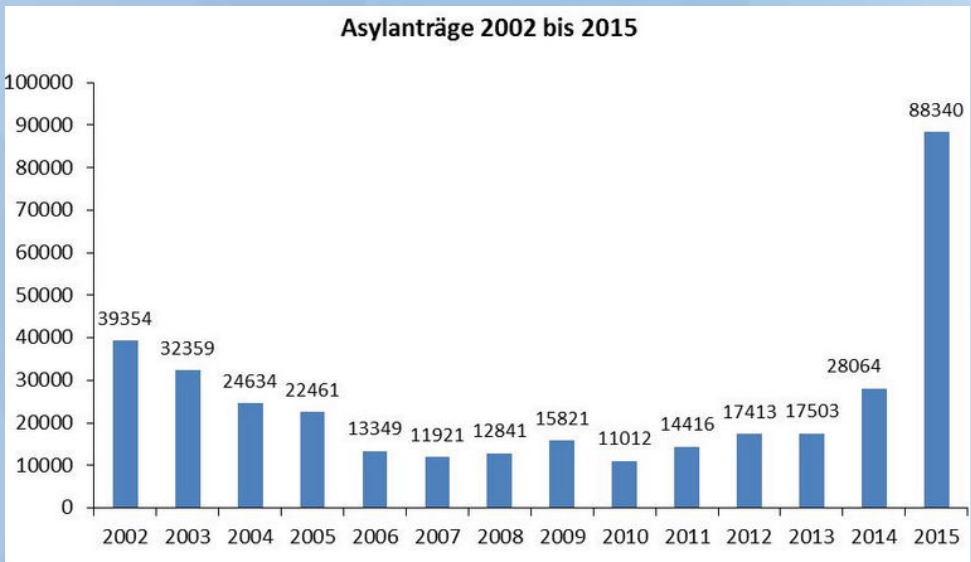
The European Migration Network (EMN) is co-ordinated by the European Commission with National Contact Points (EMN NCPs) established in each EU Member State plus Norway. The National Contact Point Austria in the EMN is financially supported by the European Commission and the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior.

Recent Refugee Flows to Austria



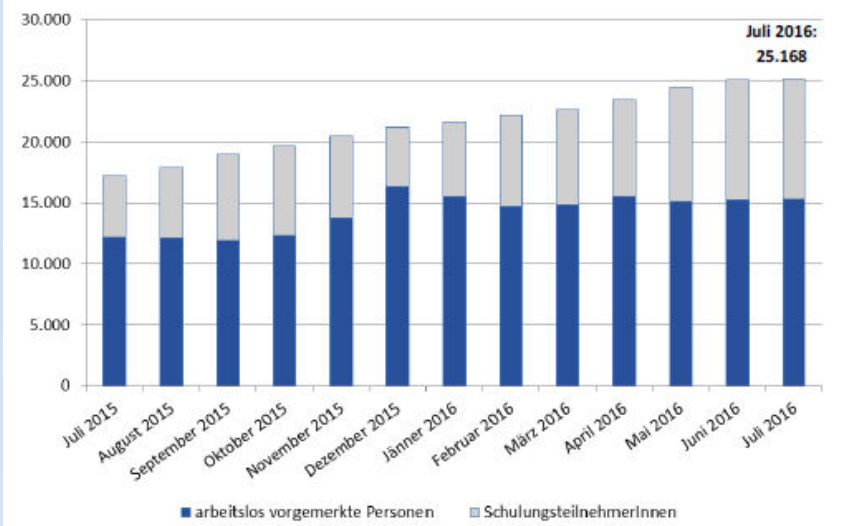
Austria 2015:

- 88,340 applications for international protection
- 57% from Afghanistan and the Syrian Arab Republic
- 16,891 positive final decisions



Source: Austrian Ministry of the Interior.

Abbildung 1: Bestand anerkannter Flüchtlinge und subsidiär Schutzberechtigter beim AMS zum jeweiligen Stichtag (AL und SC)



Source: Public Employment Service.

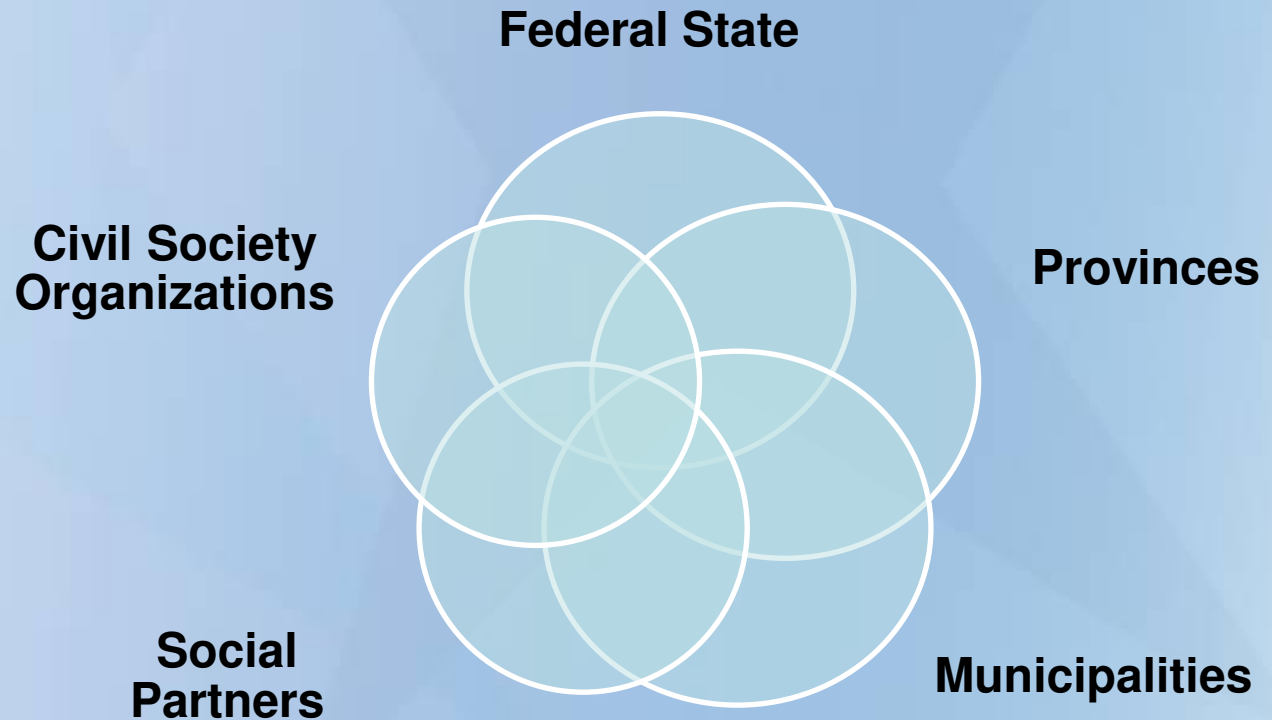
Austria December 2015:

- 16,286 registered job-seeking beneficiaries of international protection

The Austrian Integration Structure



- ✳ Integration as a **cross-sectional** and **multi-stakeholder** task



The Austrian Integration Policy



National Action Plan on Integration (2010)

✳ Target group:

“the society at large, foreign nationals settled permanently in Austria and Austrian citizens born in another country, as well as people with a migration background who are permanently settled in Austria or already possess Austrian citizenship but whose parents were born in another country”

✳ General guidelines on integration policy:

“the integration of persons granted asylum and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection [...] represents a special challenge in view of their vulnerability”

The Austrian Integration Support



- ✳ According to **Austrian law** foreign nationals who have asylum status or who are entitled to settle in Austria can be granted integration support. This support includes:
 - ✓ Language courses;
 - ✓ Education and training courses;
 - ✓ Events on the introduction to the Austrian culture and history;
 - ✓ Joint events with Austrian citizens for mutual understanding;
 - ✓ Information provision on housing (only for persons with asylum status); and
 - ✓ Activities of the Austrian Integration Fund.

- ✳ Since June 2016: Included are also asylum-seekers who are most likely to be granted international protection.

(Art. 68 Asylum Act; Art. 17 Settlement and Residence Act)

Targeted Integration Policies



✘ Following the refugee inflows of 2015 integration policies were debated, funding was earmarked and action points were set.

- ✓ **July 2015:** Expert Paper on the Integration of Persons Granted Asylum and Beneficiaries of Subsidiary Protection
- ✓ **September 2015:** Integration Package
- ✓ **November 2015:** 50-Point Plan for the Integration of Persons Granted Asylum and Beneficiaries of Subsidiary Protection in Austria

Targeted Integration Measures



- ✘ Amendment of the **Asylum Act** (1 June 2016): After being granted their residence status, beneficiaries of international protection have to visit an integration centre of the Austrian Integration Fund (*Art. 67 para 1 Asylum Act*).
- ✘ Since 2016 - “**Values and Orientation Courses**” for beneficiaries of international protection and asylum-seekers; Topics: fundamental rights, Austrian society, and everyday life.
- ✘ Since 2015 - **Numerous integration support measures**, which specifically target beneficiaries of international protection, were initiated.

Good Practice Example



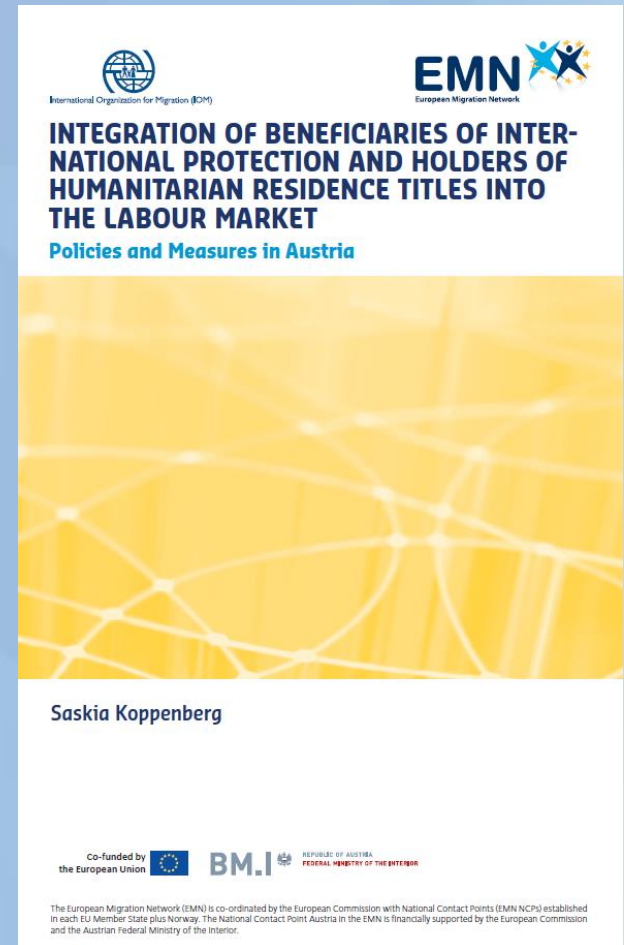
- ✦ Pilot project for the **assessment of competences** started in August 2015:
 - ✓ ‘Competency Check’ for beneficiaries of international protection registered with Public Employment Service (PES);
 - ✓ Five-week course: qualifications/skills assessment and documentation, workshops, German language courses;
 - ✓ Individualized counselling, further training, support with formal recognition;
 - ✓ Commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, run by PES and training institutions.
 - See [EC’s database on promising practices](#).

- ✦ **Law on Recognition and Assessment of Qualifications** (12 July 2016): Provision of specific procedures for beneficiaries of international protection.

Further Reading

The presentation was based on the following EMN study

- ✳ Title: Integration of Beneficiaries of International Protection and Holders of Humanitarian Residence Titles into the Labour Market: Policies and Measures in Austria
- ✳ Timeframe: August – December 2015



➤ The study is available for download at www.emn.at/en/publications/studies.



Thank you for your attention!

Saskia Koppenberg

National Contact Point Austria

in the European Migration Network

IOM Country Office for Austria, Nibelungengasse 13/4, 1010 Vienna

Tel: +43 1 585 33 22 | Fax: +43 1 585 33 22 30

skoppenberg@iom.int | www.emn.at